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## Simple Ways to Fix Dry Garden Soil

by

*Cath Manuel*

[www.soiltosupper.com](http://www.soiltosupper.com)

As I explained in the blog post, over a period of dry weather or lack of watering, soil can become hydrophobic and will repel water rather than absorb it. It will then become dry and lifeless, and plants may struggle to grow.

The main particles in healthy soil are decomposed organic matter, these are natural and were once living organisms.

***The more organic matter in the soil, the better moisture retention.***

The main thing to help re-hydrate your dry soil is by regularly adding organic matter and extra moisture.

If you've found your soil is dry and dead, follow these simple steps to bring it back to life!

***Gather a few of these ingredients...(you won't need all of them so gather the ones that are easiest to find)***

- **Compost** – THE best form of organic matter. Compost is decomposing items that were once living. Eg fruit and veggie scraps. Follow the link in the blog post to my super easy 'In-Garden' Composting Method...Download & Print it too!
- **Mushroom Compost** – also great to add to dry soil.
- **Old animal manure** – find this in bags for sale along the side of country roads. Allow it to break down for about a month before placing in gardens. Or purchase bags of rotted manure at your local garden centre or hardware store.
- **Garden and lawn clippings** – both great to enrich your soil. Make sure there's no weed seeds included in lawn clippings, as they'll sprout in your garden!!
- **Mulch** – Cane, hay or other mulched plant matter helps to improve soil and retain moisture during dry times.
- **Coir peat** – a sustainable resource from coconut fibre. This retains moisture in garden soil and potting mix.
- **Worm castings and liquid** – great to have a home worm farm. Add worm poo and worm wee to your soil...It will love it!! (so will the kids!)
- **Blood & bone** (one of my fav's), organic fertilisers and organic liquid plant fertilisers.

***Follow this method –***

- remove any mulch and weeds in the garden
- give your soil a gentle dig with a garden fork. Don't turn the soil over, just push your fork in and give it a wiggle around.
- give the soil/ground a good hose with water before applying ingredients. This will help to retain moisture in the lower levels of soil.
- sprinkle Blood & Bone (as per application rate on bag).
- apply a 5-10cm layer of chopped garden clippings or a thin layer (about 2-5cm) fresh green lawn clippings.
- apply 5-10cm layer of compost, rotted manure or mushroom compost.
- cover with a 5cm layer of cane mulch
- give the area a good watering to wet all ingredients OR apply a few full watering cans of diluted worm liquid or organic liquid fertiliser.

Get your hands in the mix (gloves on) to ensure everything is nicely damp. If not, water again.

Allow the ingredients to 'rest' for approx. 2-3 weeks. Checking moisture levels weekly (keep moist and then start planting in your garden.

**TIP** – *if you have existing plants growing, but need to improve soil, just apply the ingredients around plants ensuring ingredients are 5cm away from stems or main trunk.*

If you have any questions please post comment and images to our Soil to Supper Facebook Club ([www.facebook.com/groups/soiltosupperclub](http://www.facebook.com/groups/soiltosupperclub)) and I'll reply and provide assistance to you.

I would love to know if this method has helped your garden, so please comment in the Facebook Club or email me anytime ([cath@soiltosupper.com](mailto:cath@soiltosupper.com))

Growing with you,

*Cath*

It is recommended to use personal protective equipment when undertaking all gardening activities and Soil to Supper is not held responsible for gardeners not adhering to safety requirements while gardening and completing these suggested activities.