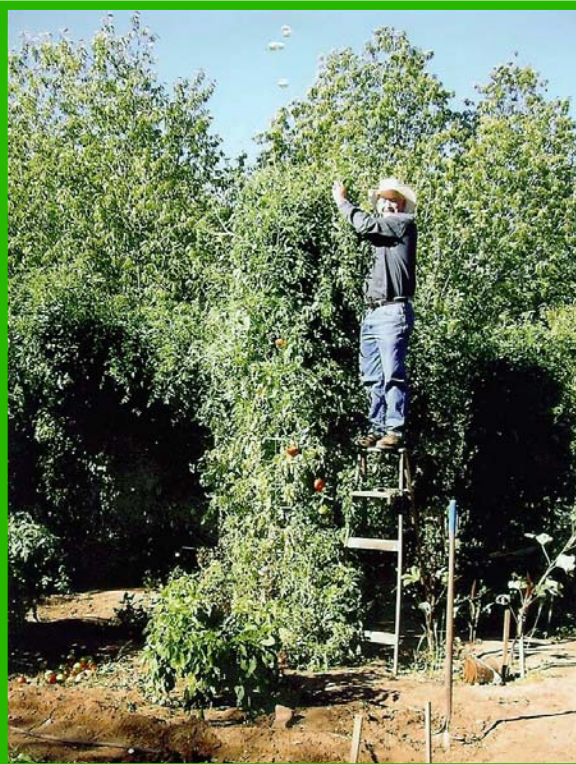


Make Room for the Roots



Ed Chesley of Strawberry trying to reach the top of his 10 foot tall tomato plant! Before planting, he dug a big deep hole for the roots to grow into.

Native soil all around Payson and the Rim Country consists of 4 basic kinds of ground:

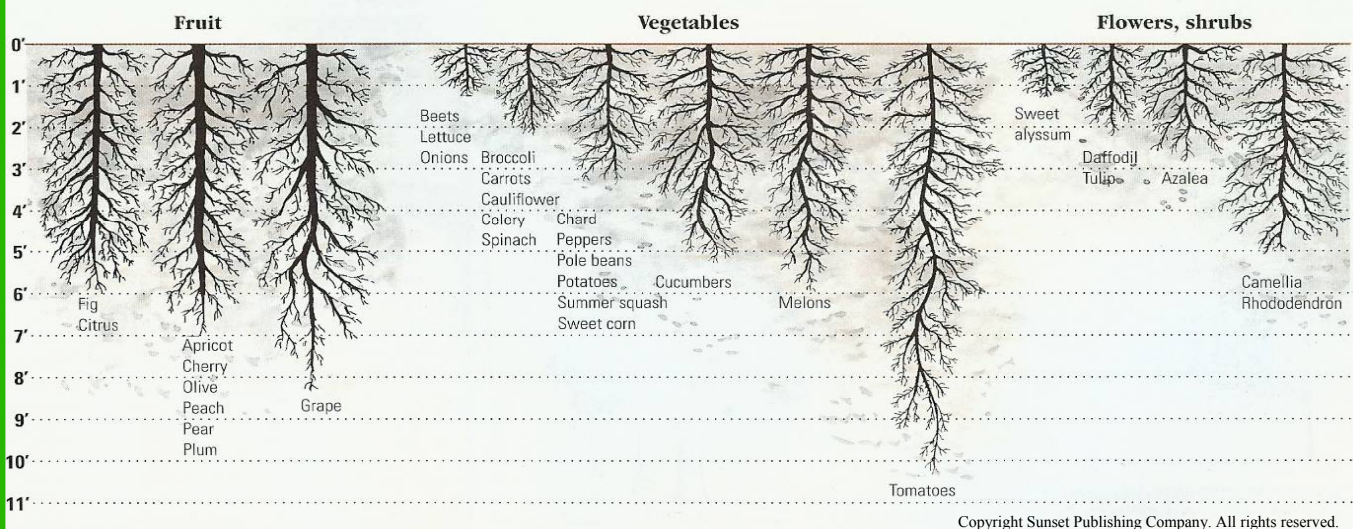
1. **Decomposed granite**
2. **Solid and broken rock**
3. **Clay**
4. **A combination of all the above**

No matter which type of ground you have in your yard, the key is to provide drainage and depth for roots to grow.

1. **Decomposed granite:** Usually has fine to pebble sized particles. Good for planting almost anything. Dig in composted mulch about $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ with this ground.
2. **Solid or broken rock:** Usually not worth planting in this type of ground. Go up instead with raised beds or raised planters.
3. **Clay:** It can be difficult to find clay soil that will drain well. Try to mix organic matter with the clay to keep it from packing. Make sure you don't overwater.
4. **Combination:** Try to find pockets that can be dug to desired depth. Check for drainage. Be sure to add organic material or used raised beds.

HOW DEEP DO ROOTS GROW?

Under ideal conditions, roots can reach the depths shown here. In most gardens, roots that reach two-thirds to three-quarters this depth are doing well. Most are concentrated in the upper third of this zone.



Cool Tip:

No room for deep rooted tomatoes? Then purchase tomatoes developed to grow in hanging baskets or pots.

Plant Fair Nursery

3497 E AZ Highway 260 Payson, AZ 85541-2484
(928) 474-6556 www.plantfairnursery.com

