



FREESTATE  
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# TOPSOIL QUALITY GUIDE

**Growing anything starts with your soil. However, topsoil tends to be an overarching term for a number of products that vary in use and quality. While all have an important use, only some are appropriate for growing plants, lawns, and vegetables.**

## There are important differences between dirts and soils

**Fill dirt:** A low-quality, unscreened dirt that is used to raise the level of the ground.

**Screened dirt:** A low-quality dirt with larger rocks and debris screened out.

**Blended or mixed soil:** Created most often by mixing compost with a fill or screened dirt to make it a higher quality, hopefully good enough for growing.

**Topsoil:** While there are a variety of underlying soil types—sandy, clay, silt, peat, chalk, and loam—all are focused on being high-enough quality for growing.

## Finding a good topsoil for your plants

The best soil is a “loam” because it balances the strengths and weaknesses of the three most basic soil elements: sand, silt, and clay. Here’s how to find a good loamy soil.



**LOOK FOR A DARK, BROWN COLOR,** which indicates a nice amount of organic matter. A light or white residue on the surface may indicate lime or salts, which can negatively impact growth. Warning signs: a light color may lack organic matter; black soil may lack minerals; a blue-green or gray could suggest that the soil has been saturated and drained of its nutrients.



**ASK WHERE THE INGREDIENTS COME FROM.** Most topsoils in the area use “native” dirt—i.e. whatever is dug out of the ground during construction—and have a wide variation in quality. Some native soils that are so poor that, even after mixing with compost, will not be sufficient for growing.



### TOUCH

**Dry:** Feel for a crumbly nature and grainy texture, which suggests important minerals in the soil. Warning signs: hard texture suggests lack of organic matter; large clumps suggest too much clay; large stones and weed roots suggest poor ingredients and processing.

**Wet:** Wet a small amount of sand in the palm of your hand. Feel for a balance (rather than domination) of three properties: grittiness suggests sand, stickiness suggests clay; smoothness suggests silt.



### THE SOIL SHOULD SMELL SLIGHTLY SWEET.

Avoid anything that has a rotting, chemical, or otherwise off-putting smell to it.



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Local,  
organic &  
sustainable  
products



# GROW GOOD SOIL BLEND



Use our blended topsoil to provide your flower beds, vegetable gardens, and lawns the soil structure and health that they need to thrive.



### **READY FOR PLANTING**

Combine the power of our certified Grow Good Compost with a premium sandy-loam soil so your plants, veggies, and lawn can thrive.



### **SAFE FOR PEOPLE, PETS & PLANTS**

No manure. No human waste.  
No fertilizers.  
Just the good stuff.



### **GROWING A BETTER, GREENER FUTURE TOGETHER**

Produced using local ingredients to make our soils healthier and our community more sustainable.

**Premium Topsoil so you can Grow Good.**



### **GROW GOOD SOIL BLEND**

Ideal for the top 6-12 inches of any soil that will grow flowers, vegetables, trees, or grass.



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