

# Soil Conditioners

At our nursery, we offer a wide selection of high-quality soil amendments that are designed to promote healthier, more vibrant plant growth. Below, we have put together some info for some of our favorite products. Whether you're looking to improve soil structure, increase nutrient availability, or boost overall plant vitality, the right soil products can make all the difference in achieving your gardening goals. Our range of products — including Greensand, Lava Sand, Expanded Shale, Gypsum, Dried Molasses and Humate — are perfect for gardeners seeking to improve soil health, encourage strong root development, and foster a thriving garden.

Each of these natural amendments is chosen for its unique properties and long-term benefits. Greensand, with its rich mineral content, improves soil structure and provides slow-release nutrients. Lava Sand enhances drainage and aeration, making it ideal for compacted soils. Expanded Shale is excellent for breaking up heavy clay soils, improving both water movement and root growth. Gypsum provides essential calcium and sulfur, improving soil structure without altering pH. Humate, rich in humic and fulvic acids, stimulates beneficial microbial activity and increases nutrient availability. Dried molasses provides essential nutrients like potassium, calcium, and trace minerals to promote healthy plant growth. It also helps improve soil structure and encourages beneficial microorganisms.

Whether you're growing vegetables, flowers, or landscaping plants, these products are designed to help you create nutrient-rich, well-draining, and sustainable soil. With these soil amendments, you'll be able to support robust plant growth, increase crop yields, and cultivate a garden that thrives season after season.

## Pricing:

- Greensand - \$9.99 6lb or \$17.99 40lb
- Lavasand - \$9.99 6lb or \$12.99 40lb
- Expanded Shale - \$9.99 5lb or \$14.99 40lb
- Gypsum - \$11.99 6lb or \$26.99 50lb
- Dried Molasses- \$9.99 4lb or \$42.49 40lb

## Greensand

### What it is:

Greensand is a natural, mineral-rich soil conditioner mined from ancient marine deposits. The most common form is glauconite, which is high in potassium, iron, magnesium, and other essential trace minerals. The name "greensand" comes from its greenish color due to the presence of glauconite.

### Additional Benefits:

- **Water Retention and Drainage:** It holds moisture well, making it great for sandy soils but also helps improve drainage in clay soils.
- **Slow-Release Fertilizer:** Since it releases nutrients gradually, it's ideal for long-term soil health and nutrient release.
- **Improved Root Growth:** The potassium and iron content aids in stronger, healthier root systems.

### Additional Uses:

- **Vegetable Gardens:** Great for adding trace minerals and improving the structure of garden soil, making it ideal for growing vegetables.
  - **Flower Beds and Lawns:** Greensand can be used for promoting robust flowering and overall lawn health.
  - **Sustainable Agriculture:** It's a natural, sustainable option for organic farming and gardening.
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## Lava Sand

### What it is:

Lava sand is made from crushed volcanic rock, often sourced from areas with active volcanic activity. It is a finely textured sand that contains a rich mix of minerals such as iron, calcium, magnesium, and silica.

### Additional Benefits:

- **Improves Soil Aeration:** It enhances soil porosity and provides aeration, allowing roots to grow deeper and more effectively.
- **Good Drainage:** Its coarse texture helps with the water movement in the soil, ensuring that excess water doesn't sit around plant roots, which can cause rot.
- **Micro-nutrient Source:** Contains a variety of trace elements beneficial to plant health that may be missing from typical fertilizers.

### Additional Uses:

- **Improving Soil in Containers:** Lava sand is excellent for improving drainage and preventing compaction in container gardens or potted plants.
- **Cacti and Succulents:** These plants thrive in well-drained soils, and lava sand is perfect for enhancing drainage and mimicking their natural growing conditions.
- **Amendment for Clay Soils:** In clay-heavy soils, it can reduce compaction and improve both water infiltration and root growth.

## Expanded Shale

### What it is:

Expanded shale is a lightweight, porous aggregate material created by heating shale rock to high temperatures. The expansion process makes it very lightweight and highly porous, perfect for improving soil structure.

### Additional Benefits:

- **Prevents Soil Compaction:** Its porous nature keeps soil loose and crumbly, preventing compaction in heavy clay soils.
- **Enhances Drainage and Aeration:** It helps in improving the movement of air and water within the soil, which is crucial for healthy root development.
- **Long-Lasting:** Unlike some organic amendments, expanded shale does not break down over time and provides long-term improvements in soil structure.

### Additional Uses:

- **Heavy Clay Soils:** Excellent for breaking up clay-heavy soils, improving aeration and drainage, and preventing waterlogging.
  - **Potted Plants and Raised Beds:** Often used in raised bed gardens and potting mixes, as it creates a lighter, airier growing medium.
  - **Hydroponic and Aquaponic Systems:** Due to its structure, expanded shale is also used in hydroponic systems as a growing medium.
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## Gypsum

### What it is:

Gypsum is a naturally occurring mineral made of calcium sulfate ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ). It is commonly used to improve soil structure and provide key nutrients for plants.

### Additional Benefits:

- **Calcium Source:** Provides an essential nutrient—calcium—which is necessary for strong cell walls and proper root development.
- **Sulfur Supply:** Sulfur is another key nutrient for plants, involved in protein synthesis and enzyme function.
- **Improves Soil Structure:** Gypsum helps in breaking down compacted soil without changing the pH, unlike lime, which can raise pH.
- **No Leaching Risk:** Unlike some other soil amendments, gypsum doesn't leach or wash away easily, making it effective over time.

### Additional Uses:

- **Clay and Heavy Soils:** Helps break down clay particles, allowing better water movement and root penetration in compacted or heavy soils.
- **Lawn Care:** Improves soil structure in lawns, helping with root growth and preventing waterlogging.
- **Fertilizing Specific Crops:** Particularly useful for crops sensitive to calcium deficiency, like tomatoes, peppers, and cabbage.

## Dried Molasses

### Benefits of Dried Molasses:

- **Rich in Nutrients:** Dried molasses contains essential nutrients like potassium, calcium, magnesium, and iron, which are beneficial for plant health.
- **Improves Soil Health:** It acts as a natural soil conditioner, improving soil structure and increasing microbial activity. This helps to create a healthier, more balanced ecosystem in the soil.
- **Encourages Beneficial Microbes:** The sugar content in molasses acts as a food source for beneficial microorganisms in the soil, which helps in the breakdown of organic matter, improving soil fertility.
- **Boosts Plant Growth:** By promoting healthier soil, dried molasses encourages better root development, strong plant growth, and higher yields in both edible and ornamental plants.
- **Natural Pest Deterrent:** Dried molasses can act as a mild pest deterrent, particularly for Fire Ants and other small pests.
- **Supports Plant Stress Recovery:** It can help plants recover from environmental stress, such as drought or transplant shock, by supporting stronger roots and boosting overall resilience.

### Uses of Dried Molasses:

- **Soil Amendment:** Mix dried molasses into the soil before planting to improve its texture, nutrient content, and microbial health. This is ideal for vegetable gardens, flower beds, and lawns.
  - **Fertilizer Supplement:** Use it as a supplement to your regular fertilization routine to provide slow-release nutrients over time.
  - **Compost Accelerator:** Adding dried molasses to compost piles speeds up the decomposition process by feeding the microorganisms that break down organic material.
  - **Mulch Mix:** Blend it with your mulch for additional soil enrichment and to improve moisture retention.
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# Humate

## What it is:

Humates are organic compounds derived from humus (decayed plant and animal matter) and are rich in humic and fulvic acids. These acids are powerful agents for improving soil health and fertility.

## Additional Benefits:

- **Improves Soil Structure:** Humates bind to soil particles, helping to form aggregates and improve the soil's ability to hold nutrients and water.
- **Stimulates Microbial Activity:** Encourages beneficial microorganisms, which enhance nutrient cycling and promote healthy plant growth.
- **Enhances Nutrient Availability:** Humic acids improve the availability of essential nutrients, particularly phosphorus, which is often bound in forms that are unavailable to plants.
- **Chelation of Metals:** Humates can help in making micronutrients (like iron and manganese) more available to plants by chelating them in the soil.

## Additional Uses:

- **Soil Conditioner for Organic Gardens:** Often used in organic farming to improve the overall health of the soil and increase its capacity to retain and release nutrients.
  - **Boosting Plant Growth:** Helps promote vigorous root systems, seedling growth, and overall plant vitality.
  - **Compost and Mulch:** Often mixed with compost to enhance its nutrient content and microbial activity, or applied as a top dressing to improve soil health.
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