

# Composts & Soils



## *Do's*

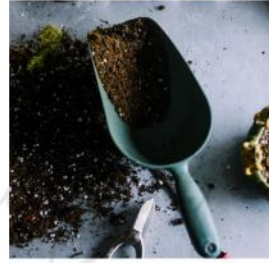
- Mix organic matter into garden soil
- In pots use a 50/50 mix of John Innes No.2 or 3 with Multi Purpose compost for shrubs, perennials and alpines (see our 'Gardening in Pots' info sheet)
- Add slow release fertiliser to pots
- Dig flower beds over thoroughly and remove annual weeds or kill off perennial weeds prior to digging
- Use ericaceous compost for acid loving plants in pots
- Use specialist mixes for certain specialist plants to keep them happy

## *Don'ts*

- Continue to use old compost in pots for new plants, fresh compost makes a huge difference. Dig old compost from pots into flower beds to improve the soil
- Dig over borders if there are perennial weeds like cooch grass, Bindweed, Docks etc, you will only make matters worse as roots regrow, kill them off first
- Forget to add drainage holes in pots
- Just add gravel and sand into saturated clay soils, improve drainage where possible and add organic matter (Mushroom compost, rotted manure)

*"The smell of soil is perfume to a gardener"*

# Compost Types



## JOHN INNES

Soil based and the nutrients levels increase with the number. Seedlings and cuttings in No.1 and mature plants in No.2or3. Mix 50/50 with multi purpose for bedding plants

## MULTI PURPOSE

Good for bedding plants when used with slow release fertiliser. Useful to mix in with flower beds or use with pot plants. Its soil-less so mix with a soil based compost for nutrient retention

## ORGANIC

The result of a good compost heap. Great for digging into your flower beds as its full of natural nutrients and organic matter. It helps to break clay up as its full of air particles

## SPECIALIST

Some plants require their own tailored soil mixes to really thrive for example, Orchids, Cactii, Auriculas and Alpines all with different preferences on drainage and nutrients levels

# Soil Types



## CLAY

Our local soil type and the key is choosing plants which are suited to clay soil. Full of nutrients but lacking in drainage. Spent organic matter helps open up clay soils

## LOAM

The ideal soil and a result of many years of improvement. Great for a wide range of plants and clay can be turned into Loam with the addition of organic matter and lots of hard work over the years

## ALKALINE

In certain areas soil will be on the alkaline side. Most plants are fine in lime, it's just any acid loving plants will need ericaceous compost mixing in when you plant them to help balance the pH

## ACIDIC

We're naturally on acidic soil, perfect for ericaceous plants. If in doubt you can use a soil testing kit or look around for acid loving plants like Rhododendrons in nearby gardens

## Compost and Fertilisers

Available at Holden Clough