



GARDENING NATURALLY

BY GARY LOCHTE

When it comes to gardening, I'm fortunate to collaborate with some very smart folks. One of these folks is my longtime friend, Doug Daughtrey of LANDSCAPE SOLUTIONS & NURSERY in Castroville, Texas.

I refer to Doug as a "soil chef" because of the organic mixes he prepares to fortify garden soils. Doug believes as I do: garden plants are only as nutrient rich as the soil they're grown in. If the soil is mineral-deficient, your plants are deficient also.

Recently, Doug and I discussed one of his compost products that I am very happy with. I mentioned a test plot where I segregated 5 tomato plants and spread a 2" layer of Doug's compost product all around them. These plants are still green and lush, and are loaded with beautiful tomatoes, and they're still blooming!

According to Doug, his base of fully pasteurized/aged manure and vegetable matter compost is their secret. Doug said: "Our manure compost comes from grass fed dairy herds, contains no hormones or antibiotics, and yet is rich in blood and bone meal. Our vegetable matter compost is derived from 100 percent recycled plant matter, most of which consist of reclaimed residential yard waste and out-of-date produce from various vendors. Our specialized composts provide one of the rudimentary building blocks in our composted soil mixes. We have never used bio-solid waste (sewer sludge) as a form of composted material. Although bio solids are an organic form of compost, in my opinion, these bio-solids are high in heavy metals and should be avoided."

If you are concerned about producing luscious landscape and garden plants, Doug also produces a landscape soil mix comprised of rice hulls (source of high calcium for petal production in flowering plants), green sand (source of iron for chlorophyll production), recycled coffee grounds (used to correct soil pH and feeds acid loving plants) and several other organic components that contribute to the

essential elements required for healthy plant life. Almost without exception, the fruits and veggies you buy, even from the so called "organic" isles at your upscale grocer, are miserably deficient in essential minerals and enzymes your family needs for good health. I mentioned in an earlier article that plants only need Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium to grow and look pretty at the grocery store. In most cases, that is all they get.

Doug produces another great product, Delta Dawn Dressing. He said "We use cotton seed meal for slow release nitrogen, pure Canadian sphagnum peat moss for its acid content and friable organic material, rock phosphate to support rapid plant growth, Bat guano, and Medina Agriculture Growin Green granules for high nitrogen content. Basalt sand provides micro nutrients, minerals, and has high paramagnetic characteristics which naturally boost plant root growth. We utilize, promote and offer a host of other organic gardening materials."

Please visit Doug at 3059 US Hwy 90 East, Castroville Texas 78009, call (830) 985-3747, or online at: www.soil4sale.com.



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