

Home & Garden

Compost material helps improve soil and resist disease

Composting not only diverts waste from the landfill, it is also important for the soil.

During the composting process various microorganisms, including bacteria and fungi, break down organic material into simpler substances.

Our grandparents would probably use fewer words to describe this process and say that it rots.

No matter what terminology you use, good compost provides organic matter and organic matter is very important to the soil.

Organic matter binds soil particles together, protects soil from compaction, retains water and holds nutrients for plant roots to utilize.

It also attracts soil organisms, from earthworms that aerate and fertilize the garden or lawn to microorganisms that feed on organic matter and release nutrients for plant use.

Two common problem soil types can be rejuvenated with the addition of organic matter from compost.

Heavy clay soils that are sticky to

work with when wet and hard as a rock when dry will benefit greatly from additions of compost.

The noticeable changes will be much improved water drainage, warmer soil and

better root penetration. Light sandy soils have a tendency to be very porous, so water and nutrients leach out of the root zone, negatively

affecting plant growth. Organic matter will hold the water and nutrients.

Please see page 15

RECENT UNIVERSITY RESEARCH HAS ALSO PROVEN THAT LAWNS TREATED WITH COMPOST ARE BETTER ABLE TO RESIST DISEASE.



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