



WHAT ARE SOIL AMENDMENTS?

Soil amendments are natural or man-made materials added to soil to improve its physical or chemical properties. They help:

- Increase water retention in dry soils
- Improve soil structure and porosity
- Add essential nutrients for plant growth
- Restores depleted soils affected by drought or overuse.

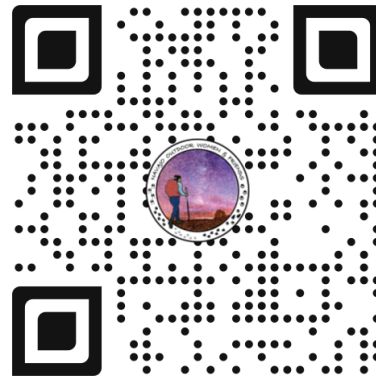
Types of Amendements:

- Organic: Compost, Manure, Cover Crops, Biochar
- Mineral: Gypsum, Lime, Rock Phosphate
- Biological: Mycorrhizal fungi, Microbial inoculants.

 **TIP: ALWAYS TEST YOUR SOIL FIRST TO DETERMINE WHICH AMENDMENTS YOU NEED.**

 **TIP: BEST DONE BEFORE PLANTING IN SPRING OR AFTER HARVEST IN FALL.**

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DNR CENTRAL DISPATCH:

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SOIL AMENDMENTS FOR A STRONGER FUTURE

NAVAJO NATION CLIMATE RESILIENCE & FOOD SOVEREIGNTY





BENEFITS FOR THE NAVAJO NATION:



HOW TO APPLY SOIL AMENDMENTS:

- **Strengthening Food Sovereignty:** Healthier soils lead to more productive gardens and local food systems, reducing reliance on imported food.
- **Water Efficiency:** Improved soils hold water better—critical in arid and drought-prone regions like the Southwest.
- **Climate Resilience:** Organic matter helps sequester carbon and buffer crops against temperature extremes.
- **Cultural Connection:** Revitalizing traditional farming practices and connecting with ancestral knowledge about land stewardship.

1. Test your soil
 - a. use a soil test kit or send a sample to a lab to identify pH, Nutrients, and textures.
2. Choose the Right Amendments:
 - a. Sandy soils: Add compost or aged manure to boost organic matter,
 - b. Clay soils: Use gypsum or organic matter to improve drainage.
 - c. Alkaline soils (Common on Navajo Land): Add elemental sulfur or composted pine needles to lower pH.
3. Apply and Mix:
 - a. Spread a 1–3 inch layer of compost or amendment over soil.
 - b. Use shovel or rototiller to mix it into the top 6–8 inches (don't till too deep)
 - c. Water thoroughly to activate biological processes.
4. Repeat Annually or Seasonally

