Soil and plants go hand in hand, working together to benefit OUR environment.

#PlantsDoThat For Soil Health!

Soils are Alive
Soils are filled with plant roots, bugs, earthworms, bacteria, fungi – a whole ecosystem underground!

Organic Matter is Key
Organic matter is decomposed plants that holds nutrients and water, loosens the soil, and feeds life in the soil. Add OM regularly to your soil.²

Keep Your Soil Covered
Having plants on the soil surface prevents erosion, soil crusting, compaction and reduces weeds.³

Pores are Important!
Ideal soils are half solids (minerals & organic matter) and half pore spaces (filled with air or water). Hard, compacted soil have lost pore space due to compression. Plant roots need oxygen, water and space to grow.⁴

What Plants Need!
Healthy soils provide adequate water and nutrients to plants and protect against losses to runoff water and erosion.⁵

Plants Build Soil
Build soil health by providing organic matter and improving soil fertility.⁶

Urban Soils Hold Many Surprises
Soil is often changed during construction: graded, filled, compacted, and contaminated. It is good to know what is beneath you. Know the history and plant accordingly!⁷

This infographic was produced by the NICH Environmental Committee: Lauren Garcia Chance, Amy Jo Detweiler, Gail Langellootto, Carl Evensen, Allison Gault, Sarada Krishnan, Julie Weisenhorn, Sabrena Schweyer. Design provided by the Horticultural Research Institute.


²Additional Resources


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