

# Garden Maintenance

## Soil

Soil is a plant's home, just like your house is your home. It's important to make sure this home is healthy and happy so your plants will be healthy and happy too. All soil types love the same thing—life!

What type of soil do I have?

## Clay

If you have heavy clay soil, it will firmly stick together when you squeeze a handful of it.

## Watering

A fun way to check if your garden needs watering is to stick your finger into the soil. Does it feel damp? Or does it feel dry and crumbly?

## Compost

Adding compost to your soil is like giving it a big, nutritious meal so your plants can grow big and strong. To make compost, layer leaves, straw, or dry grass with nutritious things, like food scraps or freshly cut grass. Make lots of layers, like a lasagne. Your compost pile may get warm, and you may see steam rising off the top!

## Concrete

Sometimes your yard has no soil at all! In this case, use lots and lots of pots to make your garden.

## Sand and Loam

If you have sandy loam soil in your garden, it may not stick together very well when you squeeze it and it will trickle through your fingers. Cacti like this kind of soil especially.