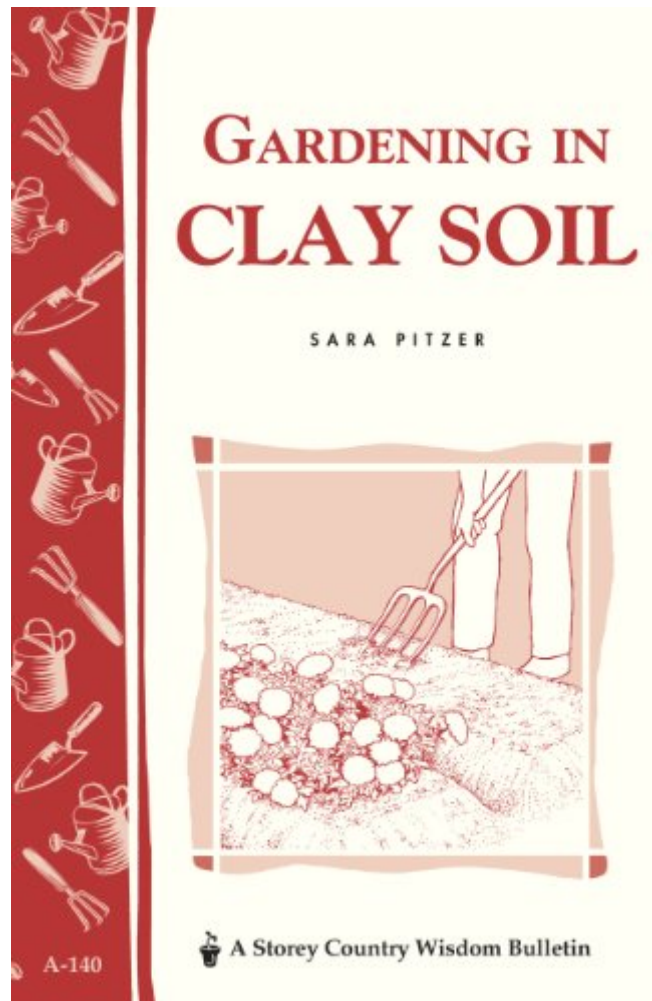


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# Gardening In Clay Soil: Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-140 (Storey Publishing Bulletin)



## Synopsis

Since 1973, Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletins have offered practical, hands-on instructions designed to help readers master dozens of country living skills quickly and easily. There are now more than 170 titles in this series, and their remarkable popularity reflects the common desire of country and city dwellers alike to cultivate personal independence in everyday life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Contrary to a 1-star review, covering the clay with better soil is only one suggestion, and even the author says it usually isn't practical. Not only are suggestions made on how to improve the soil, but also what \*not\* to do. Specific, real world examples are given. Some techniques take time, so do not expect overnight solutions. Unless, of course, you haul in 12" of new top soil.\*\*\* Amended While the minimum of 50% sand used in this booklet is the most common figure I have found, NCSU's Urban Horticultural Note #3 advises at least 70% sand for their clay soils. They also suggest using pea gravel, roughly 3/8", instead. It doesn't lead to compaction like sand in lower quantities can.

This small, easy to read pamphlet lays out the exact how to's and what not to do working with clay soil. Clay soil can be so frustrating to work with but with the help of this book I feel that I can be much more successful in improving my soil thereby enjoying greater success in my gardening.

This bulletin is pretty short, as all Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletins are. If you are looking for a thorough, complete, exhaustive guide, glance at the page count for this booklet and move along. That said, there's a lot of useful information in this book. It discusses the various soil amendments you can use to change the texture of your soil, including how they'll affect the soil pH and how often you'll need to re-apply them. (And yes, it does say that one option is to truck in a whole new layer of top soil, because it is one way to deal with the problem, but it also mentions how expensive that would be.) It also discusses when and how to work with the soil to avoid turning your yard into a giant brick. One thing I didn't like, though, was the suggestion to grow things like mint in order to break up the soil. The author suggests that you can simply pull the mint out when you're ready to plant something else there, but in my experience, getting rid of mint is much harder than that.

I've been gardening since 1975 . . . we recently moved to the Cincinnati area to a neighborhood less than 10 years old . . . the developer stripped and sold top soil . . . so we have rocks and clay. For a vegetable garden area we purchased a yard of top soil that is still high composition of clay. This is a simple short read with points on softening as well as adding drainage to clay soil.

I was not sure about these Storey County pamphlets, since they obviously enjoy a high profit margin despite their lower cost. But I haven't been able to reproduce this information on clay soils after looking in several longer texts.

While all of these are pulled from various sources and are the 'cliff notes' of the prepping world they give a good outline and place to start without having to buy numerous books with unnecessary information. These give you the meat without the filler.

I have some serious clay in our yard where I want to grow the garden so I am looking forward to implementing the tips from this book. I long for regular dirt but at least I can hopefully be a successful gardener with this book.

I would have liked to have had more in depth information for the price paid (\$3) but I still found what I was looking for when I bought the book. A short, to the point treatment of the subject of what you can do to make gardening in clay soil possible and even fruitful. The informal manner also makes it a pleasant read.

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