



Topic: Sandy Soil and Plant Selections

Question: I was wondering if you can tell me who can offer me advice on what plants would be best for a sandy soil.

- Scott, email

Answer: While the texture of the soil (sand, silt or clay) is important, nevertheless that is not the determining factor regarding what grows best in it. Rather, it is the pH, the nutrient content, and the drainage of the soil that are the most decisive factors. While it is extremely difficult to adjust soil pH, it is relatively easy to alter its nutrient status by adding organic matter and the appropriate fertilizers. Other important criteria include the plant's adaptation to local climate and whether it grows best in full sun or partial shade. Chances are you can plant most plants offered for sale in our area as long as they are properly placed in your yard.

Useful Links

[Soil Fertility Fact Sheet](#)

[Hedge Selection Fact Sheet](#)

[Stephen's Webpage](#)

Stephen Brown is a horticulture agent with the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the horticulture desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by brownsh@leegov.com.
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