

# Planting & Feeding Annuals

A soil test is always advised before adding lime, gypsum, and other nutrients.

- 1) **Soil preparation** is the key to a successful garden. Below are some tips for improving heavy clay soil.
  - Avoid compaction. Clay soil is very susceptible to compaction. Compacted soil will lead to poor drainage and clumping soil. To avoid compacting the soil, never work clay soil while it is wet and avoid overworking your soil with excessive tilling until your soil is corrected.
  - Add organic material. Adding organic soil will go a long way towards improving it. While there are several organic soil amendments for improving clay soil, you will want to use a compost, materials that compost quickly, or an in-ground soil such as Miracle Gro In-Ground soil. Materials such as manure, leaf mold, and green plants compost quickly and make great compost. If you are using an in-ground soil, blend a 50:50 mix of the in-ground soil and the native soil.
  - Cover with organic material. Cover areas of clay soils with slower composting materials such as mulch. As the material breaks down, it will work itself into the soil below further helping to transform the soil.
- 2) **Apply fertilizer** at planting time and again in 5-7 weeks. We have many fertilizers and supplements from which to choose from depending on your needs. Whatever you choose, please do feed your plants-it makes a difference.
- 3) **Loosen soil** to a depth of 8" – 12". Mix in the supplements and nutrients.
- 4) **Plant annuals** and water thoroughly and carefully.
- 5) **Frequent watering** of newly planted gardens is necessary. Once the garden is fully established, gradually lengthen the intervals between very through waterings. Use mulch to help maintain consistent moisture and conserve water.

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