



Specific benefits of soil improvers #1

The distinction between **fertilizers** and **soil improvers** is fundamental to understanding how to care for the soil and promote healthy plant growth. **Fertilizers**, as the name suggests, have the primary purpose of providing nutrients to plants to promote growth. They are like an immediate "meal" for plants, rich in essential elements such as nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K).

Soil improvers, on the other hand, work in a more holistic way, focusing on improving the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the soil itself. Instead of providing an immediate injection of nutrients, they work to create a healthy and fertile environment in the long term. Soil improvers, like compost, do not just "feed" the plants but "feed" the soil, promoting a vibrant and resilient ecosystem.

The Benefits of Soil improvers: Increased Organic matter

Soil improvers, especially compost, are rich in stable organic matter, which significantly contributes to the soil's organic matter content. Organic matter is the lifeblood of the soil, playing a crucial role in a number of essential functions, including:

Nutrient supply: Organic matter acts as a slow-release nutrient reservoir for plants. While fertilizers provide an immediate injection, organic matter releases nutrients gradually over time, ensuring a constant and balanced supply.

Soil structure: Organic matter improves soil structure by binding soil particles into stable aggregates. This creates a porous environment that promotes air circulation, drainage, and root penetration. A well-structured soil is less prone to compaction and erosion.

Water retention: Organic matter acts like a sponge, absorbing and holding water in the soil. This is especially important in arid or drought-prone regions, improving plant resistance to water scarcity.

Biological activity: Organic matter provides food and habitat for a wide range of beneficial soil organisms, including bacteria, fungi, earthworms, and insects.

Project partners



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