

# Amending Soil

## IMPROVING POOR NATIVE SOILS WITH PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING ADDITIVES

THE KEY TO IMPROVING the performance of poor native soil in garden plots and greenscapes—even perennial crop fields—is the right amendments in the right proportions. These soil-conditioning amendments need to address the performance problem on a foundational level—that of physical structure.

The age-old practice of tilling—turning the top soil to loosen (relieve compaction) and blend what's on top with what's below (spreading organics)—creates soil tilth. The need for mechanical tilling can be avoided with soils that are structured in such as ways as to have **elemental tilth**. Compaction forces are resisted naturally. Proper drainage occurs naturally. Nutrients needed by root systems cycle naturally down into the soil.



SoilRox™ functions in-soil on two levels:

- 1) as micro-sponges to capture and then slow-release moisture and nutrients back into the root zone, and
- 2) as a physical conditioning amendment, creating elemental tilth to improve the functional structure of poor native soils.

[www.pumicesoil.com](http://www.pumicesoil.com)

## Soil Amending Recipes

Determining soil type using the jar composition test (or similar), provides a reference point from which to correct the performance of a out-of-balance (non-loamy) soil type. These recipes<sup>1</sup> include using a good compost to jump start the nutrient content in the soil. The short-term structural improvement provided by the compost does not last—the enduring structural rebuild of the soil profile is provided by the SoilRox.

**AMENDING CLAY SOIL:** Spread **4 inches** of SoilRox™ Amender XF and 2 to 3 inches of good compost. Blend into 6 to 8 inches deep into the clay soil.

**AMENDING SILTY SOIL:** Lay down **2 inches** of SoilRox™ Amender XF and 2 to 3 inches of good compost. Blend into 6 to 8 inches deep in the silty soil.

**AMENDING SANDY SOIL:** Spread **1 inch** of SoilRox™ Amender XF and 2 to 3 inches of good compost. Blend into 6 to 8 inches deep into the sandy soil.

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1 • These recipes are, of necessity, generalized. More thorough soil-typing followed by examination and testing of the amended soil profile would be necessary to determine the quantity (and grade/type) of added SoilRox to attain ideal conditioning.