

IMPROVING THE SOIL

Many problems can be solved by improving the soil. Clay soil has poor drainage because the small particles retain water. Sandy, rocky or gravelly soil drains very quickly.

One method of improving drainage is to add organic matter¹ and till the mixture into the existing soil. The organic matter enriches the soil and the varying particle size improves drainage. Adding organic matter will also enhance water retention

It may be easier to improve the soil only in limited areas.

- Raised beds filled with composted top soil will improve drainage and make gardens easy to tend.
- Planting shrubs or trees on raised mounds will improve drainage and add character to a flat landscape.
- When digging a hole to plant a large tree or shrub, remove about one-third of the existing soil from the hole and mix in organic matter with the native soil.
- In areas with high water table - where groundwater comes near the surface - it may be possible to install plastic pipes to drain water away from the plantings.

¹ compost, rotted manure, composted topsoil, bark, peat moss (for acid loving plants), leaves. If adding material that is not already composted, may need to add nitrogen.

PLANTS TOLERANT OF DAMP SOILS

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin name</u>
<u>Trees</u>	
Alder	Alnus
Bald Cypress	Taxodium distichum
Birch	Betula
Dawn Redwood	Metasequoia
Hawthorne	Crataegus
Hornbeam	Carpinus betulus
Maple, red	Acer Rubrum
Maple, silver	Acer saccharinum
Oak	Quercus
Poplar	Populus
Sour Gum	Nyssa sylvatica
Sweet Gum	Liquidambar
Sycamore	Platanus
Tulip Tree	Lirodendron
Willow	Salix
<u>Shrubs</u>	
Bamboo	Psuedosasa japonica
Blueberry	Vaccinium
Bog Rosemary	Andromeda
Chokeberry	Aronia melancarpa
Dogwood	Cornus
Elderberry	Sambucus
Huckleberry	Vaccinum
Leucothoe	Leucothoe
Ninebark	Physocarpus
Service Berry	Amelanchier
Summer Sweet	Clethra Alnifolia
Sweetspire	Itea Virginica
<u>Perennials, grasses and groundcovers</u>	
Bee Balm	Monarda didyma
Calla Lily	Zantedeschia
Cardinal Flower	Lobelia cardinalis
Daylily	Hemerocallis
Figwort	Scrophularia
Gunnera	Gunnera

PLANTS TOLERANT OF DAMP SOILS (cont.)

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin name</u>
Iris (some)	Iris ensata pseudacorus or sibirica
Ligularia	Ligularia
Lobelia (some)	Lobelia cardinalis
Meadow Sweet	Astilbe
Marsh Marigolds	Caltha palustris
Monkey Flower	Mimulus
New Zealand Flax	Phormium
Primrose	Primula
Sedge	Carex
Solomon's Seal	Polygonatum
Turtlehead	Chelone

PLANTS TOLERANT OF ARIDITY

All plants require water, especially new plantings. The list below contains plants that will tolerate some dryness, **once they are established**. For at least the first year after planting, be sure to water regularly.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin name</u>
<u>Trees</u>	
Ash	Fraxinus
Boxelder	Acer negundo
Catalpa	Catalpa
Cedars (True)	Atlantica or Deodara
Crepe Myrtle	Lagerstroemia
Cypress	Cupressus
Elm, Chinese	Ulmus parvifolia
Empress Tree	Paulownia
Goldenrain Tree	Koelreuteria
Incense Cedar	Calocedrus decurrens
Linden	Tilia cordata
Locust	Robinia
Madrona	Arbutus
Maple, hedge	Acer campestre
Maple, trident	Acer buergerianum

PLANTS TOLERANT OF ARIDITY (cont.)

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin name</u>
Mulberry	Morus
Mountain Ash	Sorbus
Pear, ornamental	Pyrus calleryana
Pines (most)	Pinus
Sumac	Rhus
Sycamore	Platanus
<u>Shrubs</u>	
Abelia	Abelia
Barberry	Berberis
Beautybush	Kolkwitzia
Bluebeard	Caryopteris
Butterfly Bush	Buddleia
California Lilac	Ceanothus
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster
Currant	Ribes
Deutzia	Deutzia
Escallonia	Escallonia
Firethorn	Pyracantha
Germander	Teucrium
Heavenly Bamboo	Nandina Domestica
Honeysuckle	Lonicera
Ivy	Hedera
Juniper (most)	Juniperus
Lavender	Lavandula
Lilac	Syringa
Mallow	Lavatera
Manzanita	Arctostaphylos
Oregon Grape	Mahonia
Pacific Wax myrtle	Myrica californica
Potentilla	Potentilla
Portugal laurel	Prunus lusitanuca
Privet	Ligustrum
Rockrose	Cistus
Rose	Rosa Rugosa
Smoke Tree	Cotinus
Spiraea	Spiraea

**PLANTS TOLERANT OF ARIDITY
(cont.)**

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin name</u>
<u>Perennials, grasses and groundcovers</u>	
Artemisia	Artemisia
Blue Fescue	Festuca
Coreopsis	Coreopsis
Cotoneaster (most)	Cotoneaster
Evening Primrose	Oenothera
Euphorbia (most)	Euphorbia
False lily of the valley	Maianthemum
Fountain Grass	Pennisetum
Helenium	Helenium
Hens and Chicks	Sempervivum
Ice Plant	Delosperma
Indian Feather	Gaura
Kinnikinnick	Arctostaphylos
Lamb's Ears	Stachys byzantina
Lavender Cotton	Santolina
Lewisia	Lewisia
Lily-of the Nile	Agapanthus
Lithodora	Lithospermum
Montbretia	Crocsmia
Moor Grass	Molinia
Morning Glory bush	Convolvulus cneorum
Penstemon	Penstemon
Periwinkle	Vinca
Red Hot Poker	Kniphofia
Rock Jasmine	Androsace
Rosemary	Rosmarinus
Sage (most)	Salva
Sedum	Sedum
Soapwort	Saponaria
Speedwell	Veronica
Sun Rose	Helianthemum
Thyme	Thymus
Valerian	Centranthus ruber
Verbena	Verbena
Yucca	Yucca

PLANTS FOR SHADY AREAS

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin name</u>
<u>Trees</u>	
Beech	Fagus
Enkianthus	Enkianthus
Dogwood	Cornus
Maple, Amur	Acer ginnala
Maple, Japanese	Acer palmatum
Persian Parrotia	Parrotia persica
Snowbell	Styrax
Sourwood	Oxydendron arboreum
Vine Maple	Acer Circinatum
<u>Shrubs</u>	
Aucuba	Aucuba
Barberry, yellow	Berberis, aurea
Beautyberry	Callicarpa
Blueberry/Huckleberry	Vaccinium
Boxwood	Buxus
Camellia	Camellia
Currant	Ribes
Daphne, winter	Daphne Odora
Dogwood	Cornus
Euonymus	Euonymus fortunei
Fatshedra	Fatshedra
Fatsia Japonica	Fatsia Japonica
Fothergilla	Fothergilla
Fuschia	Fuschia
Heavenly Bamboo	Nandina domestica
Hebe	Hebe
Holly	Ilex
Hydrangea	Hydrangea
Kerria	Kerria japonica
Leucothoe	Leucothoe
Lily of the Valley Tree	Pieris
Mountain Laurel	Kalmia
Ninebark	Physocarpus
Oregon Grape	Mahonia
Osmanthus	Osmanthus
Rhododendron and Azalea	

PLANTS FOR SHADY AREAS

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin name</u>
Skimmia	Skimmia
Summer Sweet	Clethra Alnifolia
Sweet Box	Sarcococca
Viburnum	Viburnum
Weigela (some)	Weigela
<u>Perennials, grasses and groundcovers</u>	
Bear's Breech	Acanthus mollis
Bellflower	Campanula
Bergenia	Bergenia
Bleeding Heart	Dicentra
Bug Bane	Cimicifuga
Carpet Bugle	Ajuga
Chameleon plant	Houttuynia
Coral Bells	Heuchera
Corydalis	Corydalis
Ferns (many)	
Forest grass	Hakonechloa macra
Geranium, hardy	Geranium
Ginger, wild	Asarum caudatum
Hosta	Hosta
Jacob's Ladder	Polemonium
Lady's Mantle	Alchenilla mollis
Lamium	Lamium
Lenten Rose	Helleborus
Lily of the Valley	Convallaria majalis
Liriope	Liriope
Lobelia (some)	Lobelia
Lungwort	Pulmonaria
Monkshood	Acontium
Pachysandra	Pachysandra
Periwinkle	Vinca
Primrose	Primula
Rockfoil	Saxifraga
Solomon's Seal	Polygonatum
Strawberry, wild	Fragaria
Virginia Creeper	Parthenocissus
Windflower	Anemone



PLANTS FOR PROBLEM PLACES

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