Improving Your Soil

Today on Gardening in a Minute: improving your soil.

The majority of Florida’s soils are very sandy, and hold very little water or nutrients. To help your plants thrive in this soil, improve it with organic matter.

Organic matter comes in many different forms. Compost is derived from decomposed food and yard scraps.

Or try composted farm animal manure. Horse, chicken, or cow manure will work, but it must be completely composted for safety.

Other organic matter includes mushroom compost, peat moss, and worm castings.

Incorporate your organic matter in the top six to eight inches of the soil. You’ll want to add new organic matter on a regular basis.

After planting, add a layer of plant material, like leaves, pine straw, or bark, to the soil surface as a mulch for an added boost.

For more information about this and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

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