

MYTH

ADD SAND TO CLAY SOIL TO IMPROVE ITS TEXTURE

BUSTED

THE FACTS

This myth may stem from the fact that if clay is the smallest soil particle (leading to poor drainage) and sand is the largest soil particle (leading to fast drainage), mixing the two will create a well-drained soil.

BUT

- When sand and a clay soil are mixed together, the large pore spaces of the sandy soil are filled with the smaller clay particles, creating a **HEAVIER, DENSER** soil
- To significantly change (not improve) the texture of clay soils, half the existing clay soil would need to be **REMOVED** and **REPLACED** with an equal volume of sand – an expensive, intrusive, and labour-intensive undertaking!

ORGANIC MULCH TO THE RESCUE!

One of the least invasive and most cost-effective ways to improve soil structure in clay is by the use of organic mulches.

- **MULCH** clay soil with **COMPOST** and/or a deep layer of **WOODCHIPS**

*Not sure of the **TEXTURE** of your own garden soil? See **References** for a link to an easy, do-it-yourself jar test.*

REFERENCES

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

<https://gardening.usask.ca/articles-and-lists/articles-healthysoils/no-adding-sand-to-clay-soils.php>

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/soil-amendments-2.pdf>

SOIL TEXTURE ANALYSIS (JAR TEST)

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/soil-texture-analysis-the-jar-test/>