



10 TIPS FOR NURTURING YOUR SOIL

..... *In Your Home Garden*



1

PERFORM A SOIL TEST

Determine soil type including nutrients, pH, and salinity.

2

USE A SOIL PROBE ROUTINELY

Evaluate soil moisture, texture, degree of soil compaction, root health, and irrigation depth.

3

AVOID SOIL COMPACTION

Be careful not to walk on or work in wet soil.

4

PREVENT SOIL EROSION

Adjust irrigation to complement soil type, use living ground covers and mulch, or direct water to areas less susceptible to runoff.

5

AERATE THE SOIL

Use a pitchfork or machine to aerate the soil and encourage root growth.

6

USE RAISED PLANTER BEDS

In areas where the soil is hardpan or heavy clay.

7

IMPROVE SOIL DRAINAGE

Amend soil to improve soil structure.

8

ADD COMPOST

Mix compost into soil to add nutrients, improve soil structure, and improve air and water movement through the soil.

9

USE MULCH

Layering 2-3 inches of mulch on soil preserves topsoil, retains soil moisture, suppresses weeds, and decreases erosion.

10

FERTILIZE THE SOIL

Fertilize regularly to add nutrients, especially nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium.