

WAYS TO IMPROVE SOIL

SOIL IS A FINITE RESOURCE

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS YOU CAN DO TO CONSERVE OUR SOIL

Feed your soil with organic matter

- Layer on top – do not dig in.
- Compost; leaves; mushroom manure; aged/dried animal manure; humus.
- Fall is a good time to add organic matter because it will decompose over the winter.



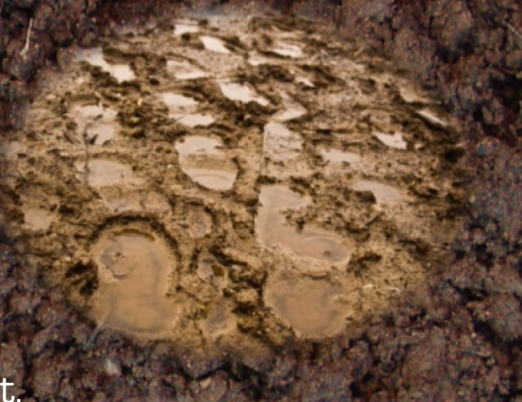
Protect your soil with organic mulching

- Organic mulches help retain soil moisture; moderate seasonal temperature extremes; lessen weed growth; add nutrients; retain rainwater and mild runoff.



Avoid soil compaction – tread with care

- Soil compaction leads to poor water infiltration, runoff, erosion, and ponding in your garden. It results from too much **foot traffic**, use of **heavy equipment** and other **heavy loads**, especially when the soil is **wet** or **saturated**.
- **WAIT** until garden soil is relatively **DRY** in the spring before digging, planting, and stepping on it.



Conduct a soil test

- A balance of available nutrients is **essential** for **optimal** plant growth. The only way to know for sure is to conduct a soil test.



Avoid pesticide use

- Well-tended gardens don't typically need pesticides. It's **NORMAL** to see insects on outdoor garden plants and most do no or little damage. For most pests, a **COUNTERPART BENEFICIAL INSECT** is looking to gobble it!
- Spraying pesticides needlessly can **KILL** beneficial insects, including pollinators.



Source

<https://extension.psu.edu/practical-tips-for-healthy-soil-in-a-home-garden>

