

# The Japanese Garden Centre's "how to..

## *..create a stepping stone path across grass"*



1. Start by choosing the right location. Japanese paths usually start and end with larger stepping stones, using smaller ones in between.



2. Lay the stepping stones out to ensure that they are in the correct position. The stepping stones should be set with their centres around 55cm apart.



3. Adjust this distance to suit your project and walking pace. A Japanese path never follows a straight line, so introduce some curves.



4. Dig out some soil to create a pocket for the bed of mortar. The top of the stepping stone should finish below the level of the lawn when completed.



5. Prepare a mix of four parts 'soft sand' and one part cement with some water. The bed of mortar should be around 5cm thick to ensure a solid base.



6. Lay the stepping stone on to the mortar and hammer down with a rubber mallet.



7. Use a spirit level to ensure that the stepping stone is at the correct height and that it is laying level. Allow the bed of mortar to cure for one or two days before using the path.

### **Trouble Shooting:**

The correct consistency of mortar is important. If it is too dry the stepping stone will not bed well. If it is too wet the stepping stone will sink.

