

The difference is in the dirt

Your garden's foundation is the earth in which it is planted. Soil is comprised of minerals, organic matter, which provides nutrients and deteriorates or decomposes over time, moisture and air. Nutrients in soil are steadily diminished as organic matter in compost and fertilizer or plant food is used by plants and eroded by the elements, so it's important to amend your soil and add nutrients regularly. In new subdivisions or developments, the topsoil used is often of poor quality, so amending the soil is an essential step in establishing and maintaining healthy lawns and gardens.



Look for these icons to help you choose the right soil for your lawn or garden.

- **Topsoil** is a blend of topsoil, compost and manure, an organic-based blend of nutrients to promote healthy plant growth.

- **Organic Compost** is designed for in-ground gardens. It's a professional quality blend of compost and manure, containing essential organic matter from composted leaves and yard clippings. Add it to flower and vegetable beds for healthier plant growth and more abundant vegetables and blooms.

- **Containers** require a different type of soil altogether. Since container-bound plants tend to dry out faster, choose a container planting soil with a mixture of sphagnum peat, bark fines, compost and perlite to help soil hold moisture, promote strong root growth and better drainage for container gardens. Pro Blends Potting Mix is also enriched with a slow release fertilizer for healthier plant growth. Miracle-Gro Potting Mix contains coconut fibre husks, which hold moisture until the plant needs it.

Get the scoop on dirt before you buy blends by reading labels and choosing the appropriate one for your needs.

Household composters provide an excellent source of organic matter to add nutrients to soil, but they require some work. The mixture must be allowed time to break down to a desired state, and it must be kept moist and turned for even consistency. Some municipalities provide ready-to-use compost in the spring; you simply bring your own container and help yourself. Or, new this year from Scotts is a line of Pro Blends Professional Quality soils to improve your lawn or garden and grow bigger, healthier trees, shrubs, flowers or vegetables.

Know Your Dirt:

Professionally blended soils to look for this season include:

- **Black Earth**, great for lawns, provides a three-in-one blend of black earth, compost and manure. The natural, organic-based ingredients will help improve the soil structure by increasing porosity and allowing more water and nutrients to reach the root zone.

—News Canada

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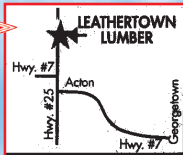


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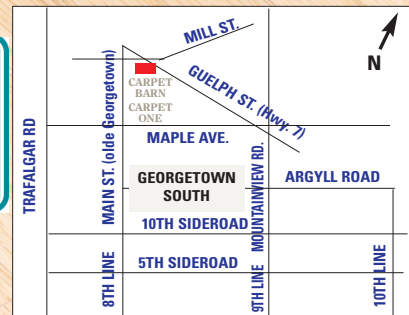
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