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Soil Compaction

Today on Gardening in a Minute: soil compaction.

Compacted soils provide a stable foundation for homes, but they aren't ideal for plant growth or water movement through the soil.

Soil compaction is usually the result of heavy foot or vehicle traffic.

Soil particles get packed together, reducing the number and size of the spaces between the particles. This makes it difficult for plant roots to grow and take up water and nutrients. It can also lead to unnecessary stormwater runoff.

In new homes where construction may have caused widespread soil compaction, consider incorporating organic matter before landscaping.

If you're repeatedly walking or driving over the same part of your lawn, install permeable pavers to serve as paths or driveways. They'll help distribute the weight of the traffic and still allow water to filter through.

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

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.

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