

Soil types explained

In our opinion it is far better to have a garden full of plants that will establish and thrive to their full potential rather than a group of plants that simply survive and give an average show.

Identifying and understanding your soil type will help you to find the best plants for your garden.

Clay soils

- High in nutrients
- Heavy, wet and cold during the winter months
- Hard and dry during the summer
- Hold water and drain slowly
- Easily compacted and can suffer drainage problems

Sandy soils

- Low in nutrients
- Light, dry and warm
- Often very acidic
- Dries out quickly and requires a lot of watering

Chalky or lime-rich soils

- Can be light or heavy
- May contain lumps of chalk or limestone
- Often very alkaline
- Contain calcium carbonate or lime

Silt soils

- Fertile
- Light and retain moisture
- Easily compacted
- Well drained

Loams

- Mixtures of clay, sand and silt soils that avoid the extremes of each type
- Fertile
- Well drained
- Easily worked

Peat soils

- High in organic matter
- Holds moisture
- Very fertile