

Healthy Living Strategy: Lawn Care

Knowing the Conditions in Your Lawn & Garden

In order to know what kinds of plants to buy, you should be familiar with the conditions in your lawn or garden. Use this checklist to get to know different aspects of your yard and take it with you to the nursery so you can refer to it as you shop. If you find your yard is divided into several distinct areas, you can complete this checklist for each one.

Natural elements of your yard sit somewhere on a spectrum rather than in distinct categories. Choose where your yard sits on each spectrum.

Checklist

SOIL TYPE	Sand	The particles are coarser (sandy), lighter and water drains out of the soil quickly. Sandy soil is easier to work. This kind of soil is generally not as rich in nutrients.
	Loam	A mixture of sand and clay.
	Clay	The particles are very small, the soil is dense and heavy and it feels greasy when you rub it between your fingers. Clay is richer in nutrients and holds moisture better.

SUNLIGHT	Sunny	More than 6 hours of direct sunlight in summer.
	Partly Sunny	3-6 hours of direct sunlight in summer.
	Shady	0-3 hours of sunlight in summer.

MOISTURE	Dry Area	The area is well drained, on high ground, with no standing water or is the first to dry out.
	Moist Area	Soil retains water but with rare or no pooling or permanent standing water.
	Wet Area	The area is poorly drained, on low ground, contains standing water or is the last to dry out.

You also need to consider:

The climate zone you live in
 Rainfall, snow and drought patterns
 Microclimates or anomalies in your yard

