



Plants for Clay Soils

Clay soil can be difficult for plants to grow in as it swells and shrinks according to water content, which changes over the seasons. Clay soils can also be considered as cold as they take longer to warm up in the spring. Clay soils can be heavy to cultivate and water drains away slowly after rainfall.

Pans can be created when planting and any areas that are to be planted in will benefit from the addition of organic matter to aid drainage.

It is thought there are few plants that can deal with these conditions - however there are more than you think.

BAMBOO	
Fargesia	Umbrella Bamboo/ Fountain Bamboo
Pseudosasa japonica	Japanese Arrow Bamboo

CLIMBER/WALL SHRUB	
Chaenomeles	Japanese Quince/ Flowering Quince
Garrya elliptica	Tassel Bush
Hydrangea petiolaris	Climbing Hydrangea
Lonicera	Honeysuckle
Pyracantha	Firethorn
Rosa - Climbing	Rose

CONIFER/GROUND COVER (GC)	
Abies koreana	Korean Fir
Araucaria araucana	Monkey Puzzle
Chamaecyparis	False Cypress
Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair Tree
Juniperus	Common Juniper
Juniperus horizontalis	Juniper
Picea	Spruce
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir
Taxodium distichum	Swamp Cypress
Thuja plicata	Western Red Cedar
Tsuga canadensis/ Tsuga heterophylla	Hemlock

HEDGING/SCREENING	
Acer campestre	Field Maple
Betula	Birch/Silver Birch/ Himalayan Birch
Crataegus	Hawthorn

HEDGING/SCREENING continued	
Euonymus	Spindle/ Evergreen Bittersweet
Malus	Crab Apple
Pyracantha	Firethorn
Rosa	Rose
Viburnum	Laurustinus/Snowball/ Guelder Rose

HERBACEOUS/GROUND COVER (GC)		
Ajuga	(GC)	Bugle
Alchemilla mollis	(GC)	Lady's Mantle
Anemone		Windflower
Aster/Eurybia/ Symphyotrichum		Aster
Astrantia		Masterwort
Bergenia	(GC)	Elephant's Ears
Coreopsis		Tickseed
Digitalis		Foxglove
Geranium	(GC)	Cranesbill/ Herbaceous Geranium
Helleborus		Christmas Rose/ Lantern Rose
Hemerocallis		Day Lily
Hosta		Plantain Lily
Kniphofia		Red Hot Poker
Lamium	(GC)	Dead Nettle
Ligularia		Summer Ragwort
Persicaria	(GC)	Knotweed
Pulmonaria	(GC)	Lungwort/ Jerusalem Cowslip





HERBACEOUS/GROUND COVER (GC) continued

Rudbeckia	Black-Eyed Susan/ Yellow Daisy
Sedum/Hylotelephium	Livelong
Sedum (GC)	Stonecrop/Hen and Chicks
Solidago	Golden Rod

ROSES/GROUND COVER (GC)

Rosa	Rose
Rosa (GC)	Rose

SHRUB/GROUND COVER (GC)

Berberis	Barberry
Buddleja	Butterfly Bush
Chaenomeles	Flowering Quince
Cornus	Dogwood
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster
Cotoneaster horizontalis (GC)	Herring-Bone Cotoneaster
Escallonia	Escallonia
Euonymus fortunei (GC)	Evergreen Bittersweet
Forsythia	Forsythia
Fuchsia	Fuchsia
Gaultheria procumbens (GC)	Box Berry
Hydrangea	Lacecap/ Mophead Hydrangea
Hypericum (GC)	St John's Wort/ Rose of Sharon
Kerria japonica	Kerria
Magnolia	Magnolia
Mahonia japonica	Oregon Grape
Pyracantha	Firethorn
Ribes sanguineum	Flowering Currant
Sambucus nigra	Black Elder
Spiraea	Spiraea
Syringa	Lilac
Viburnum	Laurustinus/Snowball/ Guelder Rose

SHRUB/GROUND COVER (GC) continued

Vinca (GC)	Periwinkle
Weigela	Weigela

TREES

Acer japonicum	Maple
Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple
Amelanchier	Serviceberry
Betula	Birch/Silver Birch/ Himalayan Birch
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster
Crataegus	Hawthorn
Eucalyptus	Gum Tree/Sweet Gum/ Blue Gum
Laburnum	Laburnum
Liquidambar styraciflua	American Sweetgum
Magnolia	Magnolia
Malus	Crab Apple
Pyrus salicifolia 'Pendula'	Weeping Pear/Silver Leaf Pear/Willow Leaf Pear
Quercus	Oak/English Oak
Sorbus	Whitebeam/Rowan/ Service Tree/Mountain Ash

How to improve Clay Soil

Clay soil can be improved with hard work and patience.

- Add Gypsum to improve soil structure and produce a more workable soil. An annual application in the autumn and winter is most beneficial.
- Dig in organic matter such as organic compost, farmyard manure or composted bark which will all improve soil structure in time.
- Grit can be added to improve drainage, however large quantities are needed to make a difference.
- Apply composted bark around shrubs to help reduce soil cracking in the drier months.

Factsheet lists are collated from a variety of reputable sources and experience.
Provender Nurseries cannot take responsibility for plants that do not take in these conditions.