

# Soil Structure & Building Robust Soil Systems



## Favorite Resources on Soil, Composting, Gardening, & More from "The Dirt Girl" Emily Rockey

### Soil and Composting

Teaming with -- Series:

- Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web.
- Teaming with Nutrients: The Organic Gardener's Guide to Optimizing Plant Nutrition.
- Teaming with Fungi: The Organic Gardener's Guide to Mycorrhizae (Science for Gardeners)

Soil Biology Primer (Ingham)

The Rodale Book of Composting

Let It Rot! The Gardener's Guide to Composting

### Websites

Interpreting Compost Analyses:

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9217.pdf>

Home Composting (UA Extension Service):

<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1632-2014.pdf>

A Guide for Making Recommendations for Garden Soils:

[https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai/publications/yavcobulletins/A Guide for Making Recommendations for Garden Soils.pdf](https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai/publications/yavcobulletins/A%20Guide%20for%20Making%20Recommendations%20for%20Garden%20Soils.pdf)

All Resources from the US Composting Council

Why Use Gypsum:

<https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai/anr/hort/byg/archive/gypsum2014.html>



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## Gardening

Desert Harvest: A Guide to Vegetable Gardening in Arid Lands

How to Grow More Vegetables: (and Fruits, Nuts, Berries, Grains, and Other Crops) than You Ever Thought Possible on Less Land than You Can Imagine.

YouTube Channel: Southwest Victory Gardens (Brandon Merchant)

Month by Month Gardening in the Deserts of Arizona

Rodale's Ultimate Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening: The Indispensable Green Resource for Every Gardener

City Farming- Kari Spencer

All Resources from The Urban Farm (especially calendar):

<https://urbanfarm.leadpages.co/planting-calendar/>

All Resources from Native Seeds SEARCH

(<https://www.nativeseeds.org/pages/gardening>)

Tucson's Urban Agriculture Network: A Resource Guide for Gardeners, Greening the Food Deserts of Tucson



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## Other Resources

Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond by Brad Lancaster:  
<https://www.harvestingrainwater.com/>

Arizona Agronomy Technical Note Nutrient Management (NRCS):  
[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/azpmstn10492.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/azpmstn10492.pdf)

Why Gravel Sucks: <https://www.wildyardsproject.com/new-blog/2017/12/12/why-gravel-sucks>

No Rocks in Your Pots! <https://pcmg-texas.org/info/member-articles/321-no-rocks-in-your-pots>

Learning About and Living with Insects of the Southwest: How to Identify Helpful, Harmful and Venomous Insects by Floyd Werner and Carl Olson

The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Pest and Disease Control: A Complete Guide to Maintaining a Healthy Garden and Yard the Earth-friendly Way.

The One-Straw Revolution: An Introduction to Natural Farming  
Wicking Beds: <https://www.urbanfarm.org/2017/04/10/building-my-wicking-garden-bed/>

Study on (not) Amending Backfill for Desert Trees  
[https://cals.arizona.edu/extension/ornamentalhort/landscapemgmt/sel\\_pla\\_stak/transplantingacacia.pdf](https://cals.arizona.edu/extension/ornamentalhort/landscapemgmt/sel_pla_stak/transplantingacacia.pdf)

How to Start a School Garden: Email [ArizonaFarmtoSchool@azed.gov](mailto:ArizonaFarmtoSchool@azed.gov)