

Soil

Practical skills

The four soil types, how to identify yours, and how to improve it.

The squeeze test, and the fix for each.

Soil	Feels	Improve with
Sandy	Gritty, falls apart	Compost, to hold water
Clay	Sticky, holds a shape	Compost and grit, to drain
Silty	Silky, holds loosely	Compost
Loam	Crumbly, ideal	Maintain with compost
Chalky	Stony, pale	Compost; accept the pH
Peaty	Dark, spongy	Drainage; often acidic

Compost improves every soil type. It opens clay and it helps sand retain water — the same amendment for opposite problems.