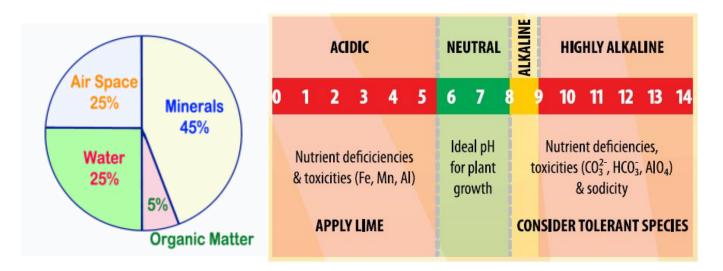
Foundations of a Healthy Garden: Soil!



Plants grown in soil with the ideal composition will...

- grow bigger
- have fewer pest and disease problems
- contain more nutrients
- need less watering

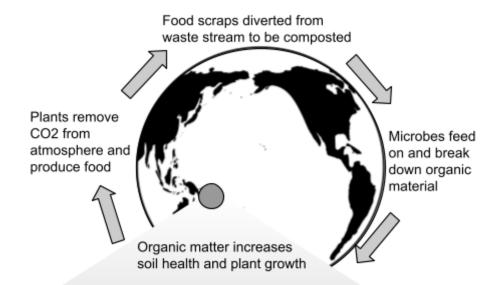
How can I improve my garden soil?

- 1. Classify Composition
 - a. Get your hands in the dirt and feel your soil! Is it sandy or clay? Dry or wet? What color is it? Are there worms or other signs of life?
- 2. Determine Deficiencies
 - a. You can test your soil for free from your county's Agriculture Extension Office
- 3. Incorporate Amendments
 - a. Chances are, most problems with soil can be improved by....

COMPOSTING



Why is Composting so Important?



Compost can hold ~5x its weight in water → reducing stormwater runoff

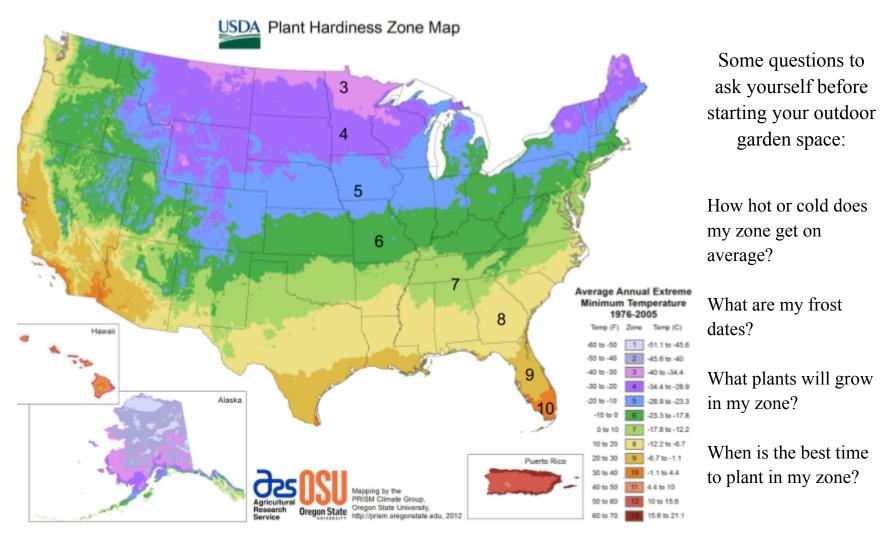
Compost filters and degrades pollutants → improving water quality

Compost improves soil structure and ability to store nutrients →leading to healthier plant growth

Compost protects against soil desertification and soil erosion → generating topsoil for future farmers



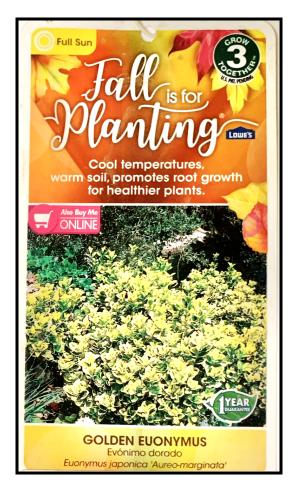
Get in the (Grow) Zone



Knowing varieties suited for your region will ensure greater success and fewer problems!



How to read a plant tag:



- Sun exposure: number of hours of sunlight needed per day
- Bloom season: when you can expect plant to bloom
- Water: how moist or dry the soil should be consistently
- Average size: maximum height and width when fully grown
- Spacing: how much space to leave in between plants in a garden
- Cold hardiness: ability to withstand adverse growing conditions
- Zone: area of the country where the plant grows best
 - Fertilization: how often to fertilize
- Attention: notice if the plant attracts bees and pollinators or is resistant

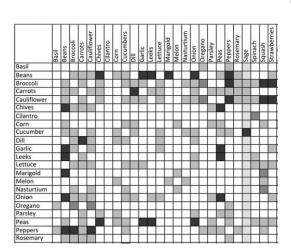
to certain animals like deer or rabbits.

• Growth habit: how the plant grows: mounding, bush, upright, creeping etc...





All about Companion Planting



Common companions:

- Parsley and basil with asparagus
- Spinach, lettuce, and cabbage with peas
- Corn and summer savory with beans
- Cilantro with spinach
- Onions with carrots
- Catnip with eggplant
- Basil and onions with tomatoes
- Mint and thyme with brassicas
- Nasturtiums and radishes with cucumbers
 - Thousands of guides exist but....

Scent Masking:

Rule of thumb to deter pesky insects: Highly fragrant herbs and flowers confuse their senses!

Beneficial insect attractants:

- Plant us near your garden for beautiful flowers and healthy produce!
 - o Calendula
 - Sunflowers
 - o Zinnias
 - o Fennel
 - o Dill
 - o Anise
 - Coriander
 - Asters
 - o Yarrow
 - Angelica
 - o Chamomile
 - Goldenrod
 - o Marigold and more...

