



Soil Amendment Requirements

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Soil Amendment Requirements

Ordinance 084, 2003 requires soil amendment in areas of Fort Collins that are cleared and planned to hold plants and grass.

A soil amendment is any material added to the soil to improve its physical properties. It can be compost, peat, aged manure or other material as approved.

Certification

Complete a Soil Amendment Certificate and return to Utilities, 700 Wood St. Include the receipt showing the amount and type of soil amendment or a lab result showing proof that the soil added meets the topsoil requirements (see table at right).

If unfavorable conditions, such as excessive rain or snow, prevent soil amendment application, you may obtain a *Temporary Soil Amendment Waiver* from Utilities.

Soil Amendment Benefits

- Reduces compaction
- Increases water capacity
- Conserves irrigation water
- Reduces watering frequency
- Promotes deeper root growth

Steps to Amend the Soil

- Loosen the top 8 inches
- Till or mix 3 cubic yards of amendment/ 1,000 square feet into the top 6 inches of soil **or**
- Add 4 inches of topsoil that meets the following requirements

Topsoil Requirements	
Sand	20 – 75%
Silt	5 – 60%
Clay	5 – 30%
Organic material	5% or more
pH	6.0 – 8.0

Topsoil must be free from noxious weeds, roots, salts, clay lumps and any non-soil materials (rocks, concrete, brick chips, building materials, foreign matter and any chemical, biological or radiological contaminants).

Exact language can be found in *Municipal Code Secs. 12-130—12-132* and *Land Use Code 3.8.21*.