

## Gardening problems and our amendments

*“One for mouse, one for crow, one to rot, one to grow”* says a proverb.

That is why you need to grow more!



**Heavy soil** made mostly of clay with many pebbles. This kind of soil is rich in microelements and plants like beans and tomatoes like it. However, our cucumber doesn't look happy here.

**Solution:** mulch with lots of organic matter, which attracts worms and helpful bugs, for example woodlice. They will decompose decaying parts of plants and mix them with soil. It will add precious nutrients to the soil and improve its structure.

**Snails and slugs** damage it one of the most disheartening problems for young gardeners. We understand though, that the pesky molluscs have an important role in our environment, for example they are food for birds, toads, hedgehogs and other small animals.

**Solution:** remove hiding places around our raised beds, grow more plants and make them stronger to survive a bite.



**Aphids on Calendulas** are quite common at this time of the year. Luckily, they are easy to get rid of.

**Solution:** aphids can be repelled by e.g., water with garlic. You just boil 2 garlic cloves in a cup of water, then dilute with another cup and spray the plant with the solution. We tried; it worked after 4<sup>th</sup> time. Then we repeated it a few more times, just to keep the bugs away from our flowers.



Mulching with straw helps to keep water from evaporating and adds organic matter to the soil. The problem is that our barley straw apparently had some grains that have sprouted and became **weeds**.

**Solution:** we will pull the barley blades that look like grass, because we don't want them in our raised bed. It's easy to pull the young barley plants with roots and add them to the mulch.

