



Manage Soils and Mulch

Knox County Master Gardeners YouTube channel has
numerous videos on this topic.

Check the Speakers Bureau playlist:

Soil Testing: How to collect and submit a soil sample

Waste to Wonder: Composting

Hot Composting, part 1 (build the pile)

Hot Composting, part 2 turn the pile)

Fall Composting

Worm Composting

Winter Cover Crops

Winterize Your Garden

Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt!

Soil Testing done by UT Soil, Plant & Pest Center (Nashville)

<https://soillab.tennessee.edu/>

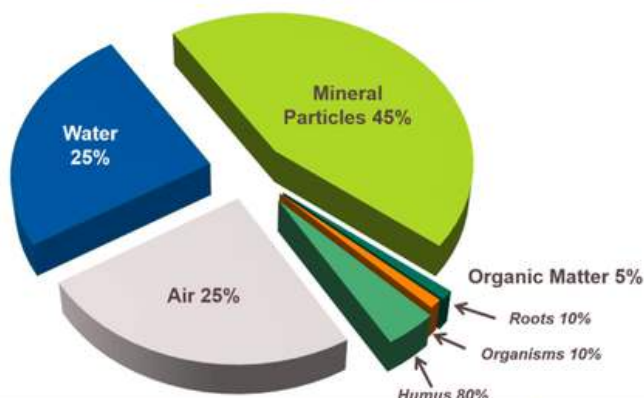
--> Soil Testing Options

--->> Lawn & Garden

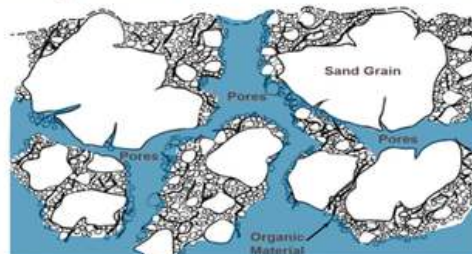


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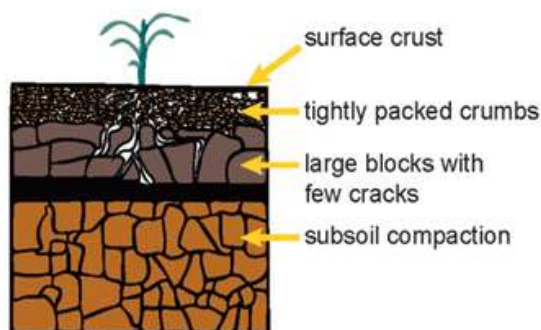
Soil Composition



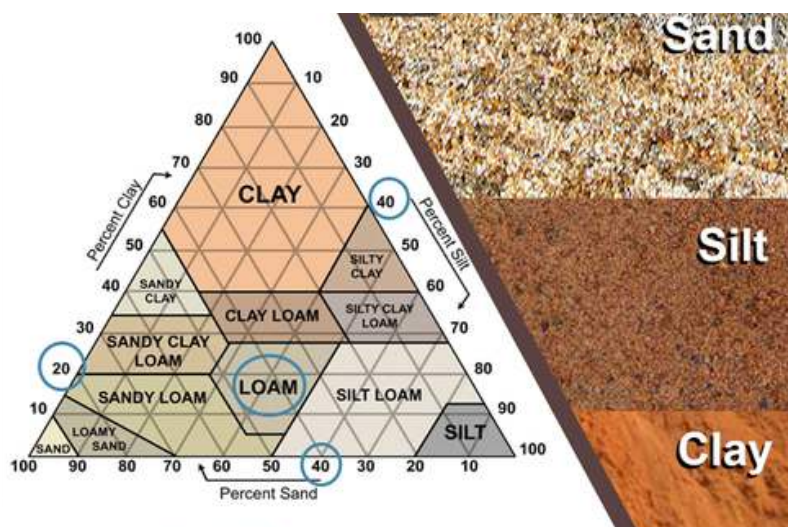
Healthy Soils Structure - Infiltration



1% increase of organic matter
increases water holding capacity
(360 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft.)



Limited plant growth



Add organic matter:

- Gardens: 2"- 3" of organic amendment; dig in or till to a depth of 6"- 8".
- Shrubs & Trees: 3" - 5" of organic amendment; mix in to depth of 1 foot.
- Lawns: Core aerate and top dress with 1/4" to 1/2" of compost.

A mulch is *any* material applied to the soil surface for protection or improvement of the area covered.

- Only need 2"- 3" of mulch for trees and shrubs. Mulch to the drip line.
→ Keep mulch away from the trunk. **NO MULCH VOLCANOS!!**
- No more than 3" for flower beds; keep away from stems.



Manage Soils and Mulch

- **Using Mulches in Managed Landscapes**

<https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2023/11/SUL12%20Mulches%20in%20managed%20landscapes.pdf>



- **Composting & Mulching**

<https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2023/11/C%20816%20composting%20and%20mulching%20UGA.PDF>



- **Winter Cover Crops video**

<https://youtu.be/1isK97k2QJksi=xXwZhBpa95MUlqw>



- **Media & Drainage Demonstration video
(pine bark, peat mix, soil, perlite)**

<https://youtu.be/qcatbG-Qt4M?si=L0pgjLrPHo83Wegx>

