

Welcome to

Garden Organic's Soil Information Pack



It is a truth universally acknowledged – but often overlooked – that our soil is at the very heart of successful growing. I am always amazed by the number of people – often ‘experienced’ growers – who do not seem to know even the most basic of information about their soil. Ask them to describe its chemical composition – is it alkaline or acid – or even just its colour or texture, and many look confused and bewildered. And yet, without knowing and caring for this vital food source for plants, how can the organic grower succeed?

By declaring 2015 the International Year of the Soils, the UN wanted to raise the profile of this humble but essential resource – Earth’s own earth. Soils are the foundation for food, animal feed, fuel and natural fibre production, the supply of clean water, nutrient cycling and a range of ecosystem functions. The area of fertile soils covering the world’s surface is limited and increasingly subject to degradation, poor management and loss to urbanisation.

Here, at Garden Organic, we have created a specific Soil Pack, to help growers and gardeners understand why their soil is so critical to successful growing, and how to manage and improve it the organic way.

My garden has two quite distinct soil types – greensand over gravel, and clay. I’ve had to learn – much by trial and error – how to work with my soil types (the right plant in the right place), and how what I grow can help and support my soil. I wish when I started gardening that I had this Soil Pack. It sets out clearly and simply the basics of our soil, and how to look after it, in a fully organic and sustainable way.

I hope you will find this pack interesting and informative – and I welcome any feedback. Do share this with family and friends – and remember the wide range of benefits from being a Garden Organic member – many of whom contributed generously to enable us to create and distribute this pack. With all good wishes

James Campbell
Garden Organic Chief Executive



2015

International Year of Soils

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