



SOIL PREP

Working with Clay Soil

First things first...how do you know you have clay soil?

Clay soil usually holds more water, it has a tendency to dry slowly, to clump together (and not want to break apart), and to stick like crazy to shoes and gardening implements. It will also tend to crust over and crack when it gets dry. Does this sound like the soil in your garden?

If so, then you probably have clay soil.

Tips:

More is Better

Always amend a bigger area than you'll need.

Avoid Compaction

Compaction leads to poor drainage. Never work soil while it is wet and try not to overwork soil with excessive tilling.

Add Organic Matter

Because clay soil can become compacted easily, place about 3 to 4 inches of the chosen soil amendment on the soil and work it gently down into the soil about 4 to 6 inches. Compost, composted manure and peat moss are good options to add to your soil.

Cover with Mulch

Cover with slower composting materials such as bark, sawdust or ground wood chips.

Plants that Tolerate Clay Soil

Baptista
Bee Balm
Black-Eyed Susan
Coneflower
Coral Bells
Coreopsis
Daylily
Geranium
Grasses
Hosta
Hydrangea
Japanese Iris
Russian Sage
Sedum
Viburnum
Yarrow

Crops for Clay Soil

Broccoli
Cabbage
Chard
Lettuce
Pumpkins
Snap Beans
Squash

In colder seasons when your garden is taking a break, plant cover crops.

These include:

Borage
Clover
Timothy hay

