

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND OTHER ADVICE

## ***I have clay soil. What should I add?***

This is a question that is asked a lot around North Carolina!

When working with clay soils, the most important thing one can do is add organic matter. This can take the form of household compost, store bought compost, or topsoil. When adding this organic matter, only till it into the top 6-10" of soil. It will naturally work itself into the ground lower than that, and the majority of nutrient uptake in the roots occurs at those depths. When household compost is not readily available, and truckloads of soil or compost are too much, we recommend mushroom compost and greensand. Mushroom compost should be applied at a rate of 1 bag per 5x5 ft. area. It should be applied at a higher rate for really clay soils. If added every year, after 3 years or so, the garden should not bind like clay. Greensand should be applied per the rate on the bag. 15 lbs. per 100 sq. ft. is average. For raised bed gardens, vermiculite, and perlite could also be added.

## ***I want to amend my garden to make it more productive. What should I do?***

The first thing to determine is the area of the garden. For 10 ft. x 10 ft., even 20 ft. x 10 ft. and less, there are more options than for 30 ft. x 30 ft. The next step is to determine whether your garden will contain greens, beans, or herbs. These three items require less nutrient than other vegetables. Mixing in manure and maybe a few worm castings, or Peace of Mind All Purpose twice during the summer should suffice for greens and herbs. Beans do not require much nitrogen. In fact, they actually add nitrogen to the soil. For other vegetables, we recommend Peace of Mind Tomato and Vegetable, which should be applied monthly. If you want to add everything to the soil first, we recommend manure, a couple of bags of mushroom compost, and some worm castings. For a 10 ft. x 10 ft. garden, this should suffice.



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