

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AMADOR COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

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GUIDELINES TO MANAGING AMADOR COUNTY SOILS

Trees and plants must adapt to and root out into existing soils to be successful. Heavy clay soils with poor drainage can limit tree and plant growth on some soils in the Ione/Lake Camanche area. Soil compaction from construction equipment is serious. It may cause the death of old established trees. Break up dry compacted soil before you plant. Never work the soil when it is wet.

Fertilizers needed in Amador County include:

- ⇒ Phosphorus fertilizer should be added before you plant and worked into the root zone.
- ⇒ Nitrogen and sulfur can be added after planting.
- ⇒ Boron should be added in very small amounts every five years.

Soils become acid after several years of gardening. Liming the soil to adjust acidity may be needed.

When Your Garden Lacks Soil

Imported top soil can be useful for establishing lawns and ground covers

Place vegetables and flowers in raised beds.

Soil Amendments

Organic materials added to soil help in the short term.

Plants in organic mixes need extra nitrogen fertilizer.

Compost and green manure crops are beneficial.

Water can build up and cause root rot if organic amendments or sandy loam top soil are put on top of a dense clay soil.

Ref:soilab
June 1999

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