



10 BENEFITS OF USING SOIL AMENDMENTS

..... *In Your Home Garden*

1

ENCOURAGES PLANT GROWTH

Organic soil amendments are mixed into soil for the overall purpose of benefitting plant growth and crop production.

2

CONTAINS PLANT NUTRIENTS

Organic soil amendments contain plant nutrients, but most are not considered fertilizers as their nutrient content can often be low.

3

IMPROVES DRAINAGE

Fine-textured (clayey) soils are improved by creating larger soil pore spaces, improving soil aeration, infiltration, and drainage.



4

REDUCES WATER USE

Organic soil amendments improve coarse-textured (sandy) soils by increasing the water and nutrient holding capacity.

5

MAINTAINS OR IMPROVES SOIL STRUCTURE

Organic matter provides an energy source for bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms, which hold soil particles together and improves the soil's physical structure.

6

IMPROVES PLANT HEALTH

Organic soil amendments help fight harmful plant diseases.

7

REDUCES AIR POLLUTION

Using amendments from a local source can reduce fossil fuel use and air pollution compared to shipping products across the country.

8

BALANCES ALKALINITY

pH is the measure of acidity or alkalinity. You can reduce or increase your soil's pH by using a variety of soil amendments. A pH of about 6.5 to 7.0 is ideal.

9

MAINTAINS SALT LEVELS

Excess salts in soil can be detrimental to plant health. If you have soil or water with elevated salt content, use amendments with lower conductivity - about 3.0 or lower.

10

CUTS DOWN ON EXPENSES

Consider producing compost at home, using well broken down local manure, or growing cover crops to add organic matter to your soil.

