

# Topsoil Depth Guide

The right topsoil depth for lawns, gardens, raised beds, and leveling — with soil type recommendations.

## Recommended Depths by Project

Project	Depth	Best Soil Type	Key Tip
Lawn Topdressing	¼ in	Screened topsoil	Never exceed ½ in — smothers grass
New Lawn	4 in	Screened topsoil	Bulk delivery for most yards
Garden Amendment	2–3 in	Topsoil + compost blend	Till into top 6–8 in of native soil
Raised Bed Fill	6–18 in	Raised bed mix	Never use plain topsoil alone
Low Spots	1 in	Screened topsoil	Fill >2 in? Use fill dirt below

## Raised Bed Recipes

Recipe	Components	Best For
60/30/10	60% topsoil + 30% compost + 10% perlite	Vegetables, herbs, flowers
50/50	50% topsoil + 50% compost	Budget option — settles more

## Quick Tips

- Lawn topdressing = ¼ inch. NOT 2–4 inches (that's new-lawn depth).
- Pure topsoil (~75 lb/cu ft) is too dense for raised beds — always blend with compost
- 60/30/10 mix holds volume better over years; 50/50 is cheaper but needs annual top-off