

GOOD CLAY??

We all know the native clay-based soil within the Metroplex is despised by all who struggle with it. Even digging a hole in order to install a plant in the ground seems like a near-impossible task. Not only is it extremely difficult to work with due to its tightness, but it also is seemingly impenetrable for your shovel let alone a plant root. Our native clay soil has a very high pH (8.4 - 8.6) which chemically locks out the plants' ability to absorb nutrients. The clay is also a challenge to get wet, and when it gets wet it stays



wet due to its inability to drain. Even though there are many undesirable attributes of this material its essentially all we have to work with, so let's learn to leverage these seemingly negative attributes, and turn them into 100% positives.

Did you know the clay-based black soil is actually incredibly good, if you know how to work it to your advantage? Here's how. By using SBS' **pH Balanced Compost™** you will immediately lower the native soil's pH from roughly 8.5 down to the neutral zone (6.5 - 7.5). Getting the soil pH near neutral (7.0) will allow general landscape plants to take up available nutrients that are present in the compost and also the abundant nutrients that are in the native black clay-based soil that were previously locked-up due to prior state of having an elevated pH level. The **pH Balanced Compost™** will not only feed the plant and mitigate the pH problem, but it will also provide porous passages to better aerate and hydrate the root zone. By creating an inviting environment for plant roots the plant will grow more rapidly, stronger, more disease-resistant and reach its full potential with essentially no fuss.

In the instance where you wish to create a landscape bed where exceedingly tough clay exists, we have several additional and more aggressive options to conquer the clay. By tilling **Gumbo Buster®** into the native clay soil at a ratio of 1:1, you not only achieve all the benefits described above but you also create a bed that is permanently porous, inviting, and no longer sticky. **Gumbo Buster®**, which is made from our **pH Balanced Compost™** and Expanded Shale, is premixed to avoid installation irregularities, and will solve the nasty clay soil problem once and for all.