

Starting a Veggie Garden?

GET SOIL TIPS

from an Ag Expert.



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are soil researchers at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. For over 35 years, they have studied what makes - and keeps - soil healthy so Canadian farmers can grow safe and nutritious food, year after year.

What makes for good garden soil?

- A. Crumbly structure and loam or sandy loam texture
- B. Organic matter (like compost or manure)
- C. Active soil biology (like worms and microorganisms)
- D. Nutrients (especially nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium)



Tip! Dig up some soil and toss it gently from hand to hand. It should be:

- A. Dark in colour
- B. Fall apart easily
- C. Smell "alive" (not musty or like rotten eggs).

Vegetables vs flowers

Vegetables need about twice as much water and more soil nutrients, so water and fertilize more often.

Tip! Slow-release granular fertilizers are good because they last longer and are easy to apply

Soil need help?

Adding compost or well-rotted manure to the first 10-15cm and mulch on top will help good things grow.

Tip! Leave stalks and roots in the garden over winter. This helps stop topsoil blowing or washing away and adds organic matter back.

Chill before you till!

Tilling destroys organic matter, disrupts good soil microbes, helps weeds take hold, and can cause topsoil to blow or wash away.

Tip! Only till where you'll be planting seeds OR if you're starting a new garden bed and need to work compost or manure into the top 10-15 cm.



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