

Common Soil Amendments

Amendment	What it adds	Why you'd use it
Bone Meal	Phosphorus and calcium	Supports root development, flowering, and fruiting when soil is deficient
Blood Meal	Nitrogen	Quickly adds nitrogen for leafy growth or nitrogen-depleted soil
Fish Fertilizer	Primarily nitrogen, with smaller amounts of other nutrients depending on product	Provides a relatively quick, gentle nutrient boost during active growth
Compost	Organic matter plus varying nutrients	Improves soil structure, water retention, microbial activity, and overall soil health
Aged Manure	Organic matter plus varying amounts of nitrogen and other nutrients	Builds organic matter while supplying nutrients
Lime	Calcium; dolomitic lime also supplies magnesium	Raises soil pH when soil is too acidic
Elemental Sulfur	Sulfur	Commonly used to gradually lower soil pH when appropriate
Kelp/Seaweed Products	Potassium and various trace elements, depending on product	Used as a supplemental source of minerals and potassium
Perlite	No Significant Nutrients	Improves drainage and aeration, especially in containers and potting mixes
Vermiculite	No Significant Nutrients	Helps soil or potting mixes hold moisture and nutrients
Worm Castings	Organic matter & modest nutrients	Gently enriches soil and improves its ability to hold water and nutrients
Gypsum	Calcium & sulfur	Adds calcium and sulfur without significantly changing soil pH
		
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