

# The scoop on soil health

A healthy soil is the foundation for a tough, water efficient lawn and landscape. Quality soils store nutrients for plants and increase how much water the soil can hold. You can improve your soil through frequent aeration, by adding organic matter like compost, and growing deep-rooted plants in your garden.

Soils rich in organic matter hold 18 to 20 times its weight in water and recycles nutrients for plants to use. This mean less water lost to evaporation and runoff, so you can water less.

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# Compost recipe

Keep yard and kitchen waste out of the landfill by making your own compost. Compost loosens clay soils, helps sandy soils retain nutrients and moisture, and recycles plant nutrients into your yard.

Alternate green layers, like vegetable scraps and grass clippings with brown materials, like pine needles and leaves.

Mix frequently and water occasionally to keep the compost moist and hot. Add garden soil to speed up the compost process. Need help getting started? Call or visit the Oklahoma County Extension office at 713-1125 to get the scoop on starting your own compost bin.