

Plants suitable for clay soils



Care & Advice Sheet

No. 3

If you require any further information, please ask our outdoor plant advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

Chessington Garden Centre

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Please recycle me once you've finished reading.

Clay soils are common in our area and across the country. This type of soil can be a very good growing medium. In many cases there is a layer of good soil before the clay becomes much heavier, the deeper you dig into the soil.

However, the soil can be greatly improved in a few years by adding a generous amount of organic matter.

Products we sell include:

- Westlands Organic Soil Conditioner;
- Westlands Multi Purpose Compost and Tree and Shrub Compost.

Peat free alternatives include:

- New Horizon Multi purpose;
- Composted Stable Manure.

Whilst this is being dug in, shingle can be added to help improve drainage further. If your soil refuses to respond to your efforts to improve it or you just don't want to try, there are still many plants that will do very well and even thrive in a heavy clay soil.

These include:

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| ■ Anemone | ■ Cornus |
| ■ Aucuba | ■ Cotoneaster |
| ■ Berberis | ■ Forsythia |
| ■ Bergenia | ■ Geranium |
| ■ Chaenomeles | ■ Hosta |
| ■ Choisya | ■ Hypericum |
| ■ Campanula | ■ Lobelia |

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| ■ Mahonia | ■ Roses |
| ■ Philadelphus | ■ Spiraea |
| ■ Polygonum | ■ Viburnum |
| ■ Potentilla | ■ Vinca |

All of these are very easy to grow but a much wider choice is available if care is taken in soil preparation including:

Syringa vulgaris (Lilac): Most are well scented, purple/pink/white flowers in spring.

Viburnum farreri: Deliciously sweetly scented small white flowers Nov/Feb.

Viburnum x bodnantense 'Dawn': Large clusters of rose pink flowers Nov/Feb.

Viburnum x burkwoodii: Fragrant white flowers in spring. Evergreen.

Viburnum x burkwoodii 'Anne Russell': Sweetly scented white flowers; pink buds. Evergreen and compact.

Climbers

Abeliophyllum distichum: Star shaped almond scented flowers in Feb/March.

Clematis armandii: White flowers in early spring. Evergreen with long shiny leaves.

Clematis montana 'Odorata': Vanilla scented pale pink flowers in early summer.

Jasminum officinale 'Fiona Sunrise': Very fragrant white flowers all summer. Golden leaves. 'Clotted Cream' Creamy white flowers in summer.

Jasminum x stephanense: Pale pink flowers in June to August Lonicera x americana White flowers deepening to yellow June to Sept.

Lonicera japonica 'Hall's Prolific': Highly fragrant white flowers that turn pale yellow.

Lonicera periclymenum 'Belgica': Masses of red/purple flowers that fade to yellow in May/June and again in Sept.

Rosa 'Bantry Bay': Semi-double pink flowers climbing rose throughout the summer.

'**Alberic Barbier**': Vigorous rambler with cream very scented flowers in June. Many other fragrant roses are available.

Trachelosperum jasminoides: White star shaped "Jasmine"-like flowers. July/Aug.

Perennials

Convallaria majalis (Lily of the Valley): Well loved scent, white flowers in spring.

Crambe cordifolia (Greater sea kale): Clouds of well-scented, white "stars" in June/July.

Dianthus (Carnations and pinks): Many varieties of pink and white flowers with toothed petals, many have grey/silver leaves.

Lillium orientalis (Oriental Lily): Stunning brightly coloured petals in June/July.

Nemesia 'Vanilla Mist': Pale pink flowers with a yellow eye. Strong Vanilla scent 'Wisley Vanilla' has pure white flowers.

Primula veris (Cowslip): Deep yellow flowers in April/May.

Annuals and Biennials

- Antirrhinum majus (Snapdragon)
- Dianthus barbatus (Sweet William)
- Lathyrus odoratus (Sweet peas)
- Matthiola incana (Stocks)