

Site Preparation & Planting Practices for Long Term Performance

Christina Pfeiffer
Horticulture Consultant & Educator

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How we treat the soil will determine the future life of the landscape.



WILL IT GROW LIKE THIS.....



....OR THIS?

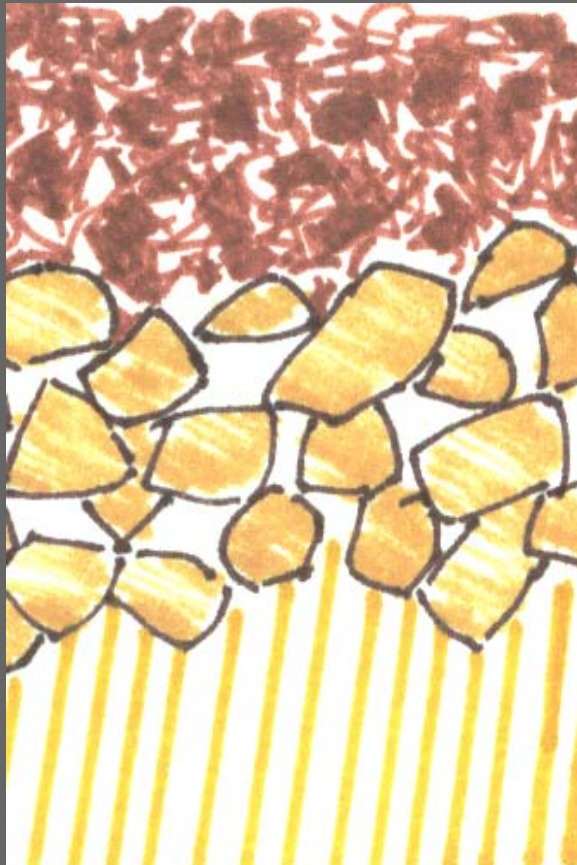




Unplanted compacted soils

- ◎ Dig to break the soil up into large clods.
- ◎ Shallow cultivation to scarify crusted surfaces.
- ◎ Apply wood chip mulch (8+ inches) several months to a year before planting





Coarse mulch layer

Fractured compacted soil
12-18 inches deep

Existing soil







Mulch layer

Imported soil or amendments

Transition layer, mixed materials

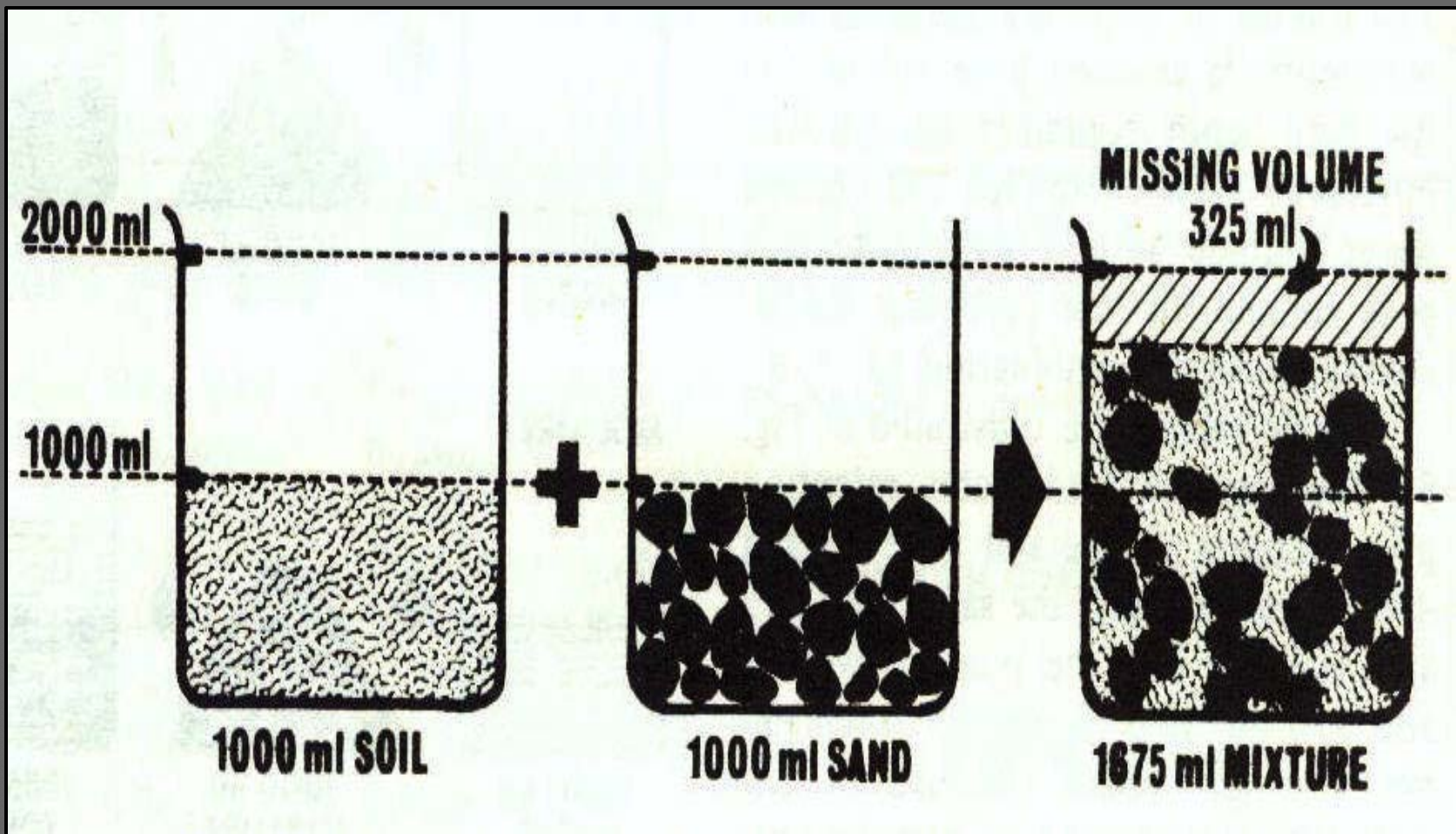
Fractured existing soil

Existing soil



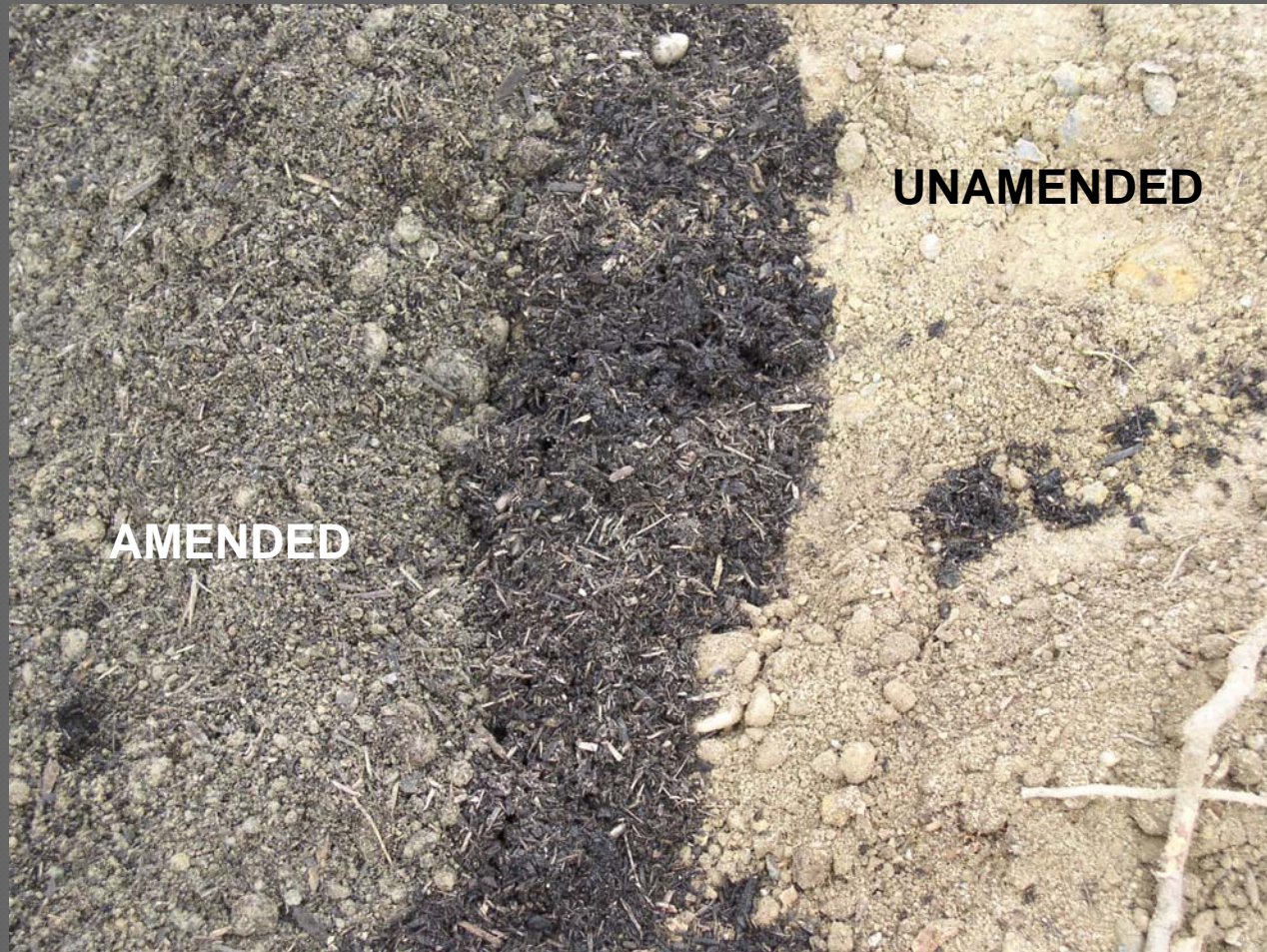


Add sand and lose volume

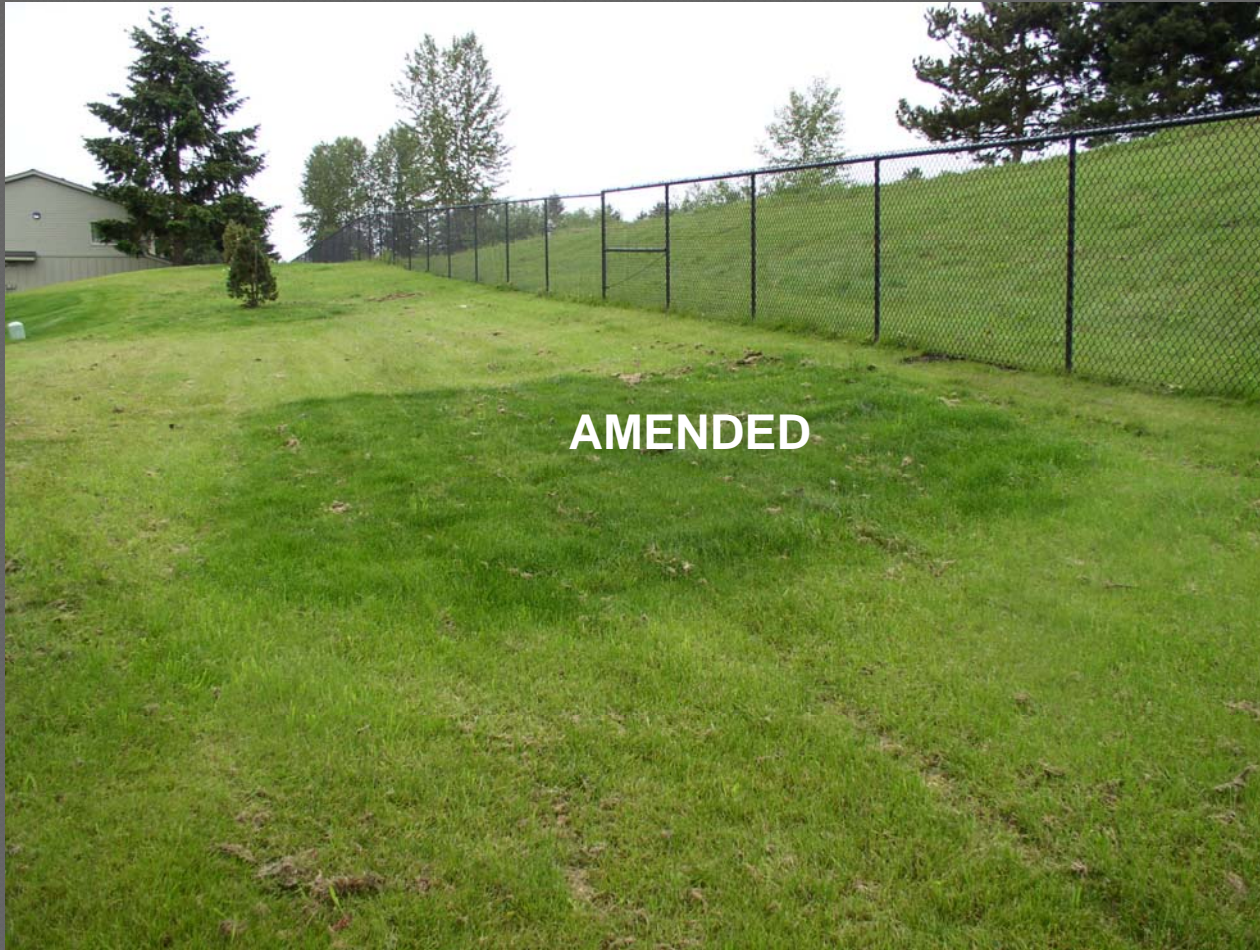


Source: L. Art Spomer, HortScience 14(1):1979

Compost amendment:
5% by weight, or 10-15% by volume



Tree planting in compacted soil:



400 square feet

Backhoe bucket

4-inches compost

Incorporated

24-inches deep

Mulch bare soils before planting





What's wrong with this picture?















9 years after planting, stunted



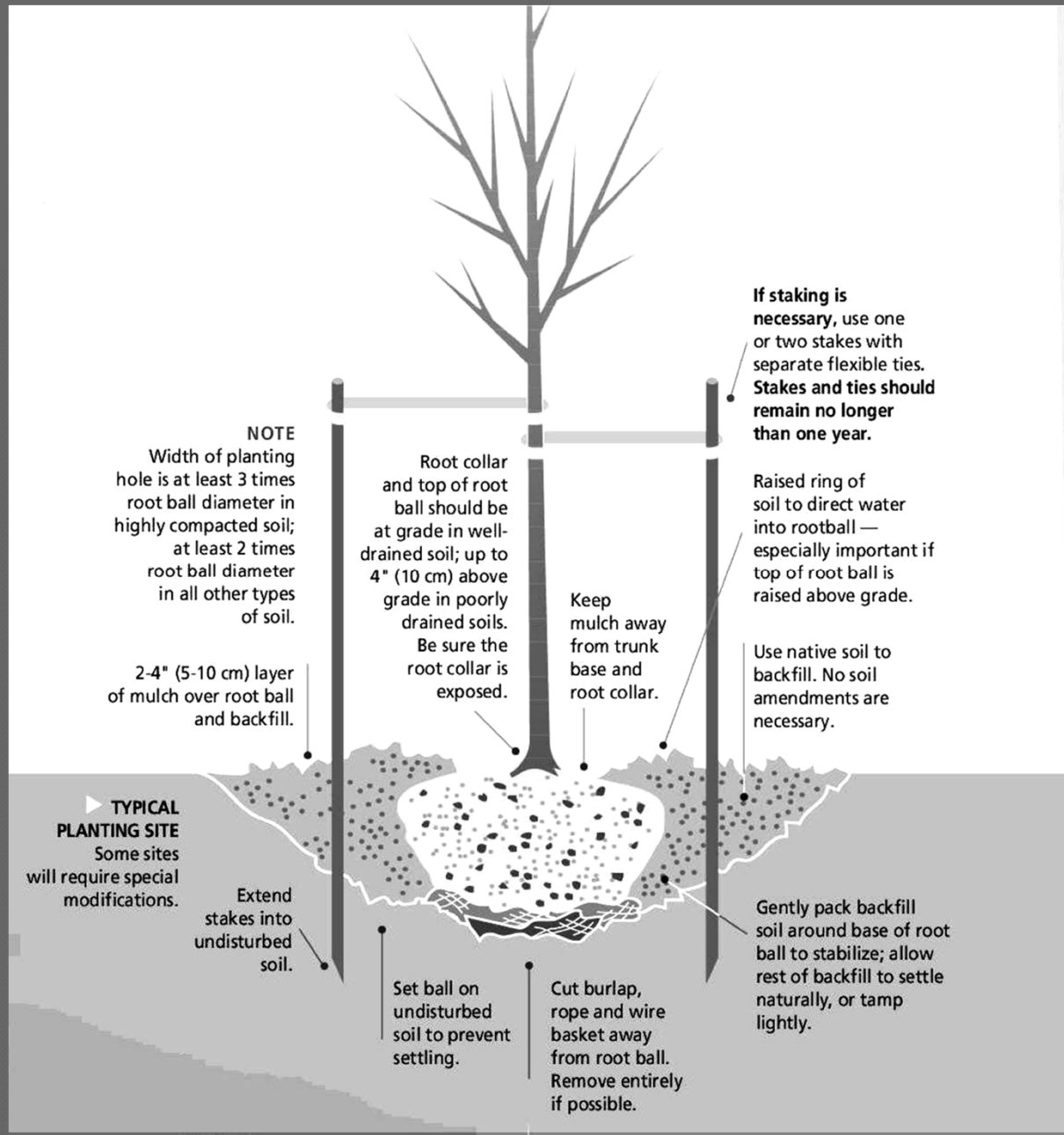
After breaking up the outer root ball to expose root ends to native soil:



May



October



Christina Pfeiffer
Horticulture Consultant & Educator
capfeiffer@comcast.net