



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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September 2006



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To Amend ... Or Not To Amend

Jonathan Anderson, Johnson's West 13th Nursery Manager

That is the question! At least that was the question heard recently at a local nursery conference. Should we ... or shouldn't we ... amend our soils when planting?

I was surprised to hear that some people do not believe in adding amendments such as compost to the soil when planting. They believe that adding compost creates a pocket around the rootball and that it's better to plant straight into the unamended soil. This theory maintains that the roots will have a hard time growing out past the amended soil.

What this theory fails to take into account is that the value of organic matter is priceless in the quest to successfully grow trees, shrubs, vegetables, etc. For years, Johnson's Garden Center has recommended the addition of Gard'n-Wise Cotton Boll Compost to the soil. We use Cotton Boll Compost in all of our tree plantings and we include it in our Tree & Shrub Planting Package.

The benefits of Cotton Boll Compost are many. It helps break down the clay soils found in both the west and east sides of Wichita, at the same time it helps the sandy soils in the Riverside area retain moisture. It aids in giving nutrients, lowers the pH of our alkaline soils, and helps improve the life of your plants altogether.

In my experiences as a gardener, Cotton Boll Compost has been a steady and reliable friend. The organic matter mixed in with the original soil has helped unify and add specific elements to my soil that the original soil just can't give it.

So, while you go through trials and errors in the garden, remember to give your plants a treat by adding 100% organic Cotton Boll Compost. It is an inexpensive habit that should not be avoided. ■