



Soil Conditions

SOIL conditions are obviously important for plant growth. It is important to identify the type of soil the plant requires and the soil should be tested using a soil testing kit. It is pointless planting a bog loving plant in a dry sandy area or a shade loving plant in bright sun, for example.

Watering

Watering regimes for different soil types must also be considered and in the main it is usually better to only plant what suits your area and your soil.

Fertilisers

Fertilisers should be used carefully and according to the plant's needs. Usually one would enrich the soil before planting with some well rotted manure, fish blood and bone, "Growmore" etc.

Examples:

ROSES should be treated as above when planting. Then twice a year, in early spring and after the first flush of blooms fade treat using a good proprietary brand of rose fertiliser.

CONTAINER grown plants need feeding more than garden plants. Hanging baskets, containers etc., can have a 6 monthly "tablet" inserted in the soil when planting up and then a fortnightly feed of tomato fertiliser. This has a high concentration of potassium, essential for good growth.