



The Soul of Soil: A Soil-Building Guide for Master Gardeners and Farmers, 4th Edition

Joseph Smillie, Grace Gershuny

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Soil is the basis not only for all gardening, but for all terrestrial life. No aspect of agriculture is more fundamental and important, yet we have been losing vast quantities of our finite soil resources to erosion, pollution, and development.

Now back in print, this eminently sensible and wonderfully well-focused book provides essential information about one of the most significant challenges for those attempting to grow delicious organic vegetables: the creation and maintenance of healthy soil.

Chapter 2, "Understanding the Soil System," is alone worth the price of admission. Gershuny and Smillie give lay readers and experts a clear explanation of subjects--soil life and nutrient cycles--that have confounded most authors. Nowhere will the reader find simpler and more coherent descriptions of key concepts including cation exchange capacity and chelation.

There are other books about soil available, including Grace Gershuny's comprehensive *Start with the Soil*, and there are books that feature chapters on soil building. What distinguishes *The Soul of Soil* is the authors' concise presentation; they give readers important information, including technical essentials, without getting bogged down in scientific or quasiscientific mumbo-jumbo. In addition, useful tables list specific compost materials, green manures, and other resources that allow growers to translate into action the more general information provided by the book.

The soil-building techniques featured include:

- Organic matter management
- Building and maintaining humus
- On-site composting
- Green manures and rotations

- Cultivation and weed control
- Nutrient balances and soil testing
- Using mineral fertilizers
- Planning for organic certification

Updates to the 1999 edition include analysis of Proposed Rules for the National Organic Standards, and expanded recommendations for private testing services and soil-testing equipment for home gardeners and organic farmers.

All of us involved in the cultivation of plants--from the backyard gardener to the largest farmer--need to help regenerate a "living soil," for only in the diversity of the soil and its creatures can we ensure the long-term health of ourselves and our environment. *The Soul of Soil* offers everyone a basic understanding of what soil is and what we can do to improve our own patch of it. Seen in this light, this practical handbook will be an inspiration as well.

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James Baron:

The book *The Soul of Soil: A Soil-Building Guide for Master Gardeners and Farmers, 4th Edition* has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was authored by the very famous author. The author makes some research just before write this book. This book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

Debbie Gagnon:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this *The Soul of Soil: A Soil-Building Guide for Master Gardeners and Farmers, 4th Edition* e-book written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written inside good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still doubt *The Soul of Soil: A Soil-Building Guide for Master Gardeners and Farmers, 4th Edition* as good book not just by the cover but also through the content. This is one reserve that can break don't judge book by its protect, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

Clifford Harvey:

With this era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of several books in the top collection in your reading list is usually *The Soul of Soil: A Soil-Building Guide for Master Gardeners and Farmers, 4th Edition*. This book that is qualified as *The Hungry Mountains* can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking way up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

Ora Orozco:

That guide can make you to feel relax. This particular book *The Soul of Soil: A Soil-Building Guide for Master Gardeners and Farmers, 4th Edition* was colorful and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book *The Soul of Soil: A Soil-Building Guide for Master Gardeners and Farmers, 4th Edition* has many kinds or type. Start from kids until young adults. For example *Naruto* or *Investigator Conan* you can read and believe you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are generally make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and unwind. Try to choose the best book for you personally and try to like reading that.

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