

PLANTING



FOR THE GARDENER

- Plant your garden with seeds, bulbs, shrubs, trees
- Be optimistic on the planting day
- Wish for a more beautiful environment
- Expect flowers, shade, fruit, privacy
- Enjoy the future rewards



YOUR PLANTS NEED

- Air in the soil
- Moisture (but not standing water)
- Mineral nutrients



REMEMBER THE TYPES OF SOIL

CLAY allows very little air. Water penetrates slowly. There is lack of drainage. Plant roots suffocate.



SANDY soils have a lot of room for air. But, moisture and nutrients disappear quickly. Water sinks right through and dries up quickly.



LOAM soil contains a combination of **clay**, **silt** and **sand**. It retains nutrients and water. It allows sufficient room for air.



TAKE A SOIL TEST

- Collect the soil in a clean, non-metal container
- Use a soil sampler and a garden trowel
- Place it in a mailable container



A. QUESTIONS:

1. Which are a gardener's positive thoughts on a planting day?
2. What do plants need for proper growth?
3. What is the main problem in clay soils?
4. Which are the disadvantages of sandy soils?
5. Which type of soil is the best for plant growth?
6. What does it consist of?



KEY

1. Which are a gardener's positive thoughts on a planting day?

He is optimistic, wishes for a more beautiful environment, expects flowers, shade, fruit, privacy and is ready to enjoy the future rewards.

2. What do plants need for proper growth?

Air in the soil, moisture and nutrients.

3. What is the main problem in clay soils?

Clay allows very little air. Water penetrates slowly. There is lack of drainage. Plant roots suffocate.



4. Which are the disadvantages of sandy soils?

Moisture and nutrients disappear quickly. Water sinks right through and dries up quickly.

5. Which type of soil is the best for plant growth?

Loam soil because it retains nutrients and water. It allows sufficient room for air.

6. What does it consist of?

It contains a combination of clay, silt and sand.

B. EXERCISES:

1. Find the words in the text meaning the following:

- a. A low bush with woody stems
- b. Soil, earth
- c. A person who thinks that whatever happens will be good
- d. Declared again, or in answer to a question or doubt

Planting a seed, bulb, shrub, or a tree in the ground is an important event. It has been said that you cannot plant a garden without being an optimist. Many positive thoughts are affirmed on a planting day; the desire for a more beautiful environment, the anticipation of flowers, shade, fruit, privacy, and the recognition that you will enjoy the future rewards, season after season.

KEY

B. EXERCISES:

1. Find the words in the text meaning the following:

- a. A low bush with woody stems **shrub**
- b. Soil, earth **ground**
- c. A person who thinks that whatever happens will be good **optimist**
- d. Declared again, or in answer to a question or doubt **affirmed**

Planting a seed, bulb, shrub, or a tree in the ground is an important event. It has been said that you cannot plant a garden without being an optimist. Many positive thoughts are affirmed on a planting day; the desire for a more beautiful environment, the anticipation of flowers, shade, fruit, privacy, and the recognition that you will enjoy the future rewards, season after season.

- e. Water in very small quantities or in the form of steam or mist
- f. Piece of earth from which we make bricks, pots, etc.
- g. Retains / keeps
- h. Hold tightly, stick firmly
- i. The act or process of entering or forcing a way through
- j. The act of dying because there is not enough air
- k. Sticky

For proper growth, plants need air in the soil, available moisture (but not standing water), and a supply of mineral nutrients. If the soil has plenty of clay, it holds onto nutrients. However, the small clay particles that cling closely together hold water, and leave little room for air. As a result, water penetration is slow. Drainage is the main problem in clay soils, the lack of which often causes suffocation to plant roots. You know that you have a clay soil, if it's rock hard when dry, or if it's gummy when wet.

KEY

- e. Water in very small quantities or in the form of steam or mist **moisture**
- f. Piece of earth from which we make bricks, pots, etc. **Clay**
- g. Retains / keeps **holds**
- h. Hold tightly, stick firmly **cling closely together**
- i. The act or process of entering or forcing a way through **penetration**
- j. The act of dying because there is not enough air **suffocation**
- k. Sticky **gummy**

For proper growth, plants need air in the soil, available moisture (but not standing water), and a supply of mineral nutrients. If the soil has plenty of clay, it holds onto nutrients. However, the small clay particles that cling closely together hold water, and leave little room for air. As a result, water penetration is slow. Drainage is the main problem in clay soils, the lack of which often causes suffocation to plant roots. You know that you have a clay soil, if it's rock hard when dry, or if it's gummy when wet.

- l. Set free; let go
m. The sand, mud etc. carried by moving water
n. A small round hill **knoll**
o. A garden tool like a small spade

Sandy soils have a lot lot of room for air, but moisture and nutrients disappear quickly. Water sinks right into sandy soil without spreading, and dries up in just a few days after watering. When sandy soils are squeezed into a ball, they quickly fall apart when the ball is released.

One of the best soil types for plant growth is the loam soil. It contains a combination of clay, silt, and sand, which retains nutrients and water, while it still allows sufficient room for air.

Before deciding on the area you are going to plant, a soil test is always advisable.

Typical questions for taking a soil test are:

- How large is the sample area?
- Has fertilizer or lime ever been added?
- To what degree does the land slope?

To collect the soil, you will need a clean non-metal bucket or container, a soil sampler, a garden trowel or a spade and a mailable container that will hold about a pint of soil. The process of taking a soil test is shown in the pictures that follow.

- l. Set free; let go **release**
m. The sand, mud etc. carried by moving water **silt**
n. A small round hill **knoll**
o. A garden tool like a small spade **trowel**

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2. Match each word from list A with a word from list B to form phrases found in the text.

List A	List B
plant	soil
clay	area
soil	roots
sufficient	trowel
sample	types
non-metal	bucket
garden	room
steep	knoll

KEY

2. Match each word from list A with a word from list B to form phrases found in the text.

List A	List B
plant	soil
clay	area
soil	roots
sufficient	trowel
sample	types
non-metal	bucket
garden	room
steep	knoll

3. Fill in the blanks choosing one of the following words: container, seed, trowel, particles, bulb, moisture.

- a. A _____ is the part, usually small and hard, of some plants that may grow into a new plant of the same kind.
- b. A _____ is a round root of certain plants.
- c. When we say _____, we mean water in small quantities or in the form of steam or mist
- d. _____ are very small pieces of something.
- e. A _____ is anything such as a box, metal barrel, bottle, etc. used for holding something or in which goods are packed.
- f. A _____ is a garden tool with a curved blade for digging small holes, lifting up plants, etc.

KEY

3. Fill in the blanks choosing one of the following words: container, seed, trowel, particles, bulb, moisture.

- a. A seed is the part, usually small and hard, of some plants that may grow into a new plant of the same kind.
- b. A bulb is a round root of certain plants.
- c. When we say moisture, we mean water in small quantities or in the form of steam or mist
- d. Particles are very small pieces of something.
- e. A container is anything such as a box, metal barrel, bottle, etc. used for holding something or in which goods are packed.
- f. A trowel is a garden tool with a curved blade for digging small holes, lifting up plants, etc.

4. Form the suitable word that derives from the words in capitals at the end of each sentence to complete the blanks.

- a. Negroes worked as slaves in cotton _____ in N. America. PLANT
- b. The supply of mineral nutrients is necessary for the natural _____ of plants. GROW
- c. Water _____ is slow in clay soils. PENETRATE
- d. Lack of _____ results in suffocation of plant roots. DRAIN
- e. A soil test eliminates guessing the amounts of _____ and lime that must be added.
NUTRITION



KEY

4. Form the suitable word that derives from the words in capitals at the end of each sentence to complete the blanks.

- a. Negroes worked as slaves in cotton _____ in N. America. **PLANTATIONS** PLANT
- b. The supply of mineral nutrients is necessary for the natural _____ of plants. **GROWTH** GROW
- c. Water _____ is slow in clay soils. **PENETRATION** PENETRATE
- d. Lack of _____ results in suffocation of plant roots. **DRAINAGE** DRAIN
- e. A soil test eliminates guessing the amounts of _____ and lime that must be added. **NUTRIENTS** NUTRITION

