



Different soil types, AND PLANTS THAT GROW WELL IN CERTAIN SOILS.



Soil is a pretty boring subject, but has great relevance as far as your plants are concerned!

Generally speaking, soil falls into two main types - Sandy soil or Clay soil, and this dictates the type of plant that will thrive in these soils.

Sandy soil has its advantages. It drains well, is easy to dig in and warms up faster in spring than clay soil, meaning that plants start growing earlier. However, there are fewer species adapted to it compared to clay soil and it doesn't hold on to either water or nutrients for long.

You can improve sandy soil by working in 3" to 4" of organic matter, such as well-rotted manure or compost.

A mulch around your plants with leaves, wood chips, hay or straw. Mulching retains moisture and cools the soil.

Add at least 2" organic matter each year and grow green manure to dig in.

Any tap-rooted vegetables do well in sandy soil, for example carrots, beets and radishes. Some fruit trees such as Apricot, Peach and Sweet Cherry also cope well with this soil.

Herbs, which need good drainage, thrive in a sandy soil.

Lavender is extremely tolerant and only needs watering to get it established.

Artimesa, Rosemary, Salvia, Sweet Alyssum (loved by butterflies, smells like honey!), Buddlia (butterfly bush), Siberian Pea shrub, Mimosa, Eucalyptus, Helichrysum (everlasting silver bush), Dianthus, Perlagoniums, Dune Daisy, Silver Aretotis, Yellow Mallow, Rose of Sharon, and Black Locust will thrive in sandy soil, also any succulents do well.

Clay soil can be very challenging! It is very moisture retentive, therefore heavy and prone to water-logging. When wet it sticks together so strongly that trying to dig it is backbreaking, and when dry it bakes so solid it's like concrete! However, on the plus side, clay soil retains important plant nutrients so it tends to be very fertile.

Mixing in large amounts of organic matter, in the form of leaves, hay, bark mulch, peat moss and untreated grass clippings will all help to make clay soil more workable.

Roses love a clay soil, also Miscanthus as ornamental grasses do very well in clay.

Heuchera, Hosta, Aster, Rudbeckia, Plumbago, Carissa Macrocarpa, Aloe, Buddlia, Salvia, and Gazanias all tolerate clay soil.

If you want to grow vegetables then raised beds are definitely the easiest and best option.

Apple and Pear trees grow happily in the heavy clay soil, so remember, Whatever your soil type, there's a plant out there that will love it!

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