DON'T HATE YOUR CLAY!

CLAY SOIL IS VERY NUTRITIOUS AND TYPICALLY HAS MORE NATURAL VITAL MINERALS PRESENT. IT KEEPS THE GROUND TEMPERATURES EVEN WHICH IS IDEAL FOR PLANTING LATE INTO THE SEASONS! DUE TO THE THICKNESS OF CLAY, PLANT ROOTS ARE WARMED FASTER (PROMOTES ROOT GROWTH) AND PROTECTED BETTER FROM THE ELEMENTS!

HOW WELL DOES MY SOIL DRAIN?

1. Dig a hole in or near the desired location of the plant
2. In order to properly observe/measure drainage the hole must be at least 2 feet deep and 1 foot wide
3. If it takes the hole:

   -12 HRS to drain = safely plant anything that requires well drained soil

   -12-24 HRS to drain = safely plant anything that is tolerant of clay or heavy soil

   -24 HRS + = only plant shrubs/trees/etc that tolerate wet feet/no drainage

CLAY TIPS

-It's important to only work the clay when it's dry! Wet clay can quickly harden off to a brick-like substance and is very difficult to work through

-When amending clay, amend an area larger than you need for the current size of your plants

   -Plants' root systems need somewhere to go once they've been established; so if they have established themselves in a well amended area but the surrounding area is just straight clay, the clay will act as a wall/pot around the root systems and could create both drainage issues and root binding later on in the plant's life which eventually leads to death.

HELPFUL ADDITIVES FOR CREATING DRAINAGE

-**Permatill** = a branded bagged good that amends clay soil (also a natural preventative for voles) This is the most effective solution and is easily found in our Garden Center shop, for application & purchase questions please speak with our Garden Center Sales Representatives

   -Good for smaller areas

-Adding lime (**liming**) to clay soil helps keep it from binding when wet

-**Gypsum** = adding gypsum (1 kilo/sq meter) and digging it about 10-15 cm into the clay with organic matter will also help break up the clay and create a top soil.

-**Builder's Sand** = another rough organic product that helps loosen your clay