

Soils in the Garden

THE HOME OF HAPPY PLANTS - AND PEOPLE!

Healthy soil supports healthy plants – and the activity of gardening helps people stay healthy too. That's a lot of healthiness to be gained from soil!

Here are some simple ways of using an understanding of soil to become a better gardener...

LOVE YOUR TOPSOIL!

Topsoil holds many nutrients that are important for healthy plants. You can improve its quality by mixing compost, animal manure and other organic matter into the soil.



GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY...

Moisten some soil and rub it between your fingers. If it feels gritty and doesn't stick together, then it contains lots of sand. If it feels smooth and silky, then it contains silt. If it forms a sticky ball then it contains lots of clay. Use this simple test to help choose plants that are well suited to your soil.

BUILD A COMPOST HEAP AND MAKE YOUR OWN FERTILISER

A compost heap is just a pile of damp organic matter, such as leaves and household vegetable waste, which breaks down over time to form nutrient-rich compost. It's easy and it's free!



TEST THE PERMEABILITY OF SOIL BY POURING SOME WATER ON IT...

If it soaks in quickly the soil is permeable, meaning it contains lots of tiny passageways, called pores. If the water sits on the surface then it's probably because the soil contains lots of clay, or is compacted (*squashed*). Permeable soil is usually better for growing plants.

