

### Right Practice: Soils



Amend the soil with inorganic material sized 1/4" and smaller

**SQUEEGEE** is 1/4" rock and smaller

- Inorganic material creates pockets of air and results in increased porosity, which allows water to penetrate and get to roots quickly.
- Many plants that thrive in our climate prefer lean soil and good drainage as opposed to rich organic soils.
- Organic matter and wood mulch are not ideal for many xeric, native and other plants that thrive on the Front Range.

These recommendations are for xeric and low-water landscapes. Does not apply to vegetables, annuals, etc.



# GARDENS

### **How to Remove Turf**









Remove sod with sodcutter (rented) or by hand (next to trees). Compost at local dump.

# How to Amend with Squeegee







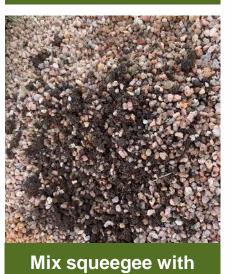
#### DENVERBOTANIC **GAR**BENS

## How to Plant in Squeegee













existing soil

Place plant and fill in with mix











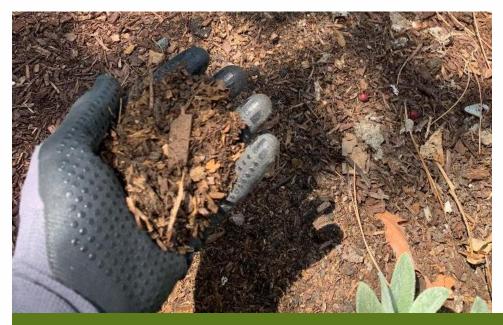






### **Use a Fine Organic Mulch**

- Organic mulch should be 1" and smaller
- Amend backfill with 50% squeegee rock/ inorganic material
- Compost may be amended into soil
- Mulch with fine organic mulch





Very fine mulch is what we use in shady areas and for traditional, non-native plants.



### **Avoid Using Large Wood Mulch**

- Large wood mulch takes a long time to break down due to lack of soil microbiota and limited moisture
- Large wood mulch absorbs/hold water away from plant roots
- Can lead to crown rot
- Being dark in color, water may evaporate prior to reaching roots





