

TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR YARD

Good soil is like gold to homeowners and gardeners. Probably the most important thing you can do to improve your lawn and garden is to improve your soil. Whether you're growing prize tomatoes, silky camellias, a healthy lawn or native grasses, the soil comes first.



ADD COMPOST

Compost is a mixture of organic matter that has decomposed and been recycled, creating a rich humus for lawn and garden. Composting isn't just eco-friendly, it helps your soil to retain more nutrients, moisture and air.



HAVE YOUR SOIL TESTED

Before you fertilize, test your soil to see if your lawn is lacking any nutrients. If you apply more nitrogen and phosphorus than your lawn can absorb, it may end up in our waterways. Soil test kits can be found at garden stores or a local Virginia Cooperative Extension office.



BE CAREFUL WITH FERTILIZER

Always consider natural alternatives. If you do use chemical fertilizer, follow recommendations from a soil test and read product packaging carefully. Never apply fertilizer 48 hours before any rain and always sweep fertilizer off of hard surfaces and back into the lawn.



DON'T STOMP AROUND

It's important to have "fluffy" or aerated soil (think chocolate cake). Compacted soils essentially prevent water from moving through the soil and reaching thirsty roots.



CONTROL THOSE WEEDS

To keep your plants thriving you need to control the weeds that compete for space, nutrients, water and light. The best solutions include pulling weeds by hand or applying organic weed killers such as vinegar.