



feeding the self

Soil: Your plants grow in it, and draw minerals from it.

Top Soil: The stuff your plants grow in...

There are three basic types of top soil:

- 1) Sandy soil – Is easy to identify because it is paler than rich red or brown soil. This soil is easy to work with because it is loose, but it also has less minerals and nutrients (important for healthy plant growth) in it so you will need to add mulch and/or compost.
- 2) Red/Brown soil – Is easy to identify because of its colour and rich appearance. This soil is perfect for growing anything in, so needs very little extra work.
- 3) Black clay soil – Is easy to identify because it is black, very heavy, and hard to work with and dig. You need to add either a red soil or compost mix to reduce the ratio of clay in the soil. This soil is heavy and will slow down the root growth in your garden which then will slow down the overall growth rates.

Compost: Make your own at home...

Compost is basically a mix of soil and decomposing plant, fruit and/or vegetable material. Decomposition is when the plant matter breaks up (by decaying) into the elements (minerals) that make it up. Unlike mulch it has vegetable, fruit and other kitchen scraps within it and therefore is best used when it has fully decomposed and looks similar to soil.

It is best to keep your compost pile a little away from the house, and to make sure you turn it so the rotting things are on the inside of the pile, not outside where they will draw flies and smell bad.

Potting Soil: Is good for growing seedlings in...

Potting soil is a very rich mix of dark brown soil, bark, charcoal, and chopped, small pieces of wood (similar to mulch). This loose soil is excellent for growing young plants in (or just pot plants) as it provides the plants with the minerals, structure and nutrients they require for the important initial stages of growth.

Soil is important because **your plants grow in it.**
To take care of you plants **take care of their soil.**

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