

THE PLANTSMAN

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Ingredients

Sand

This recipe is for every ten square metres of sand.

Compost

3 to 5 bags of a good quality compost that meets Australian standards. You can add more if it is straight sand but do not overdo it. Animal manure can be used to replace up to 10% of the compost. Too much organic matter is likely to cause soil health problems

Soil Amendments

5 to 20 kilograms of Bentonite clay which is also sold as clumping cat litter at supermarkets. (I have found Coles & Woolies own brands to be the best). Alternatively, use already prepared combinations of Bentonite clay, spongolite and zeolite.

Wetting Agent

Either granular or liquid. Do not substitute washing up liquid.

Mulch

500 litres (half a cubic metre) of Waterwise Mulch (a mulch that has large and irregularly shaped particles that hold little if any water).

Home -made is best!
Simply add garden prunings to a good mulcher/chipper



Our sandy soils are truly awful. Changing them with this simple recipe will make your garden plants want to come, stay and grow!

METHOD

Gather all ingredients together along with a hose or watering can, a spade and rake.

Use the rake to remove any large sticks or stones. Put them aside for possible later use as mulch. Use the back of the rake to roughly level the sand

Spread the compost/animal manure and soil amendments evenly over the surface. The layer should be between fifteen and twenty millimetres thick. It is important to keep the clay dry at this stage, otherwise it may cause unsavoury lumps. (Alternatively the clay can be added by soaking it in water for at least 24 hours before stirring

vigorously and spreading the suspended particles through a watering can.)

Mix the added layers with the sand to a full spade depth. For the recipe to work it is vital that it be thoroughly mixed. It may be necessary to turn the mix over two or three times.

Garnish with soil wetting agent, applied according to the manufacturer's instructions. Water in well.

Add plants according to taste.

Top with a five to seven centimetre layer of Waterwise mulch.

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