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Balancing Soil Nutrients And Acidity: The Real Dirt On Cultivating Crops, Compost, And A Healthier Home (The Ultimate Guide To Soil Book 3)



Synopsis

Grow twice the fruits and vegetables in half the space on the farm, in the backyard, or even in your window! Have you noticed the extraordinary flavors and yields emanating from even a small garden when the soil is just right? If you've ever been envious of your neighbor's dirt or just curious about homesteading, then *The Ultimate Guide to Soil* is the perfect fit for you. This third volume in the series walks new and experienced gardeners through bringing their soil into balance using remineralization and pH correction. Learn chemical quick fixes for out-of-whack garden plots, then dive into slower-but-surer techniques utilizing cows, goats, chickens, mushrooms, cover crops, dynamic accumulators, and more. If merely adding compost to your soil isn't improving yields the way you think it should, then the simple approaches in this book should have you up and running in no time. Maybe next year your neighbor will be envious of you!

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Customer Reviews

Anna Hess has written a number of well researched gardening books. Before becoming a full time

Homesteader she worked as a field biologist. Her books include soil health, cultivating crops, and controlling garden pests as well as books on chicken permaculture. In this most recent book she is able to translate difficult concepts of chemistry and soil amendment into easily grasped ideas and witty examples. While discussing various difficulties evaluating soil health that are encountered by the gardener she offers detailed solutions. I really enjoy her accessible writing style using observations from her own gardens.

The author puts the quite tricky topic into clear and understandable words for everybody who is interested in having a sustainable successful gardening experience.

I have been looking for a book to help me wake up my land and garden without excessive chemicals or special interventions. Thank you for your honesty and simple ideas on how to restore my poor soil!

Good information.

Information is very useful to me for my garden.

Some good advice. Worth reading.

This is volume three in The Ultimate Guide to Soil series written by Anna Hess. In *Balancing Soil Nutrients and Acidity*, Anna writes in depth, but with a very practical, down-to-earth (pun intended) manner. In this volume, Anna takes us deeper into the balancing of soil composition, specifically as it concerns soil pH. In chapter one she tells us why soil pH matters, and offers practical solutions for altering your soil's pH to achieve the best balance for the particular plants you wish to grow. This was especially important to me as we are in our second year on our land and we are investing in a large blueberry patch. Every gardening book tells you blueberries thrive best in a more acidic soil, but it has been difficult to find the practical information to achieve the proper pH. Anna's book *Balancing Soil Nutrients and Acidity* is the best resource I have come across in my searching. Chapter two talks about soil remineralization and why these underappreciated nutrients are vitally important for healthy plants and good production. The majority of information on gardening and soil concerns the Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Magnesium balance needed for plants, but Anna helps us understand the value of calcium, magnesium, and other

minerals to the health of our plants, and how imbalances in one can affect the availability of the others. Chapter three gives excellent practical strategies for remineralizing our soils using animals, fungi, cover crops, and dynamic accumulators. I enjoyed this book particularly because I want to know why I am doing what I am doing, rather than blindly applying amendments. Anna is excellent at explaining the why in a simple manner and practical manner.

Anna's book, *Balancing Soil Nutrients and Acidity*, is the third installment in a series on improving your soil. It covers not only how to make adjustments to pH, mineralization, and biological nutrients, but why you may or may not choose to do so. She covers several popular techniques like applying "rock dust" that may not actually have the benefit that the "experts" are saying that it does. Anna does a great job covering this difficult topic but it isn't a simple how-to manual. Think about all the soil types in the world. How could you write step by step instructions that cover all soil types and problems. Anna's writing approach is to give you the background information necessary to evaluate your soil type and then give you the pros and cons to various options to improve the soil fertility. Some "experts" will tell you what you need to do to fix your soil but they may have only had success in their own garden. If you live in a different area, you may ruin your soil for years to come by applying their suggestions. Luckily Anna gives you the tools that you need to make the proper decision yourself. Gardening this way may not be as easy as having an expert tell you what your soil needs, but as you gain experience with your garden, you will know how to evaluate your situation from year to year and be able to make minor adjustments to keep your soil in optimal condition.

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