

Soil Management to Conserve Water



Mario Lanthier

CropHealth Advising & Research

Kelowna, B.C. www.crophealth.com

Two years ago...

ENVIRONMENT

Concerns over drought fallout heat up

WENDY STUECK VANCOUVER

With no hint of rain in the forecast, there is growing concern about the economic, social and environmental toll of widespread drought in British Columbia.

In the city, lawns are turning brown and Vancouver's police force has stopped washing its patrol cars.

In the country, ranchers are calculating whether they will be able to buy enough feed to keep their cattle over the winter and, if not, how many animals they might have to sell.

On the water, fishing is not allowed, as the province has suspended angling in virtually all of the streams and rivers in the South Coast region - which runs from south of Toba Inlet on the coast to the Canada-U.S. border - because of warming water and low stream flows.

"It's at different levels throughout the province, but pretty much everywhere we are short on rain and really short on what we had for runoff to fill our reservoirs and dams," Kevin Boon, general manager of the B.C. Cattlemen's Association, said on Tuesday.

Because the rest of Western Canada is also dry, B.C. ranchers are finding it difficult to buy hay from greener pastures to the east.

A long stretch of hot and dry weather since May has put much of the province in drought conditions and is affecting activities ranging from agriculture to children's water parks.

It is driest on Vancouver Island and the South Coast, including the greater Vancouver region, which are at the fourth and highest level of the province's drought-rating system.

Drought, Page 4



Metro Vancouver moved up to the second-highest stage of its water shortage plan on Monday, which prohibits lawn sprinkling and car washing. In parts of the province, restrictions are in place on fishing and farmers fear they may have to sell their cattle. RAFAŁ GERSZAK FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL



LEVEL 4 DROUGHT

Penticton water reservoirs are dropping faster than normal.

City of Penticton is requesting ALL DOMESTIC & AGRICULTURAL users to voluntarily reduce water consumption by 30%

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015

Globe British Columbia

ENVIRONMENT

Drought puts stress on businesses

Landscapers and pressure-washing companies have had to lay off staff and diversify services as water shortage drags on

VERITY STEVENSON VANCOUVER

Businesses dependent on water are making drastic changes in how they operate - from the services they offer to the staff they employ - as the economic impact of B.C.'s historic drought starts to bite.

Landscapers and pressure-washing companies have had to lay off staff and are looking to diversify their services, provid-

ing, as greenery in the typically lush coastal region turns golden brown.

In the normally hot and dry interior, the drought level was increased a notch for the South Thompson, Similkameen, Kettle and Skagit regions on Monday.

Level-four drought conditions mean further declines in streams, lakes and aquifer levels could lead to water shortages and that everyone is encouraged

vation efforts," the B.C. government said in a news release.

In Tsawwassen, landscaper Ray Anderson had his employees ripping concrete away from a building instead of their usual work.

"We had six people that were supposed to put in new lawns next week that are no longer doing it ... we're just kind of focusing elsewhere," said Mr. Anderson, who owns Pacific

Though he hasn't had to lay anyone off yet, he has had to cut hours for some of his staff.

"It's about being creative with what you offer to customers," another landscaper, Tim Schofield of Mowology, said Monday. He said he is trying to supplement the more than 50 per cent of customers that are skipping the mowing of their lawns by offering to weed their gardens.

"Everybody's just stomped."

officer of the Nursery Association. She complains about the price of the peat chaffer by the ton required to explain.

Ms. Dyck said she and pest-control have had to lay off staff because of the peat chaffer by the ton required to explain.



Property owners are divided on a plan to raise the level of the St. Mary Lake reservoir on Saltspring Island to increase storage capacity. — FLICKR FILES

Water woes deepen on Saltspring

This will be a technical talk

The Nature and Properties of Soils

Twelfth Edition



Nyle C. Brady
Ray R. Weil

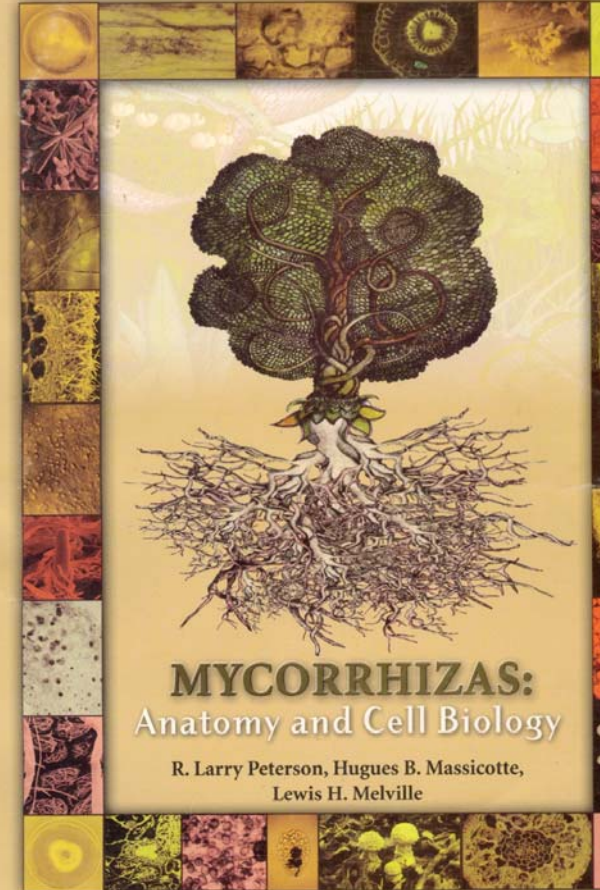
THE SOUL OF SOIL

FOURTH EDITION

*A Soil-Building Guide
for Master Gardeners
and Farmers*

GRACE GERSHUNY
AND JOE SMILLIE

NRC-CNRC



MYCORRHIZAS:
Anatomy and Cell Biology

R. Larry Peterson, Hugues B. Massicotte,
Lewis H. Melville

A street tree is loosing its leaves in August...



The leaves show symptoms of water stress



Newly-planted junipers showing wilt



Severe water stress leads to dieback



Question # 1

Managing plants under drought



Which of the following practice is the least useful for plants during drought ?

- A. Water deeply and less often
- B. Provide fertilizer to stimulate new growth
- C. Scout for insects and diseases
- D. Consider replacing with drought tolerant plants

Which of the following practice is the least useful for plants during drought ?

A. Water deeply and less often

✓ B. Provide fertilizer to stimulate new growth

C. Scout for insects and diseases

D. Consider replacing with drought tolerant plants

The Nature and Properties of Soils

Twelfth Edition



Nyle C. Brady
Ray R. Weil

University
textbook

12th Edition
1999

The Nature and Properties of Soils

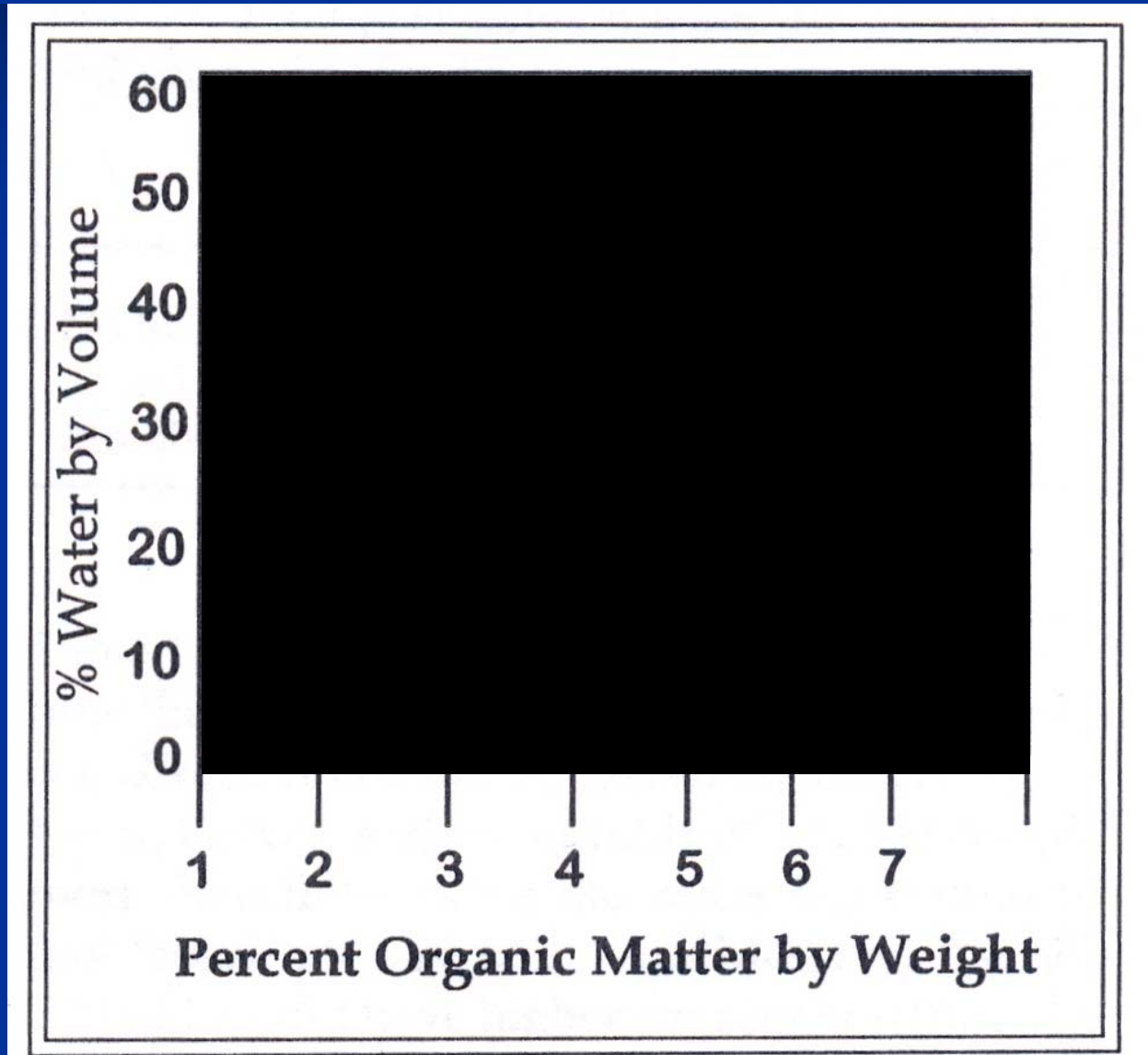
Twelfth Edition



Nyle C. Brady
Ray R. Weil

Organic matter indirectly affects the amount of water available to plants through its influence on soil structure and total pore space.

Up to a point, the more organic matter, the more water is available for the plant



Up to a point, the more organic matter, the more water is available for the plant

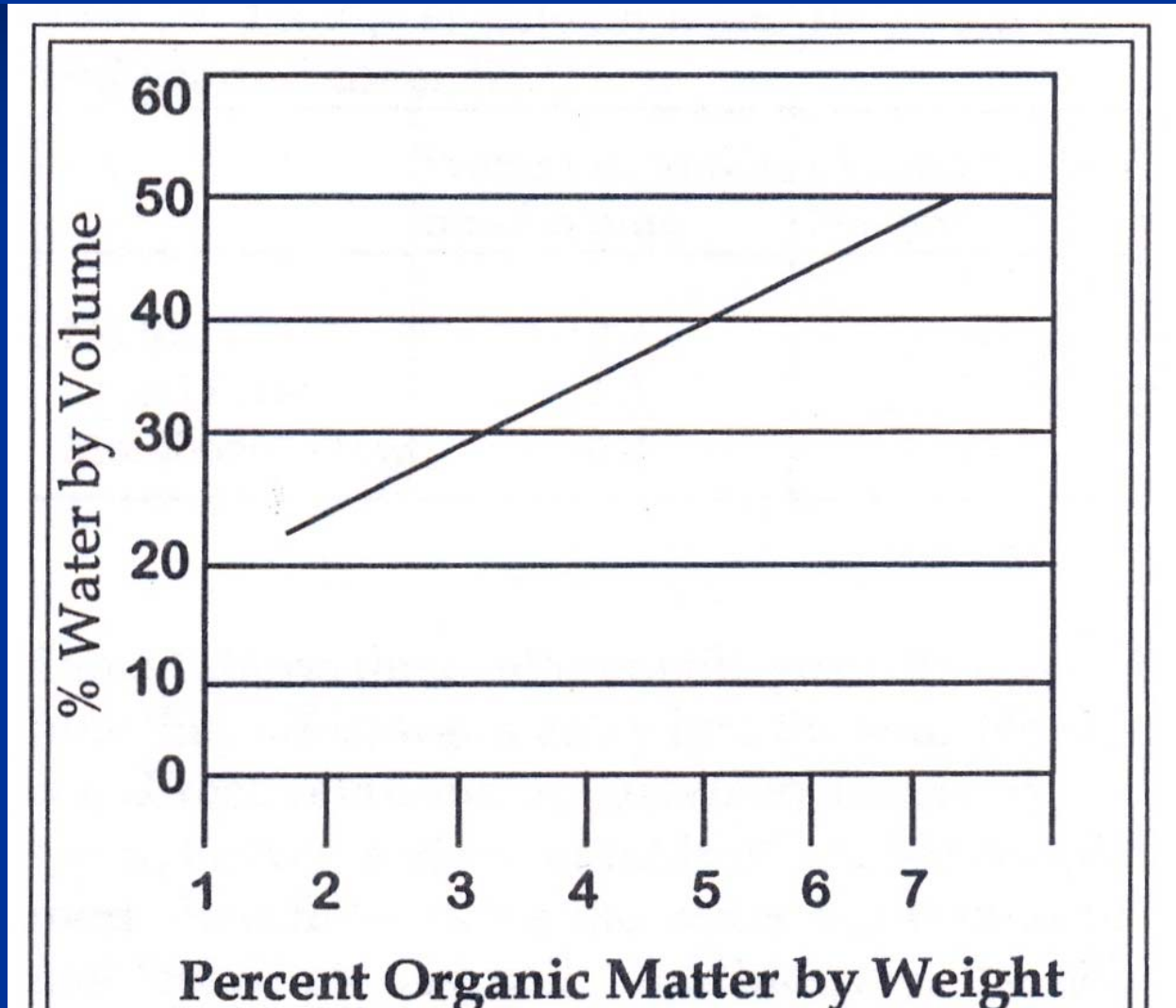


Chart from Hudson BE. 1994. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. 49(2); 189-194.

« Drought Resistant Soil » Available on the web



DROUGHT RESISTANT SOIL

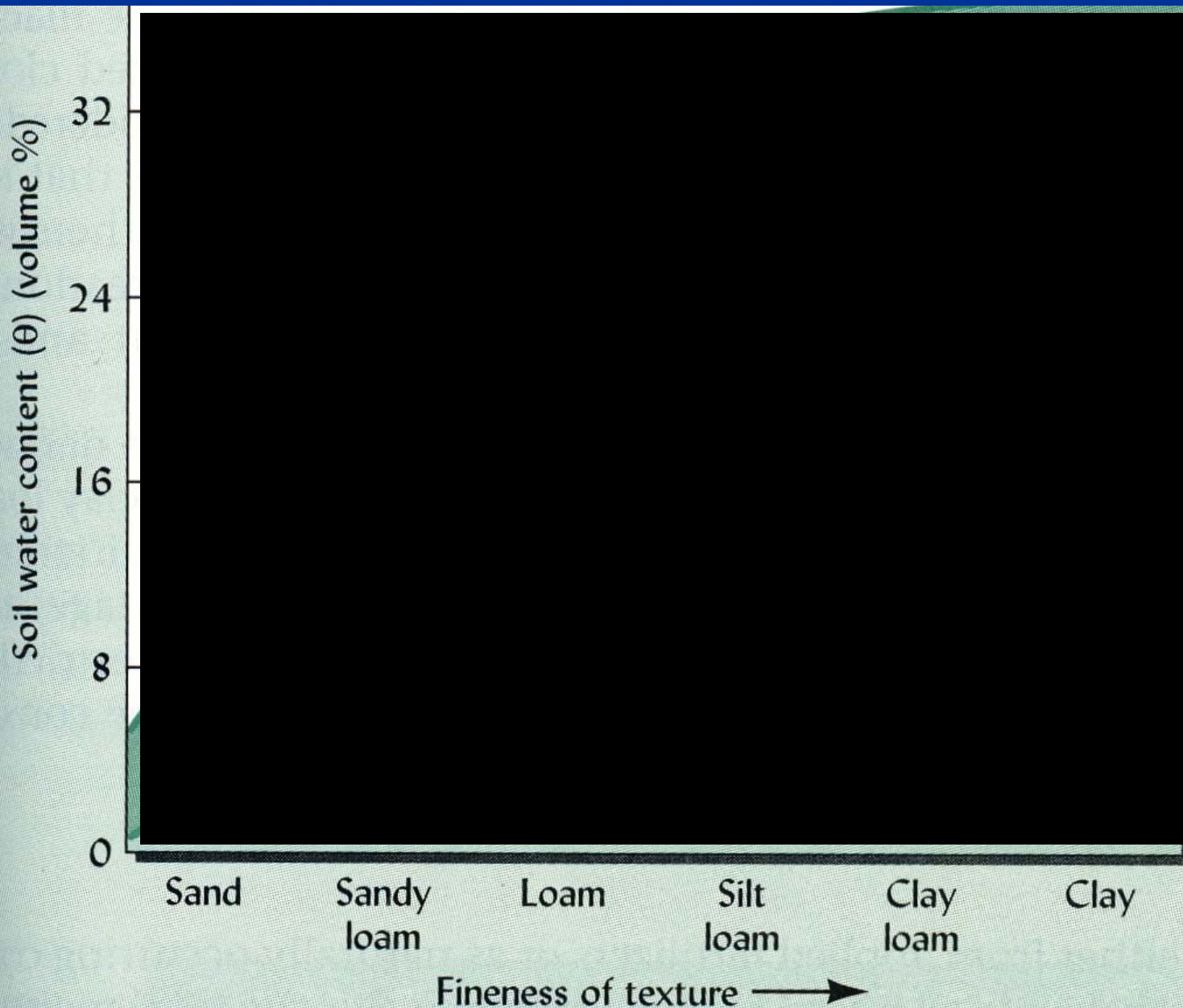
Agronomy Technical Note

Arkansas soil scientists report that for every 1% of organic matter content, the soil can hold 16,500 gallons of plant-available water per acre of soil down to one foot deep (5). That is roughly 1.5 quarts of water per cubic-foot of soil for each percent of organic matter.

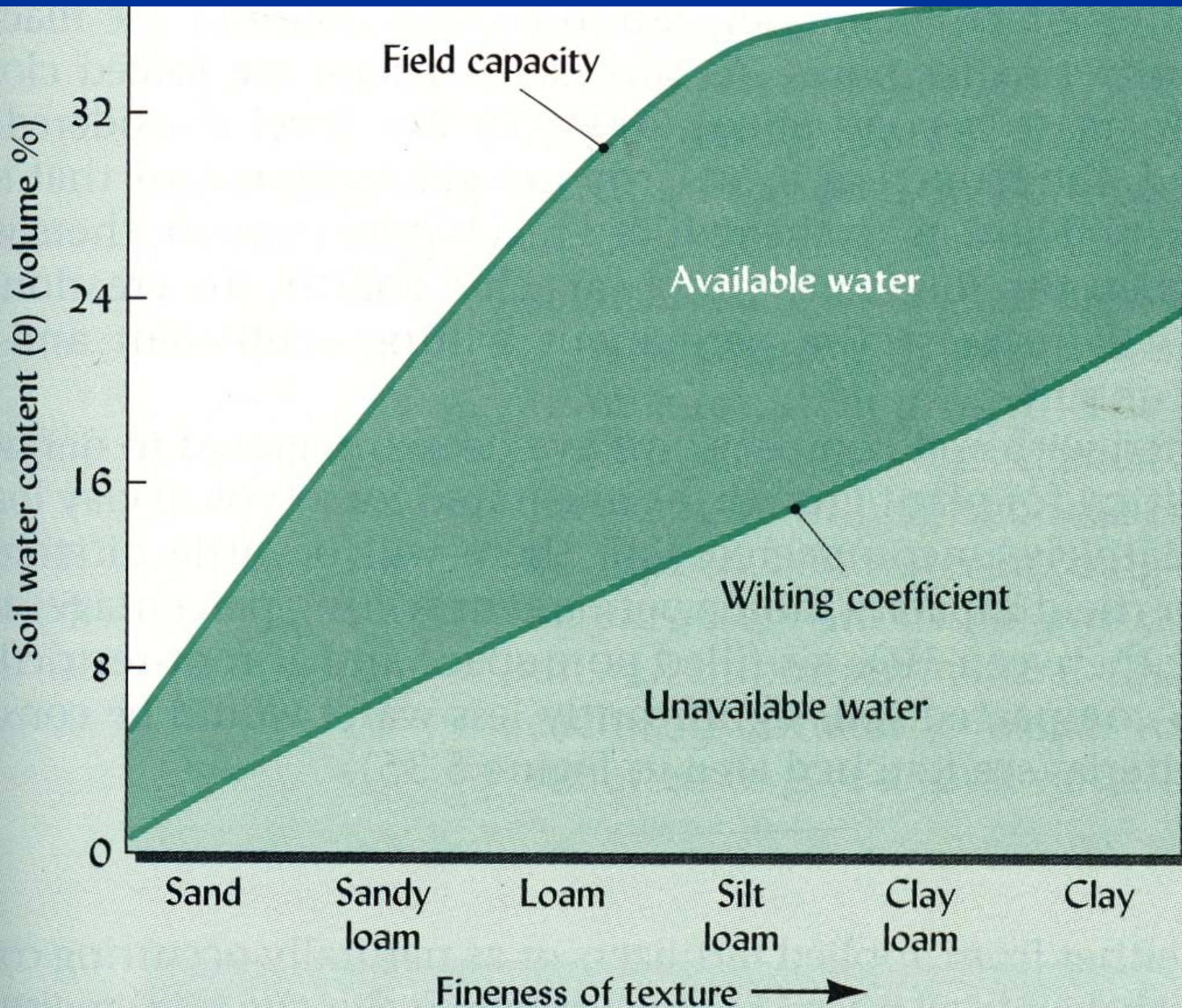
1.5 US quarts = 1.4 litres

(5) From Scott et al. 1986. Arkansas Water Resources Research Center. Publication Number 125.

Soil texture is important for available water



Soil texture is important for available water



Question # 2

Soil water available to plants

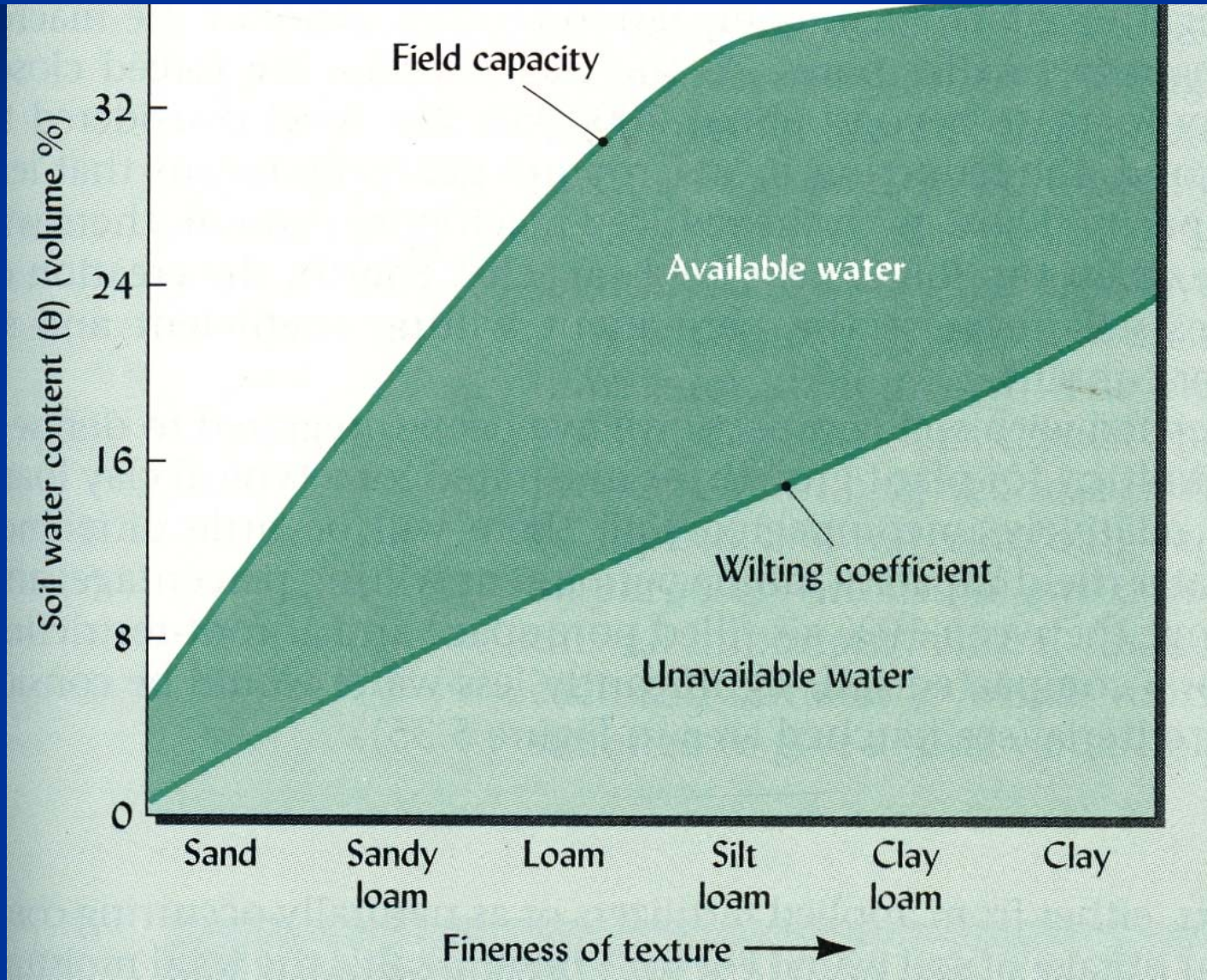
What is the most accurate definition for “plant available water” in the soil ?

- A. Water remaining after free drainage has ceased
- B. Water content at which the plant cannot regain turgidity
- C. Water available to the plant between field capacity and wilt
- D. Water held in small pores of the soil

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- ✓ C. Water available to the plant between field capacity and wilt
- D. Water held in small pores of the soil

« Plant available water » is the water found between field capacity and permanent wilting



The Nature and Properties of Soils

Twelfth Edition



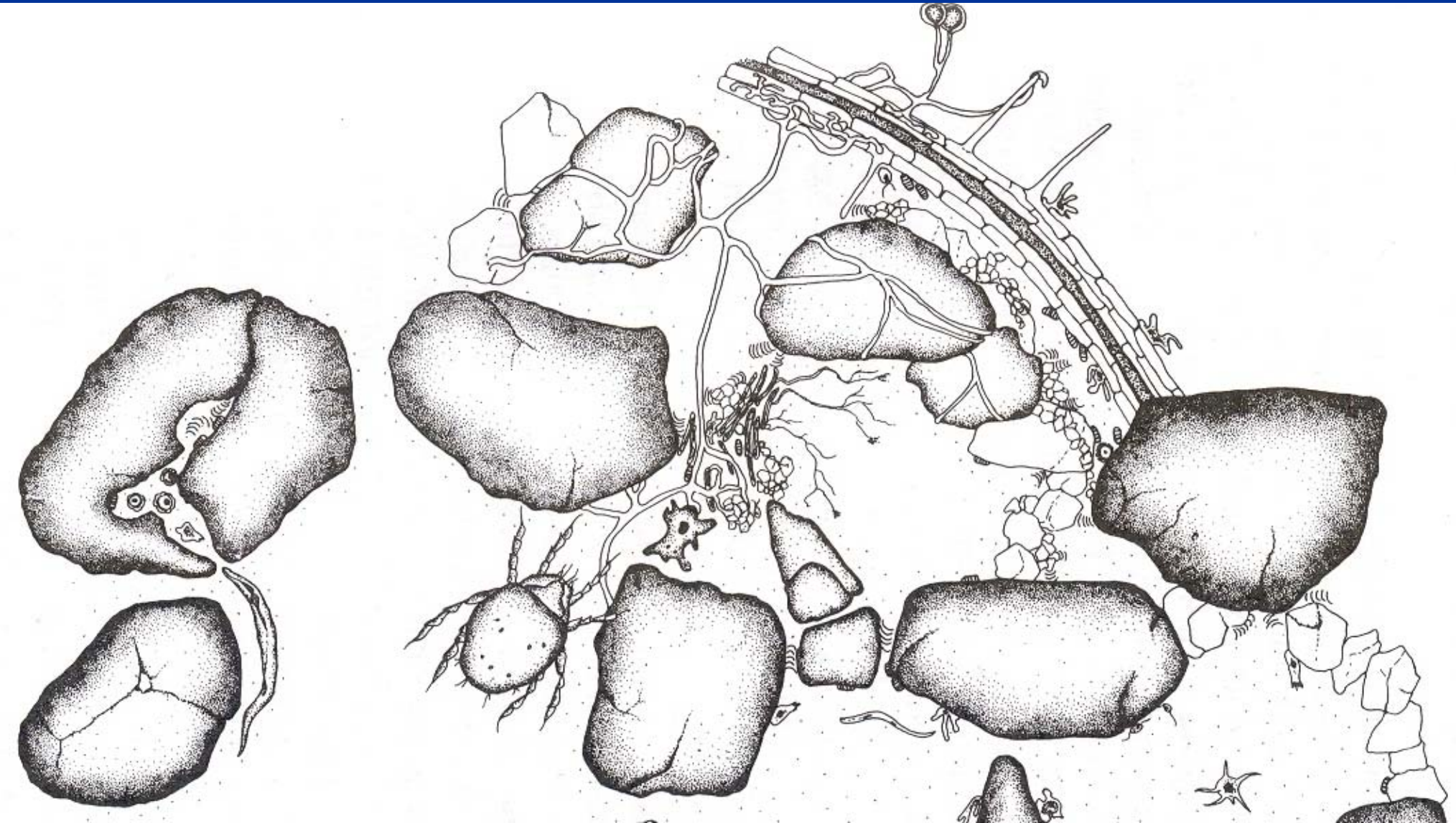
Nyle C. Brady
Ray R. Weil

The formation and maintenance of a high degree of aggregation is one of the most difficult task of soil management, yet it is also one of the most important, since it is a potent means of influencing ecosystem function.

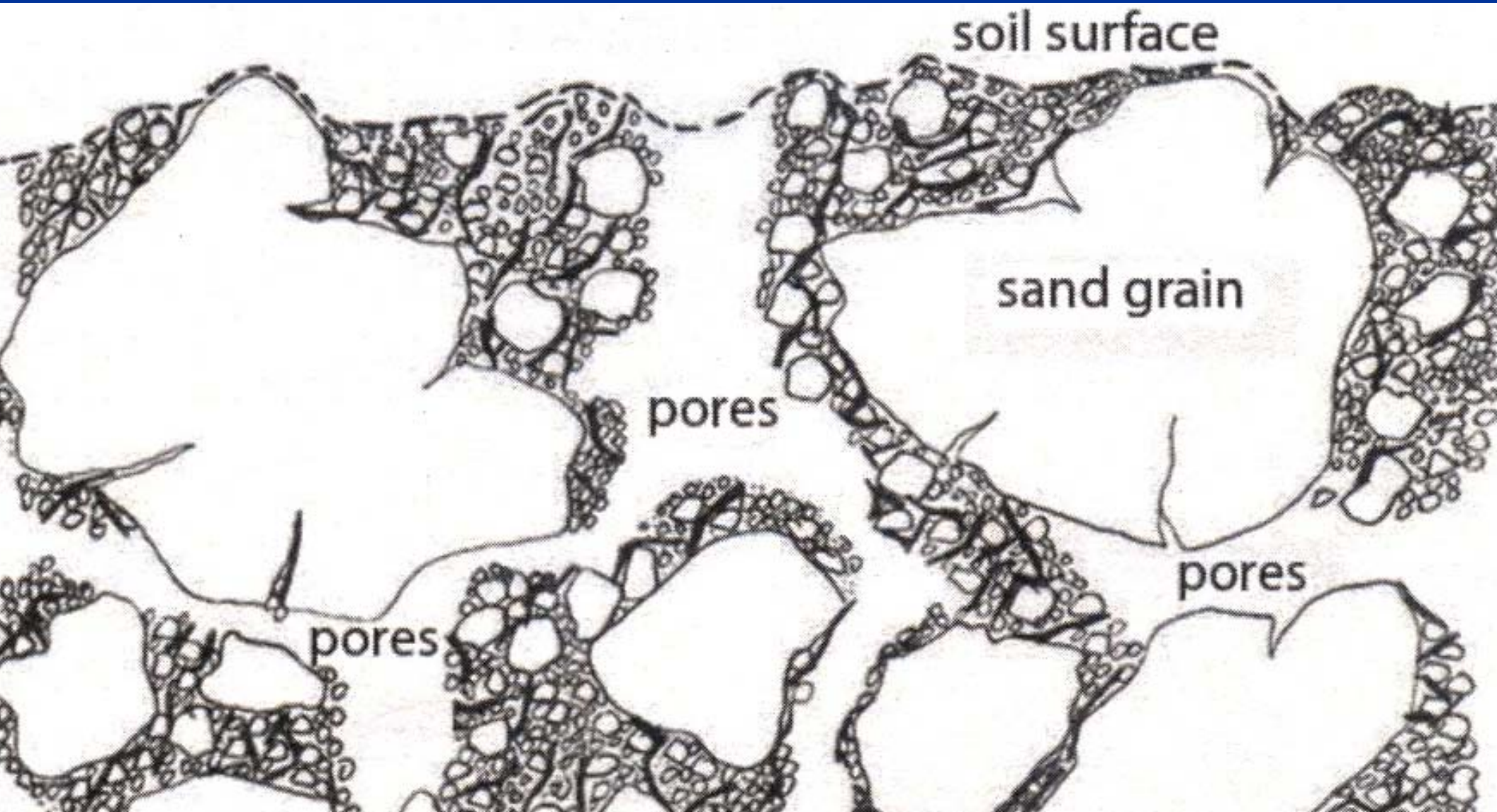
Aggregation of soil particles by fungi hyphae



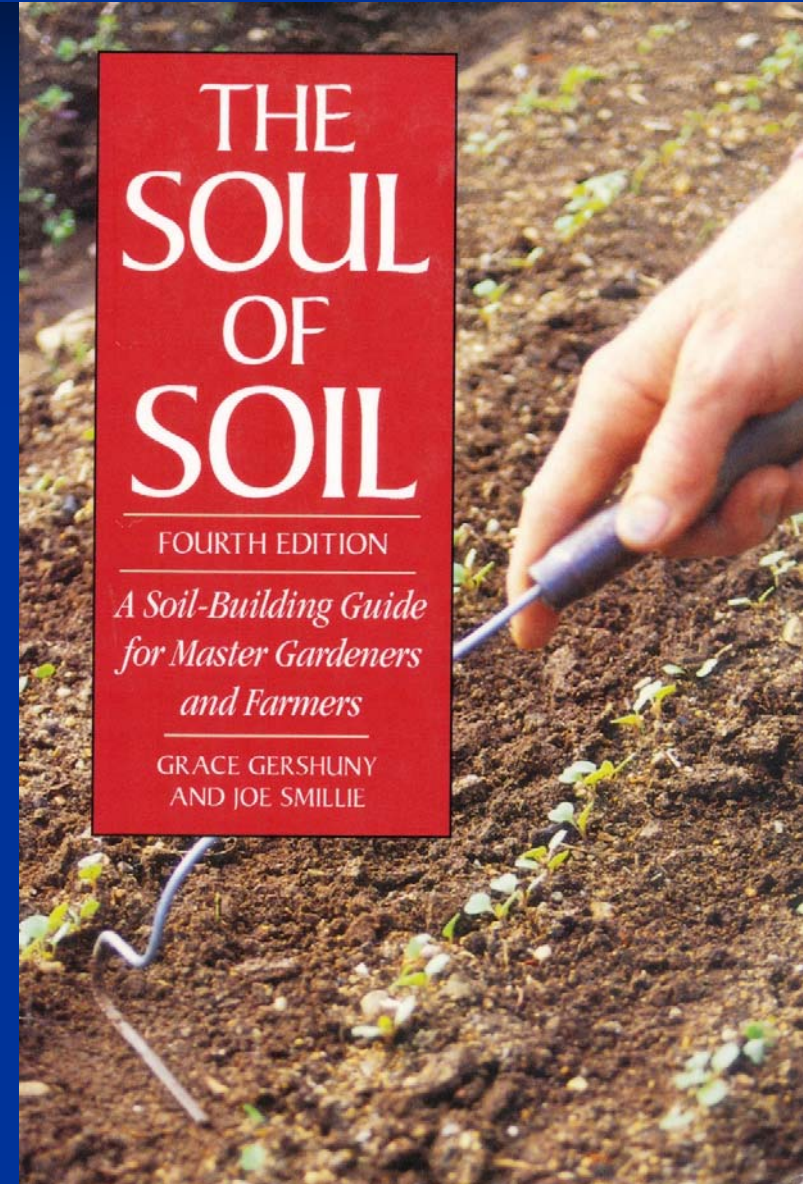
Soil aggregation relates to soil structure.
It is the arrangement of soil particles.



The soil structure creates openings called pores. It is space for soil microbes, nutrients and water.



Water is “pulled upward” by the soil aggregates

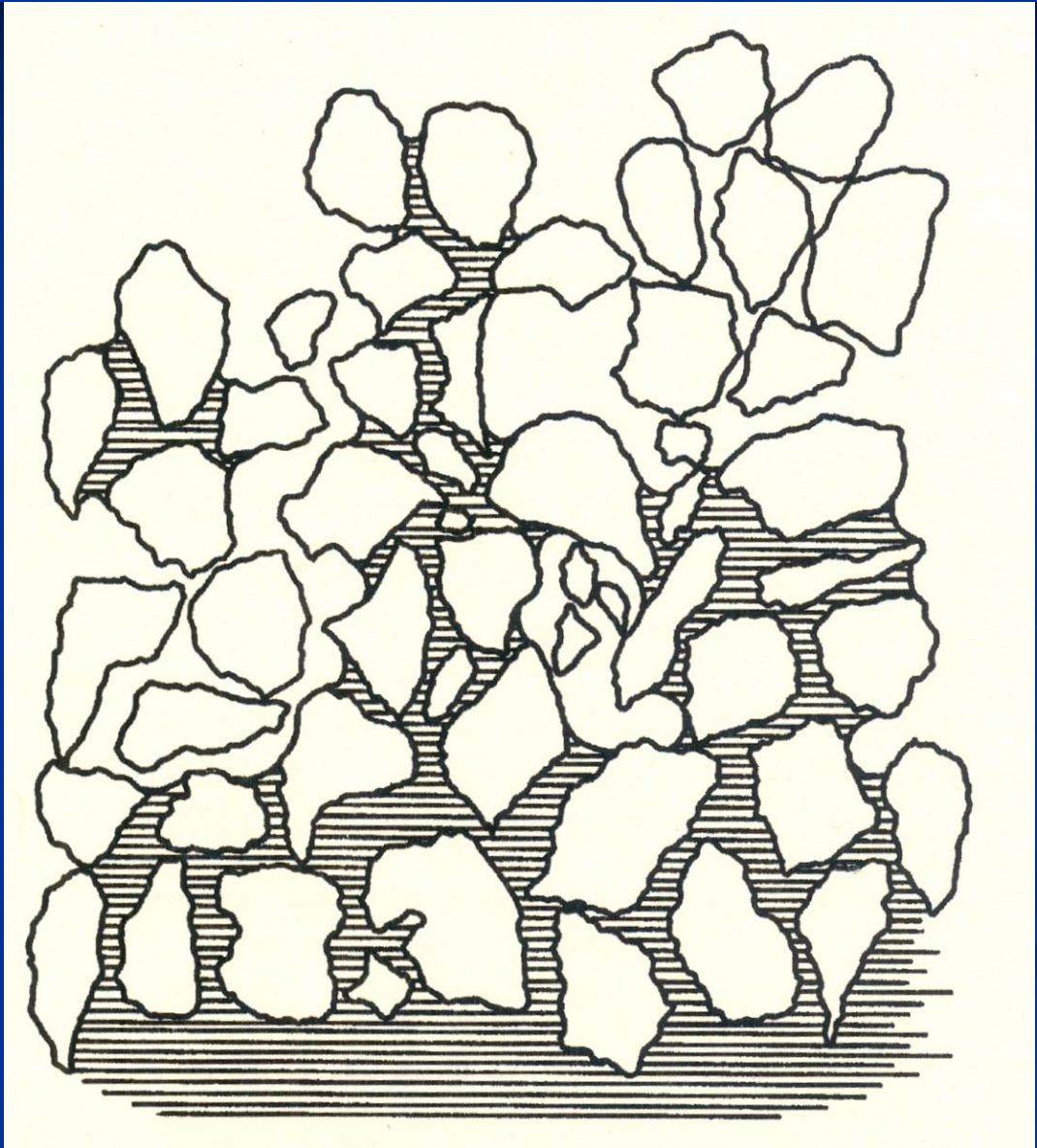


**THE
SOUL
OF
SOIL**

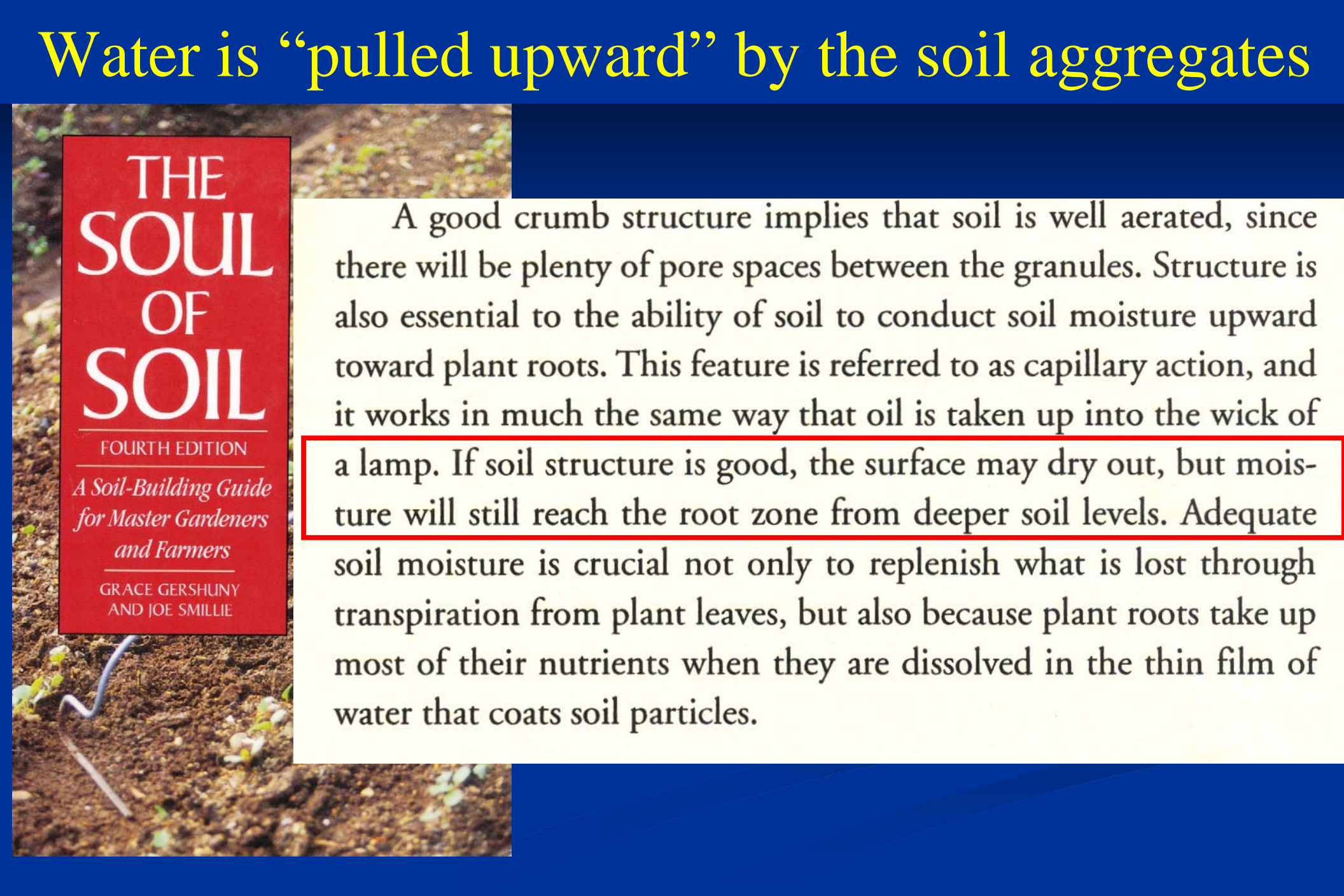
FOURTH EDITION

*A Soil-Building Guide
for Master Gardeners
and Farmers*

GRACE GERSHUNY
AND JOE SMILLIE



Water is “pulled upward” by the soil aggregates

The background of the slide is a photograph of soil with a worm and small plants. On the left side, there is a red rectangular box containing the book's title and authors. The title 'THE SOUL OF SOIL' is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below it, 'FOURTH EDITION' is written in smaller white capital letters. The subtitle 'A Soil-Building Guide for Master Gardeners and Farmers' is written in a smaller, white, italicized serif font. At the bottom of the red box, the authors' names 'GRACE GERSHUNY AND JOE SMILLIE' are listed in white capital letters.

THE SOUL OF SOIL

FOURTH EDITION

*A Soil-Building Guide
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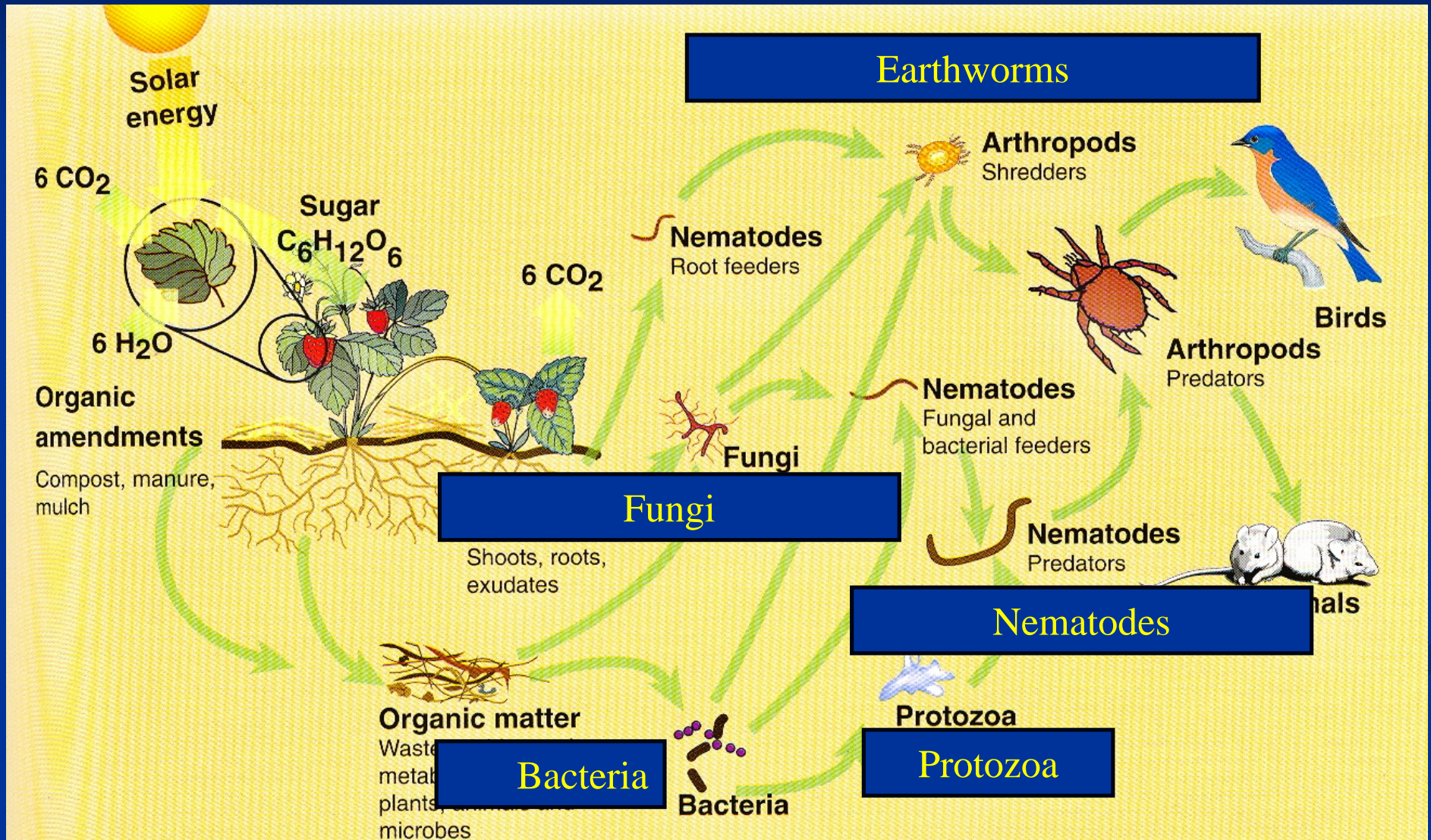
A good crumb structure implies that soil is well aerated, since there will be plenty of pore spaces between the granules. Structure is also essential to the ability of soil to conduct soil moisture upward toward plant roots. This feature is referred to as capillary action, and it works in much the same way that oil is taken up into the wick of a lamp. If soil structure is good, the surface may dry out, but moisture will still reach the root zone from deeper soil levels. Adequate soil moisture is crucial not only to replenish what is lost through transpiration from plant leaves, but also because plant roots take up most of their nutrients when they are dissolved in the thin film of water that coats soil particles.

Aggregation by microbial activity



Soil organisms involved in aggregation

Picture « Fruit crop ecology and management », 2002, Michigan State University



Question # 3

Soil aggregation and microbial activity



Which of the following soil organism is most responsible to form large aggregates ?

A. Bacteria

B. Fungi

C. Protozoa

D. Earthworms

Which of the following soil organism is most responsible to form large aggregates ?

A. Bacteria

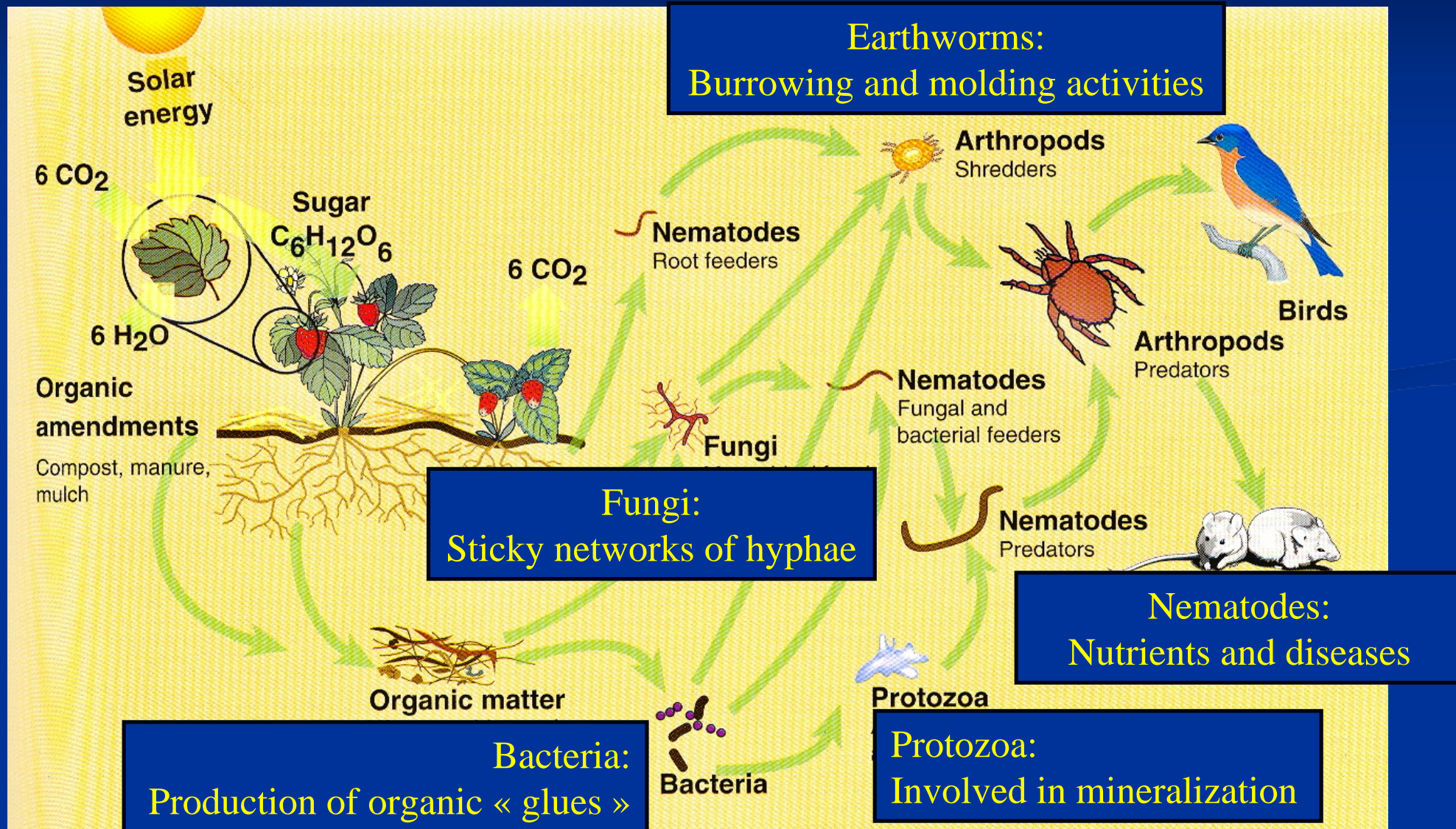
✓ B. Fungi

C. Protozoa

D. Earthworms

Soil organisms involved in aggregation

Picture « Fruit crop ecology and management », 2002, Michigan State University





Wood pieces
from a mulch bed

The white threads
are fungi hyphae.

The fungi is
“gluing”
wood pieces
together

The gooey protein is called glomalin.

Goosey protein may hold soil together

By MELISSA HANSEN

There may be some truth to the old farmer lore that good soil can be determined by feel. A new fungal protein discovered in soil may be the "glue" that holds good soil together.

A protein produced by soil-dwelling fungi gives improves the structure of soil.

The protein, named glomalin, is secreted by certain soil-dwelling fungi through hairlike, hyphae filaments. The fungi are found worldwide, living in a beneficial relationship on the roots of many plants. Glomalin sloughs off of the hyphae and finds its way into the soil.

Glomalin was discovered and named by Sara Wright, a soil microbiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Maryland. She gave glomalin its name because the gooey substance is secreted by a group of soil fungi called glomales.

"It coats soil particles and may be what holds them together in the stable structures we call aggregates," said Wright. "Farmers and gardeners know them as the small grains of soil that sift through their hands and suggest to them that the soil has good structure."

Organic tree fruit grower Bruce Spencer of Malaga, Washington, agrees that healthy soil has a certain feel and smell about it.

He has found that soil located in strips where herbicides have been used is very powdery and fine, he said. "It has a sour smell or no smell at all."

Spencer, who grows apples, cherries, peaches, apricots, and nectarines, described healthy soil as crumbly in texture. "It has a sweet, nutty, cereal-grain type of smell," he said.

Wright found that higher glomalin levels improve soil structure, easing the passage of air and water through soil and thereby aiding plant yields. The glomalin level in soil is an objective measure that can be used to choose the best farming practices.

She found that glomalin was as high

as two percent of the total weight of a soil aggregate in eastern U.S. soils. Levels were dramatically lower, although still abundant, in soils from the West and Midwest. She has also measured glomalin in soil samples sent from cooperators throughout the world.

"It may be that the higher glomalin levels explain why eastern soils have stronger structural stability than western soils," said Wright.

Knowing about glomalin can give farmers reason to alter tillage practices to raise or maintain glomalin levels. Tillage has been found to lower glomalin levels. ♦



Article in Canadian Journal of Soil Science, 2004

Arbuscular mycorrhizae, **glomalin**, and soil aggregation

Matthias C. Rillig

*Microbial Ecology Program, Division of Biological Sciences, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, USA
(e-mail: matthias@mso.umt.edu). Received 8 January 2004, accepted 9 March 2004.*

Rillig, M. C. 2004. **Arbuscular mycorrhizae, glomalin, and soil aggregation**. *Can. J. Soil Sci.* **84**: 355–363. Arbuscular mycorrhizae are important factors of soil quality through their effects on host plant physiology, soil ecological interactions, and their contributions to maintaining soil structure. The symbiosis is faced with numerous challenges in agroecosystems; in order to inform sustainable management strategies it is hence a high priority to work towards mechanistic understanding of arbuscular mycorrhizae contributions to soil quality. This review focuses on glomalin-related soil protein (GRSP), operationally defined soil C pools that have been linked to arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF). In discussing this protein pool, we propose a new terminology used to describe fractions of soil proteins and glomalin. GRSP concentrations in soil are positively correlated with aggregate water stability. GRSP has relatively slow turnover in soil, contributing to lasting effects on aggregation. Controls on production of GRSP at the phenomenological and mechanistic level are evaluated. While there are significant gaps in our knowledge about GRSP and glomalin (particularly at the biochemical level), it is concluded that research on GRSP holds great promise for furthering our knowledge of soil structure and quality, for informing suitable management, and as a foundation for novel biotechnological applications in agriculture and beyond.

Key words: Glomalin, GRSP, soil structure, land use, restoration, soil protein, sustainability, arbuscular mycorrhizae

Rillig, M. C. 2004. **Les mycorhizes à arbuscules, la glomaline et l'agrégation du sol**. *Can. J. Soil Sci.* **84**: 355–363. Les mycorhizes à arbuscules (MA) jouent un rôle important dans la qualité du sol en agissant sur la physiologie de la plante hôte, sur les interactions écologiques du sol et sur la préservation de la structure du sol. Les écosystèmes agricoles exercent maintes contraintes sur la symbiose. Pour implanter des stratégies agricoles durables, il importe donc de bien comprendre la mécanique des apports des MA à la qualité du sol. Cet article examine les protéines du sol associées à la glomaline (PSAG), réservoirs de C du sol présentant des liens avec les champignons à MA. Dans l'étude de ce réservoir protéique, l'auteur recourt à une nouvelle ter-

Article in scientific journal “Vadose Zone Journal”

Published online May 17, 2007

Mycorrhizal Fungi: Highways for Water and Nutrients in Arid Soils

Michael F. Allen*

SPECIAL SECTION:
SOIL BIOPHYSICS

Vadose Zone Journal

Mycorrhizal fungi are well known for increasing nutrient uptake but their effects on soil physical structure and water flow are less well understood. Here I explore what we know about the physical structure of mycorrhizal external mycelia and examine how that physical structure affects plant water uptake and reverse hydraulic lift in unsaturated soils. Mycorrhizal fungi are structured such that there are linear cytoplasmic units that can extend for a meter or more. Cell membranes may be only located in hyphal tips within the plant and externally several centimeters to meters distant from the plant root. Individual hyphae form a linear surface that goes across soil pores increasing the tortuosity factor (Γ) of the pathway for water flow, thereby increasing conductivity. But hyphae are small in diameter, providing only a small surface area for that transport. Little about the reverse flows (hydraulic redistribution from plant to fungus) is known other than that they occur and could play a critical role in sustaining hyphae through drought. The ultimate importance of mycorrhizae in plant–water relations depends on the drying patterns, the soil pore structure, and the number of hyphal connections extending from the root into the soil. New technologies are needed to adequately parameterize models of water horizontal flow patterns to: (i) observe and monitor the growth of roots and mycorrhizal fungi in situ; and (ii) describe the localized environment at high temporal and spatial resolution.

ABBREVIATIONS: AM, arbuscular mycorrhizae; EM, ectomycorrhizae.

Mycelial network of
ectomycorrhiza *Suillus b.*
in association with
Pinus sylvestris

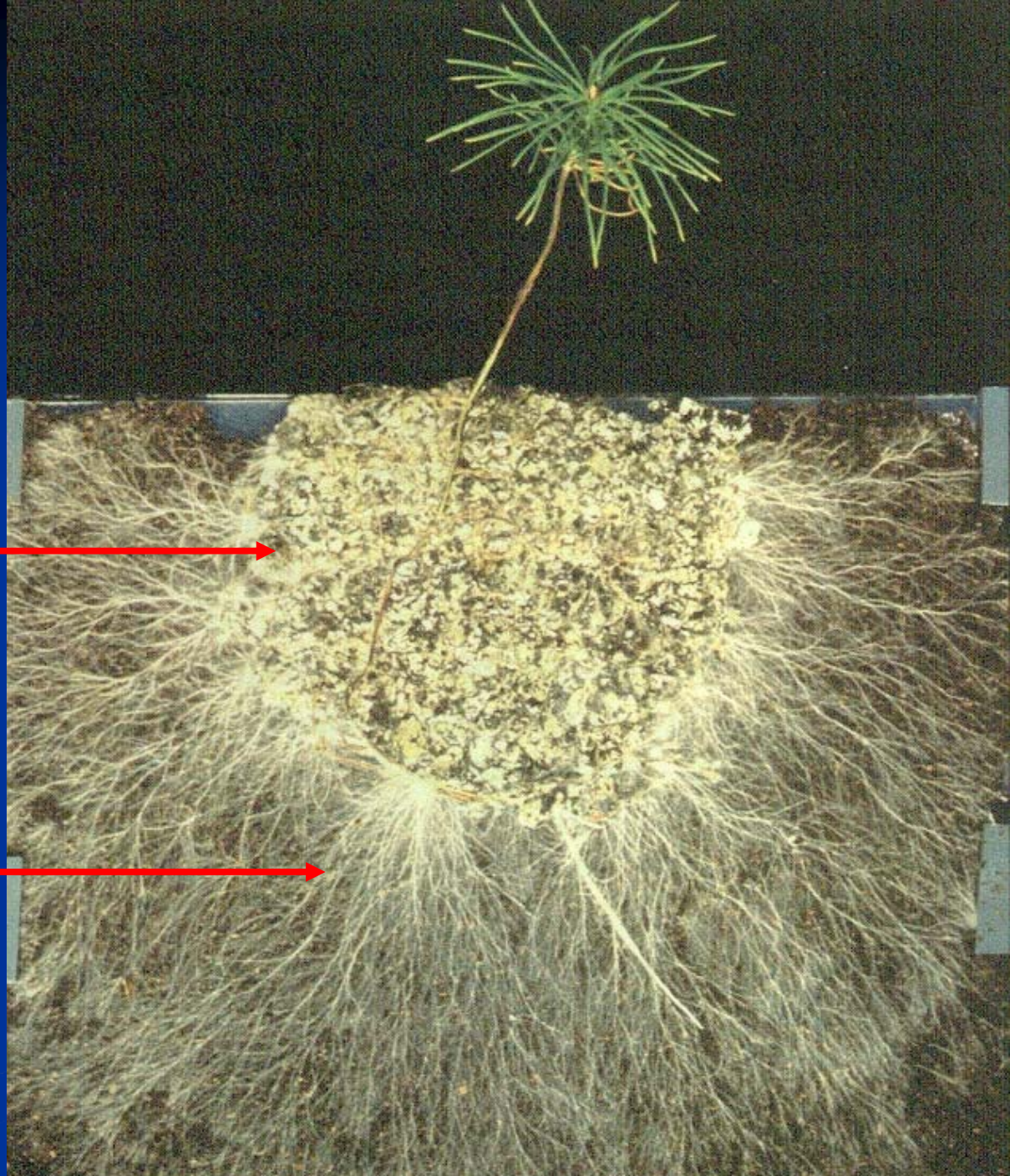
Photo from J.R. Leake,
University of Sheffield, UK
Published in
Canadian Journal of Botany
2004



Roots of the plant



Hyphae of the fungus



The “match stick” effect



Golden chanterelles,
ecto-mycorrhizal
association
in forests of
Douglas-fir
and hemlock
on the West Coast

Photo by T.F. Lockwood
US Department Agriculture
2003



Question # 4

Mycorrhiza in nature



In nature, what percentage of plants are colonized by mycorrhizal fungi ?

- A. About 10% of all plants
- B. About 50% of all plants
- C. About 95% of all plants
- D. 100% of all mature plants but 0% of young plants

In nature, what percentage of plants are colonized by mycorrhizal fungi ?

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Mycorrhizal Associations

D.H. Marx, Plant Health Care Inc., 1997

■ No mycorrhizal association

Early-succession plants

Lamb's quarter, buckwheat, broccoli, spinach, beet

■ Endo-mycorrhizal fungi

VAM, Ericaceous (rhododendron), Orchidaceous

Very common, occurs on 85% of green plants

Turf grass, vegetables, most shrubs, most trees

■ Ecto-mycorrhizal fungi

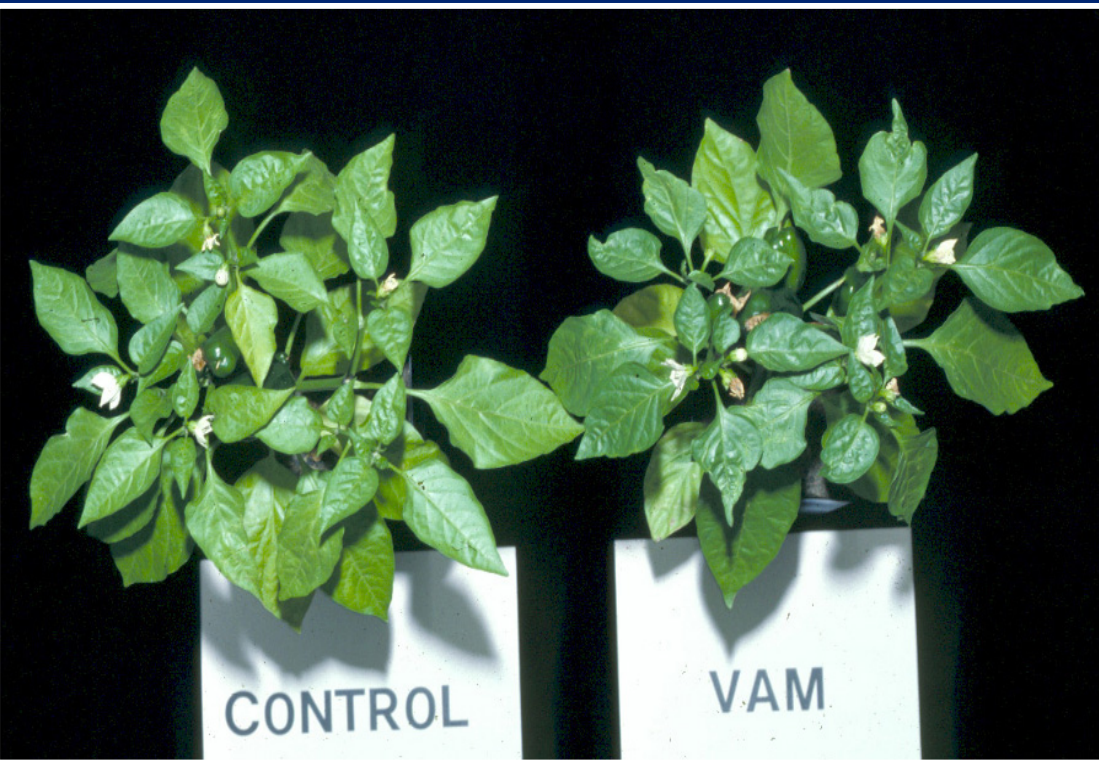
On about 10% of plants, mostly late succession plants

Fir, spruce, pine, birch, beech, oak, linden, willow

Mycorrhizal fungi and water stress

Pepper plants (*Capsicum a.*) under different water regimes

Pictures from F.T. Davies, Texas A&M University, ICOM 2003

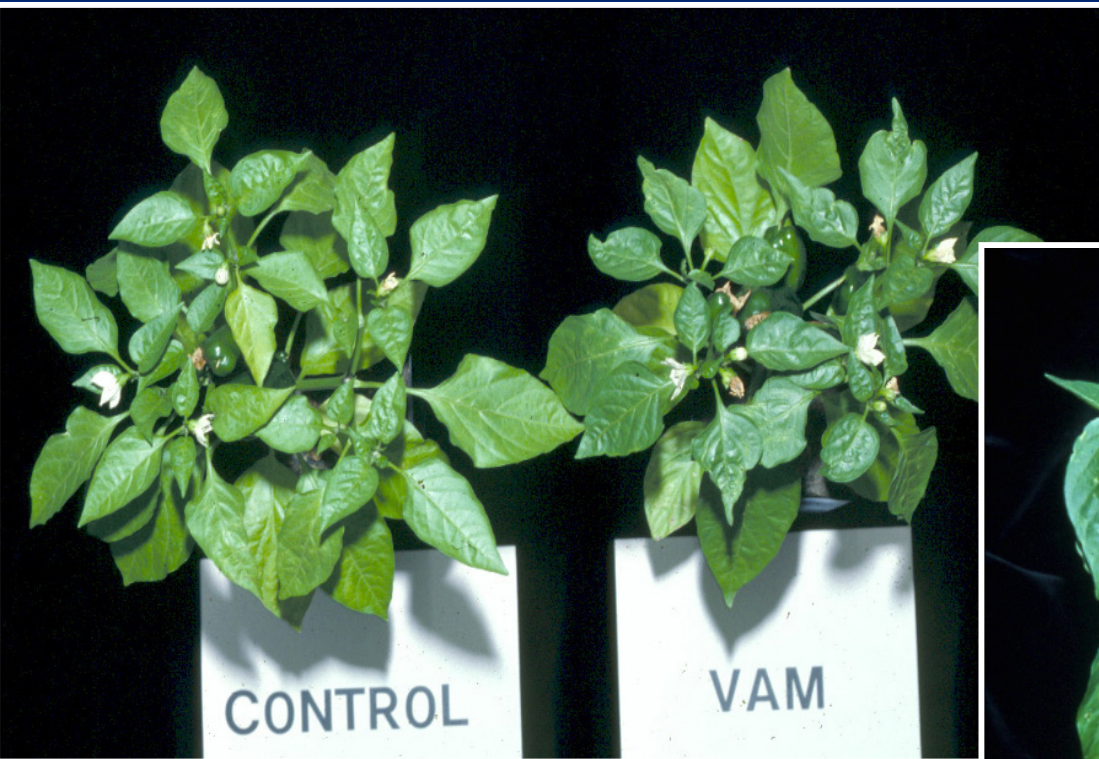


Adequate water

Mycorrhizal fungi and water stress

Pepper plants (*Capsicum a.*) under different water regimes

Pictures from F.T. Davies, Texas A&M University, ICOM 2003



Adequate water

20-day water stress



Article in the scientific journal “Mycorrhiza”

[Mycorrhiza](#). 2011 Nov;21(8):703-19. Epub 2011 Apr 7.

Effect of controlled inoculation with specific mycorrhizal fungi from the urban environment on the growth and physiology of containerized shade species growing under different water regimes

[Fini A](#), [Frangi P](#), [Amoroso G](#), [Piatti R](#), [Faoro M](#), [Bellasio C](#), [Ferrini F](#).

Department of Plant, Soil and Environmental Science, University of Florence, Via
50019 Sesto Fiorentino-FI, Italy. alessio.fini@unifi.it

Abstract

The aim of this work was to evaluate the effects of selected mycorrhiza obtained from an urban environment on growth, leaf gas exchange, and drought tolerance of containerized plants growing in the nursery. Two-year-old uniform *Acer campestre* L., *Tilia cordata* Mill., and *Quercus robur* L. were inoculated with a mixture of infected roots and mycelium of selected arbuscular (maple, linden) and/or ectomycorrhiza (linden, oak) fungi and grown in well-watered or water shortage conditions. Plant biomass and leaf area were measured 1 and 2 years after inoculation. Leaf gas exchange, chlorophyll fluorescence, and water relations were measured during the first and second growing seasons after inoculation. Our data suggest that the mycelium-based inoculum used in this experiment was able to colonize the roots of the tree species growing in the nursery. Plant biomass was affected by water shortage, but not by inoculation. Leaf area was affected by water regime and, in oak and linden, by inoculation. Leaf gas exchange was affected by inoculation and water stress. $V_{(cmax)}$ and $J_{(max)}$ were increased by inoculation and decreased by water shortage in all species. $F_{(v)}/F_{(m)}$ was also generally higher in inoculated plants than in control. Changes in PSII photochemistry and photosynthesis may be related to the capacity of inoculated plants to maintain less negative leaf water potential under drought conditions. The overall data suggest that inoculated plants were better able to maintain physiological activity during water stress in comparison to non-inoculated plants.

“The overall data suggest that inoculated plants were better able to maintain physiological activity during water stress in comparison to non-inoculated plants.”

Mycorrhizal fungi applied at the time of planting



Best use: Apply directly over the roots



It also works for lawns

USGA Green Section Record – November/December
(Reprinted with permission from author)

MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI BENEFIT PUTTING GREENS

by R. Koske¹, J.N. GEMMA², and N. JACKSON¹ Department of Botany¹ and
Department of Plant Sciences², University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island

ENDOPHYTIC microorganisms occur in most species of plants as inhabitants of above- or below-ground organs. Their presence in the tissues either elicits no apparent effect in the normal functioning of the infected plants, or the endophytic may confer various benefits to the host. Grasses are no exception and present intriguing examples of these associations that can have application in turf management.

Fungi are the most frequently encountered partners with grasses, and several species that colonize leaves and stems are now known to confer protection from

“In both field mini-plots and greenhouse trials in pots, mycorrhizal turf of Penncross survived drought conditions far better than did non-mycorrhizal turf.

After a five-day drought, mycorrhizal turf in the field study showed 39% less water stress than did control turf, and after eight days, the difference was 60%.”

The Nature and Properties of Soils

Twelfth Edition



Nyle C. Brady
Ray R. Weil

The formation and maintenance of a high degree of aggregation is one of the most difficult task of soil management, yet it is also one of the most important, since it is a potent means of influencing ecosystem function.

“Organic matter is the major agent stimulating the formation of crumb-type aggregates.”



Using cover crops to supply organic matter



Using mulches to supply organic matter



Using compost to supply organic matter



Good compost is the colour of dark chocolate

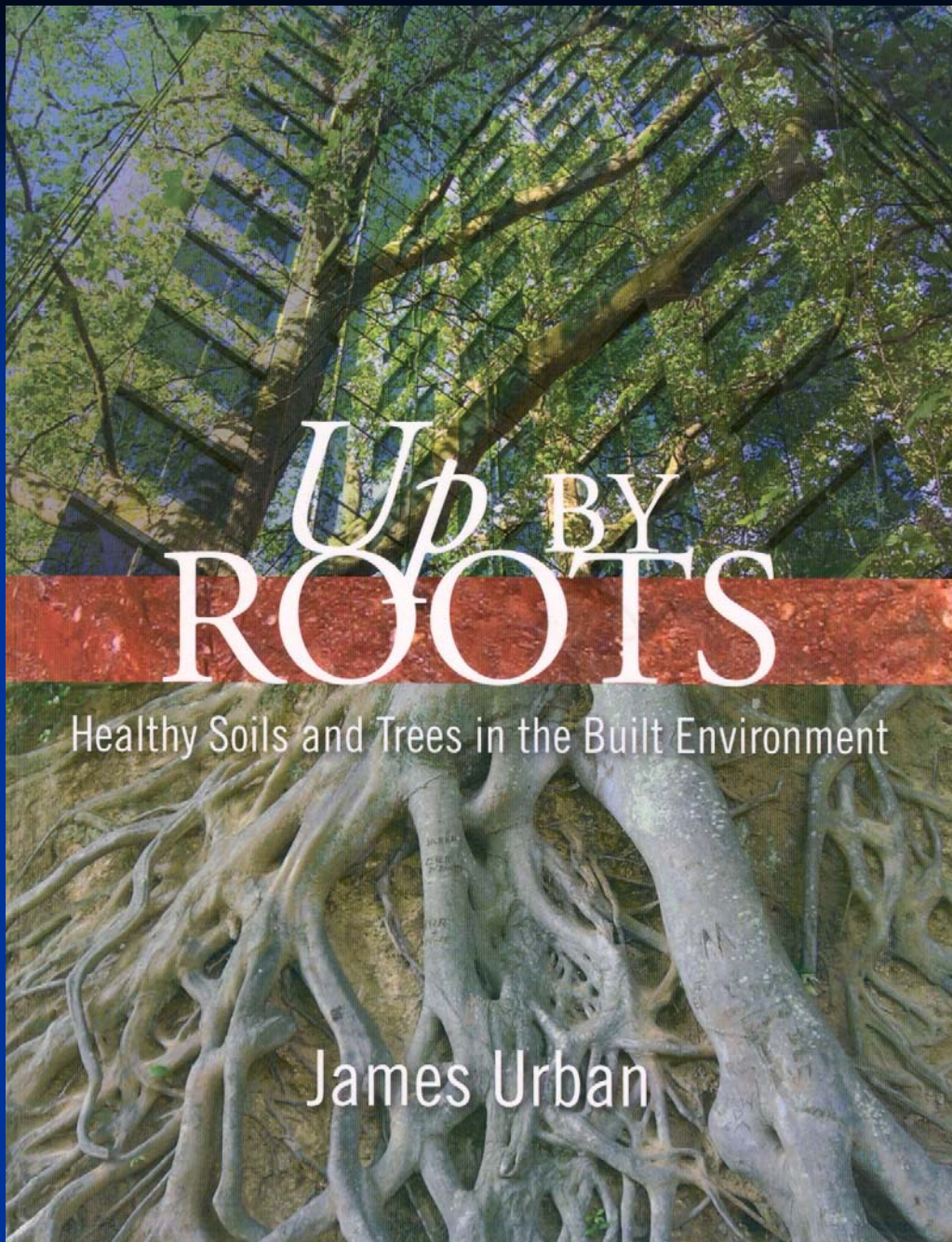


The compost should be coarser rather than finer



Using compost at the time of planting...





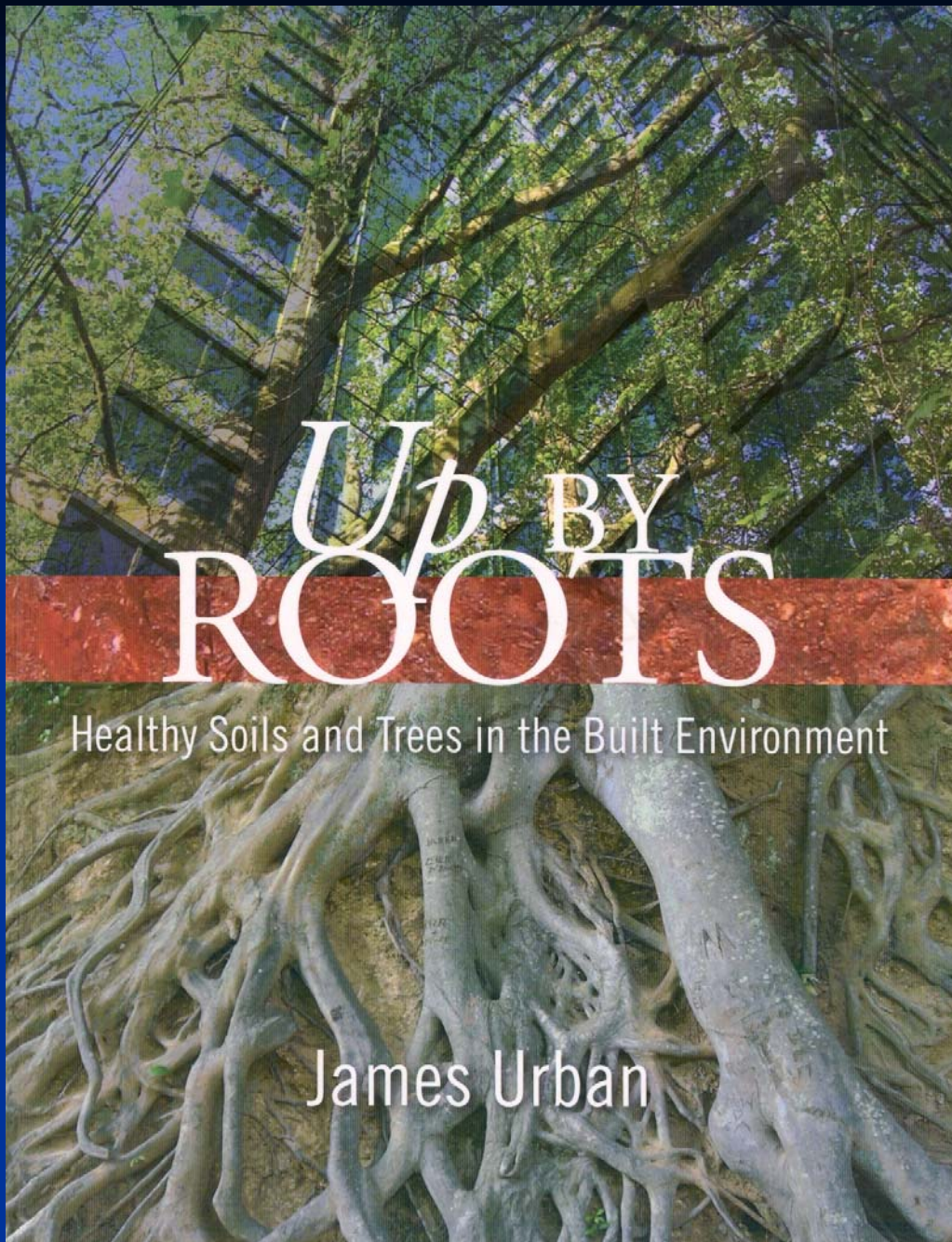
“Up By Roots”

2008

Jame Urban

Available at

www.isa-arbor.com/webstore

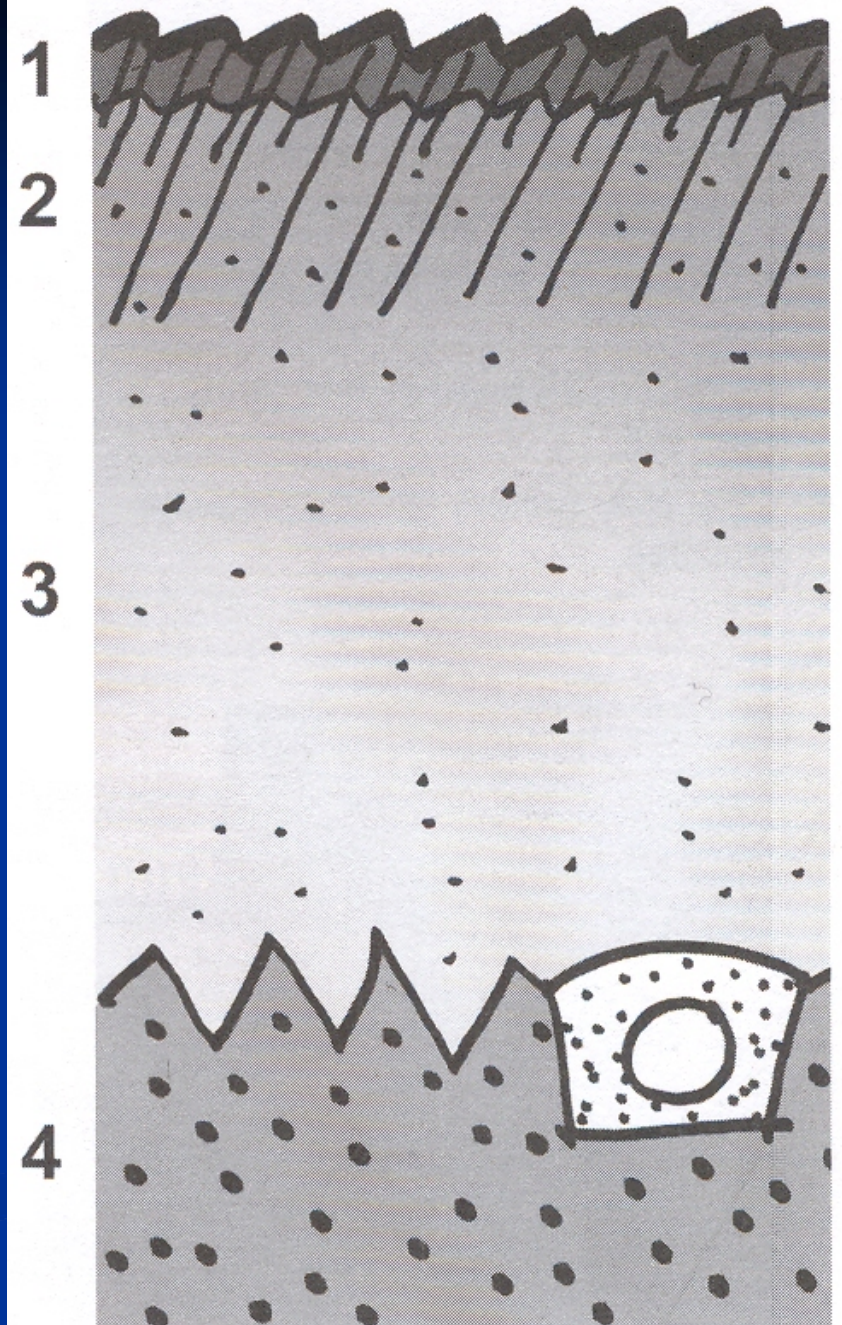


“City soil is not the same as farm soil.

It does not grow a food crop, it may contain fill soil trucked from afar, compaction cannot be fixed easily and it offers limited root space.”

Drawing from “Up By Roots”.
James Urban. 2008

4 is “C horizon”
Subsoil, usually native soil
Scarify to ensure water drainage

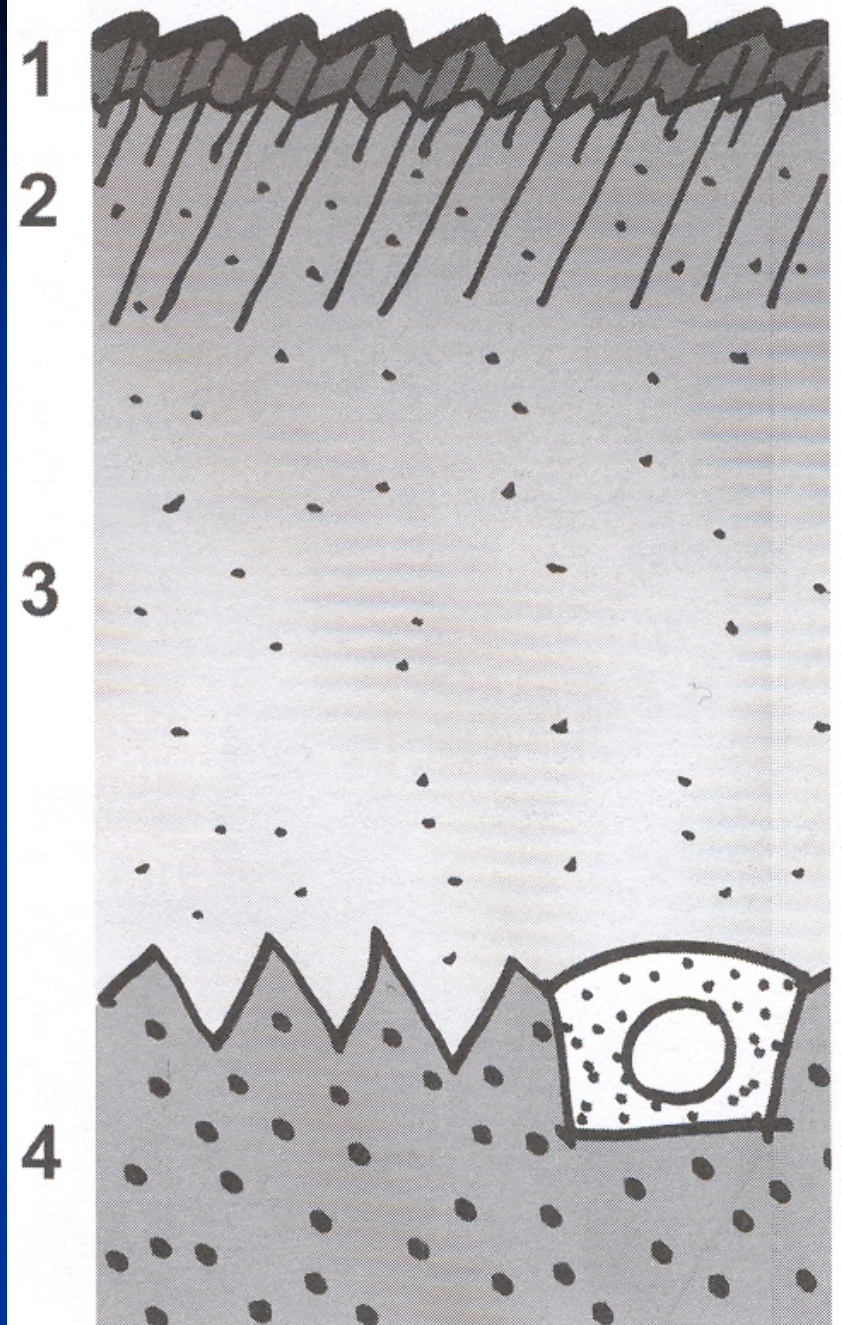


3 is “B horizon”

Important for good water drainage
Mix compost 10 to 15% by volume

4 is “C horizon”

Subsoil, usually native soil
Scarify to ensure water drainage



2 is “A horizon”

Where the plant roots will grow

Mix (...) compost in the top 15-cm

3 is “B horizon”

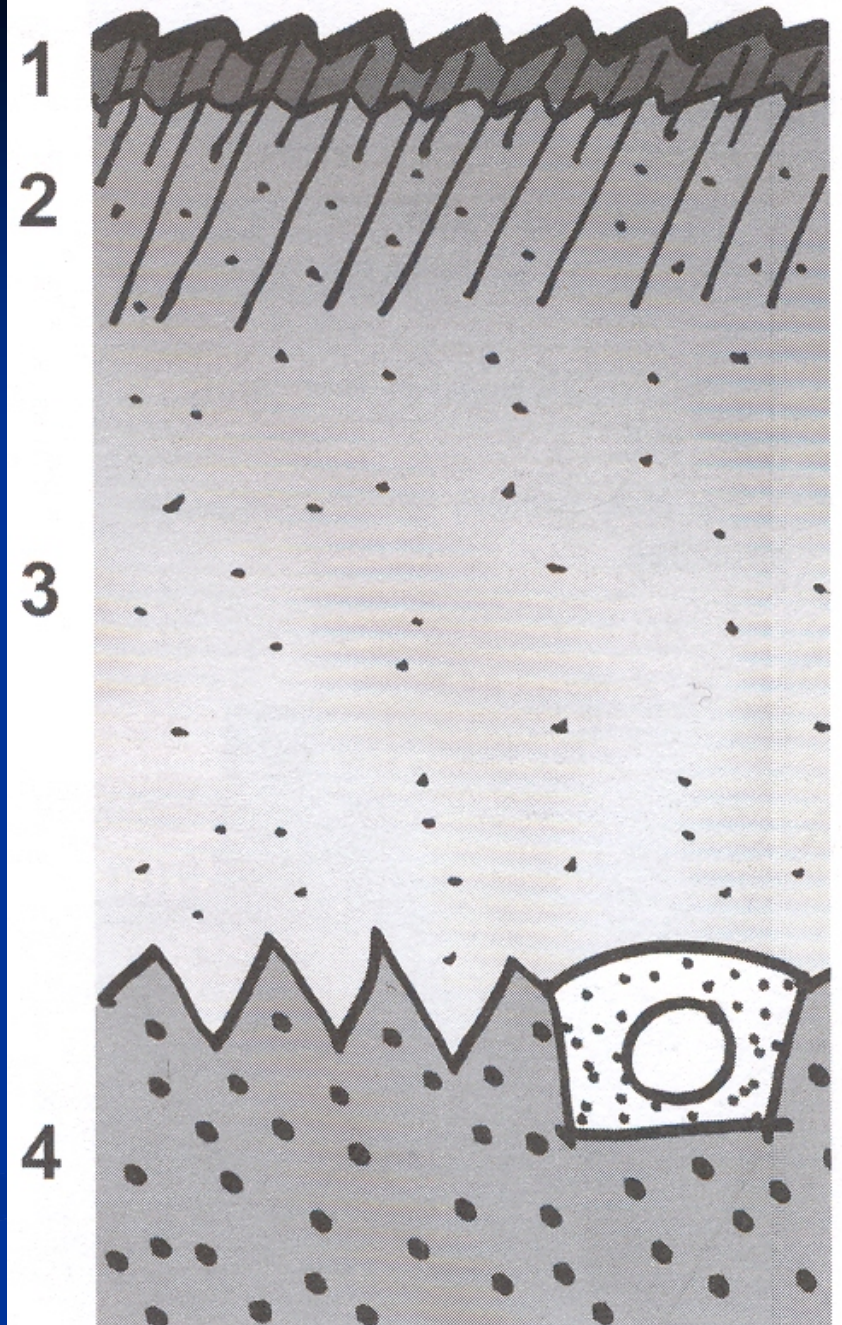
Important for good water drainage

Mix compost 10 to 15% by volume

4 is “C horizon”

Subsoil, usually native soil

Scarify to ensure water drainage



1 is “O horizon”

Surface: 5 to 7.5 cm of mulch

Replenish every 2 to 3 years

2 is “A horizon”

Where the plant roots will grow

Mix (...) compost in the top 15-cm

3 is “B horizon”

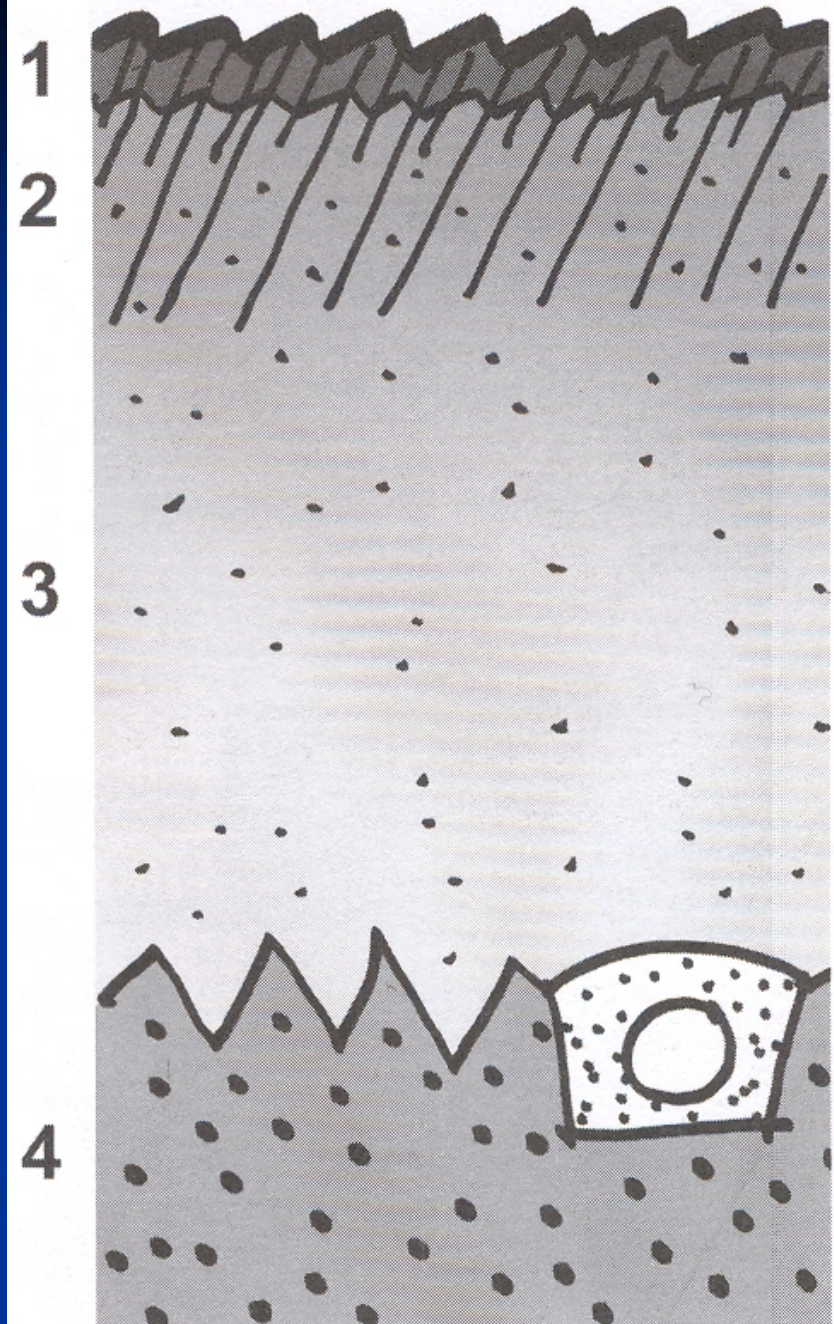
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Scarify to ensure water drainage

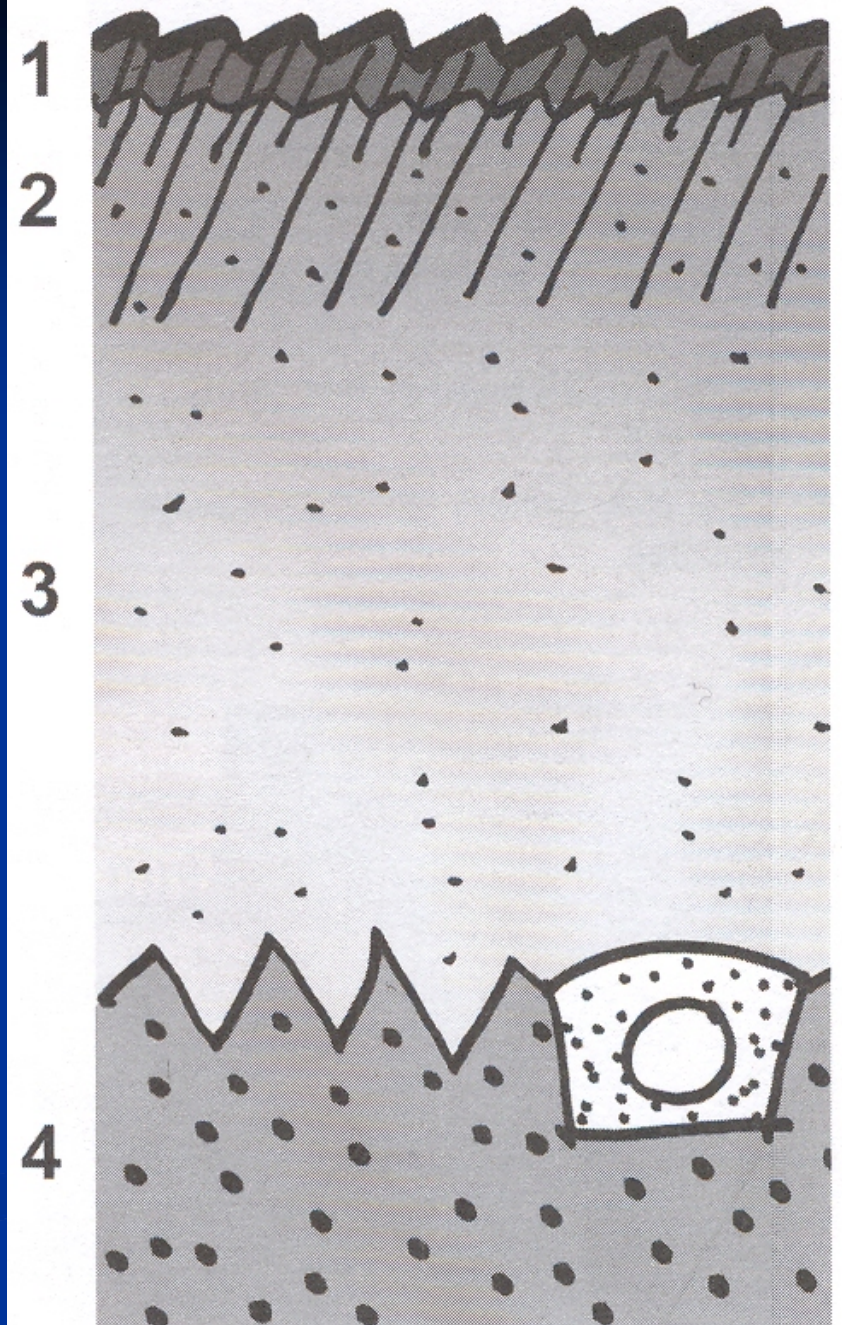


1 is “O horizon”

2 is “A horizon”

3 is “B horizon”

4 is “C horizon”



Question # 5

James Urban and amending the planting site

How much compost is recommended for the A horizon (where the roots are growing) ?

- A. Do not mix compost in the A horizon
- B. 1.5 to 2.0 cm of compost in the top 15-cm of soil
- C. 5 to 7.5 cm of compost in the top 15-cm of soil
- D. 10-cm of compost in the top 15-cm of soil

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- ✓ D. 10-cm of compost in the top 15-cm of soil

1 is “O horizon”

Surface: 5 to 7.5 cm of mulch

Replenish every 2 to 3 years

2 is “A horizon”

Where the plant roots will grow

Mix 10-cm of compost in top 15-cm

3 is “B horizon”

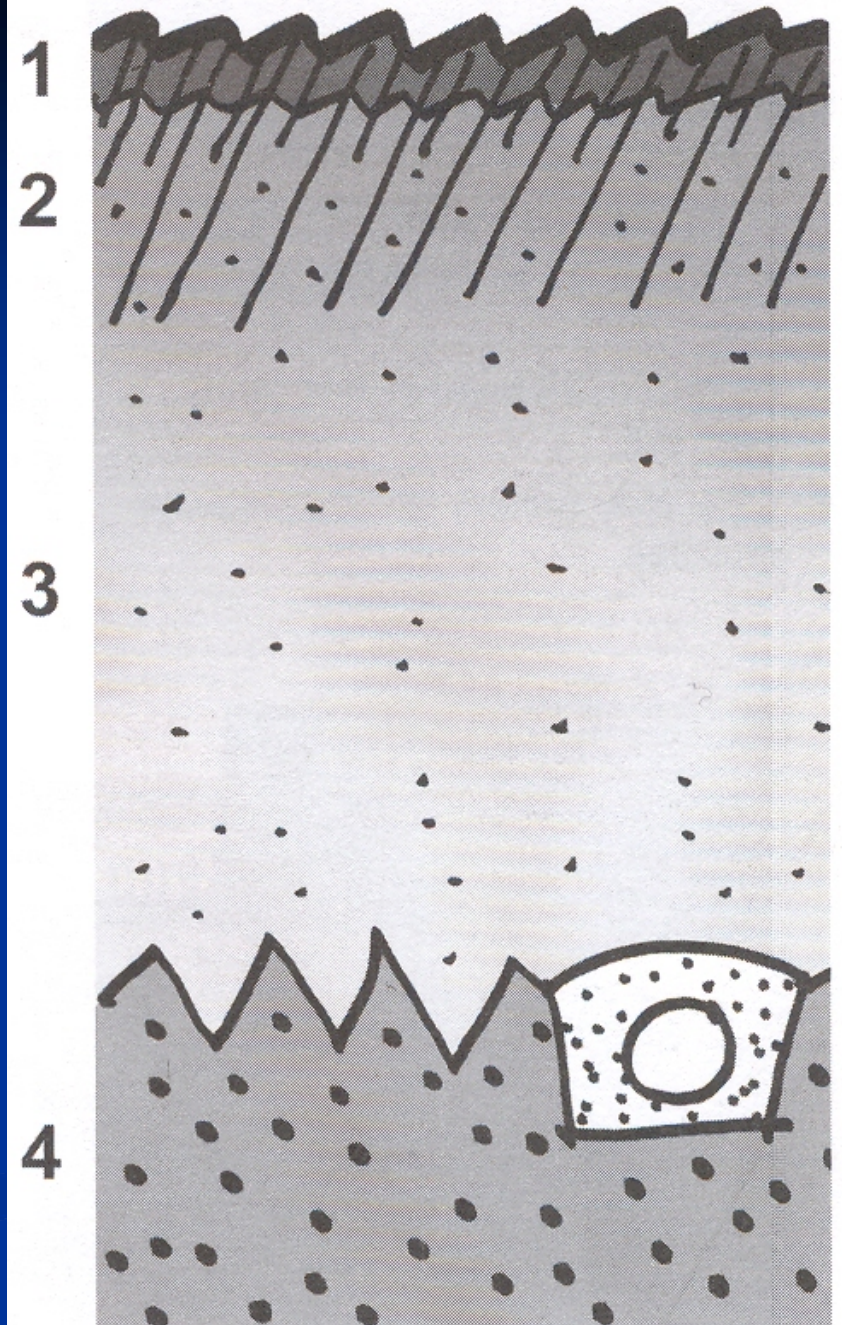
Important for good water drainage

Mix compost 10 to 15% by volume

4 is “C horizon”

Subsoil, usually native soil

Scarify to ensure water drainage



Using compost as mulch



**Aim to mimic
the forest floor**

**On surface: 5 cm of quality compost
Cover with 5 cm of wood chips or bark**

White threads are hyphae from soil fungi



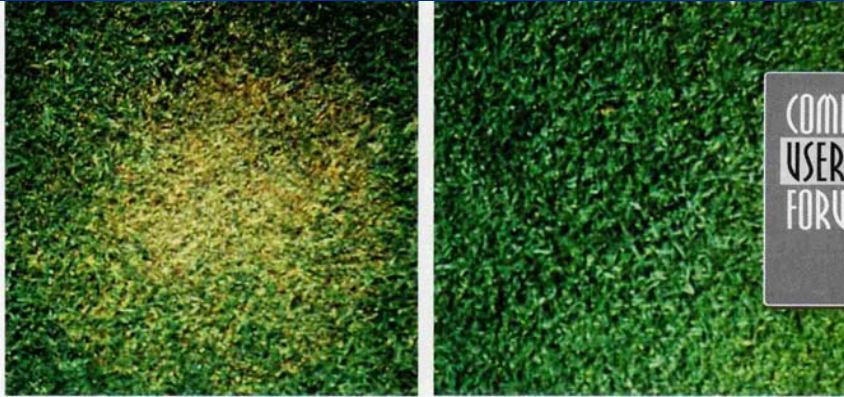
Aggregation by microbial activity



Using compost in lawn care (topdressing)



How much compost to use ?



COMPOST
USERS
FORUM

Illustrating suppression of *Pythium* root rot on creeping bentgrass in compost-amended soil, above photos show effects 14 days after inoculation of no compost (left) and 20 percent compost, vvv (right).

Compost-Induced Suppression Of Turf Grass Diseases

This first part of a detailed report shows how composted products promote healthy turf grass, suppress disease development and reduce need for costly fungicide and fertilizer inputs.

Part I

Eric B. Nelson and Michael J. Boehm

UNTIL the 1940s, composts served as one of the principal sources of fertilizer used on golf courses and athletic fields. The utilization of composts declined dramatically, however, with the advent of synthetic, urea-based fertilizers, and organic fertilizers such as Milorganite, which offered more consistent and predictive nutrient release characteristics. After nearly 60 years of heavy reliance on chemical inputs, we find ourselves in the midst of a resurgence in the use of organic matter amendments and topdressings for managing high quality turf grass. Recent research on the use of composts on turf grass has focused on the suppression of turf grass diseases, the potential for reducing fungicide and fertilizer inputs, and the effects of composts on the physical, chemical and microbiological properties of soils.

Currently there are between 20 and 30 million acres of turf grass in the United States, consisting of lawns, parks, golf courses, sod farms, industrial and institutional grounds, right-of-ways, etc. Fungal diseases represent one of the most important limiting factors to maintaining the aesthetics and functional quality of turf grass plantings. Managing diseases is particularly difficult on golf course turf where agronomically unrealistic cutting

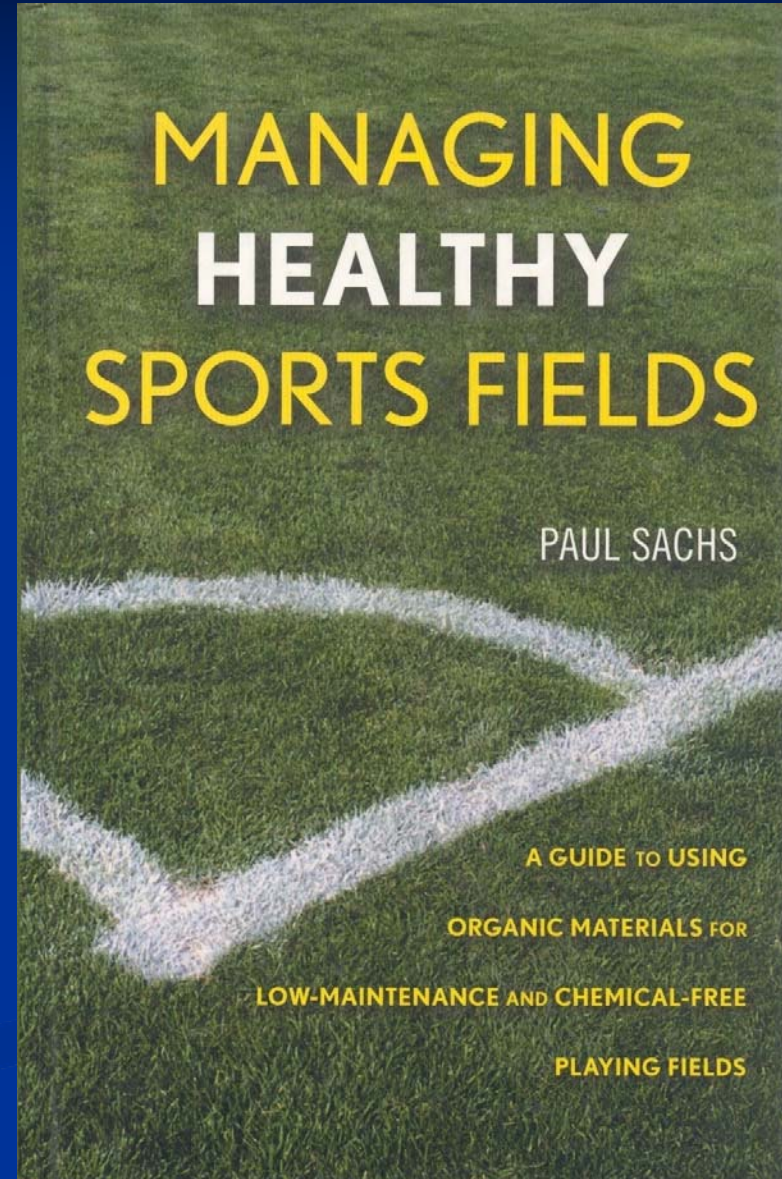
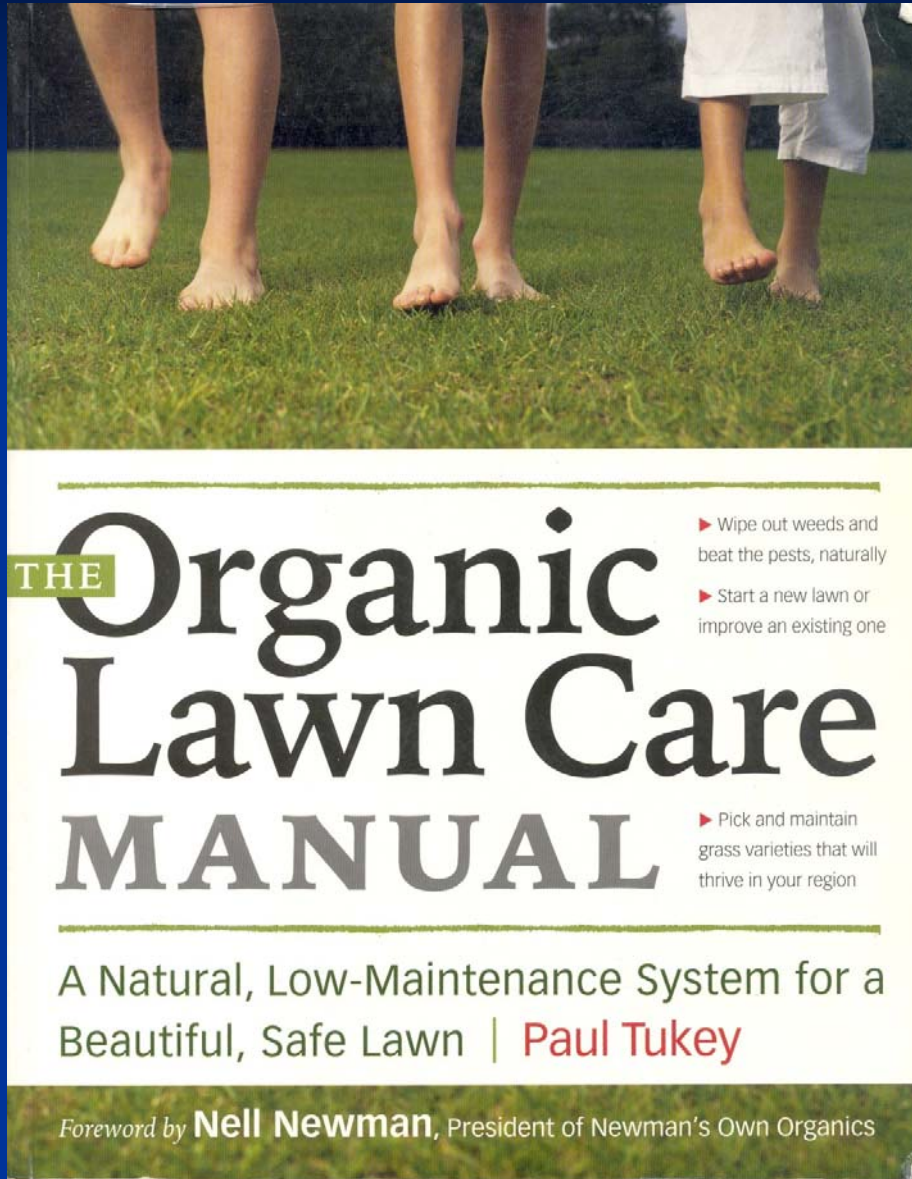
heights, high traffic and compaction, and low nutrient inputs to maintain unnecessarily high green speeds, have placed unprecedented stresses on turf grass plants, making them highly susceptible to infection.

The application of fungicides has historically been the major tactic for

controlling diseases on high quality turf grasses. Because of the ideal conditions for disease development, golf course turf grasses receive more fungicide inputs than any other agricultural or horticultural crop, with total dollars spent exceeding 20 percent of the total U.S. fungicide market. The vast majority of those

E. Nelson and M. Boehm
Cornell University
Published 2002

Research has become recommendation



Question # 6

Using compost for lawn topdressing

What is currently recommended for using compost in topdressing of lawns ?

- A. Apply 0.5 to 1.0 cm deep
- B. Apply 1.0 to 2.5 cm deep
- C. Apply 2.5 to 5.0 cm deep
- D. Use compost at installation, not for topdressing

What is currently recommended for using compost in topdressing of lawns ?

- ✓ A. Apply 0.5 to 1.0 cm deep
- B. Apply 1.0 to 2.5 cm deep
- C. Apply 2.5 to 5.0 cm deep
- D. Use compost at installation, not for topdressing

Beginning Applications

In spring of the first year, begin by cleaning up the lawn with a hand rake or a dethatching machine (see page 97). Move all debris to the compost pile. At this point, you may also consider aerating the soil if it feels compacted (see page 98).

After cleanup, top-dress the lawn with a 1/2-inch layer of compost, and spray on compost tea (see page 130). Apply fertilizers and any soil amendments based on the soil test results. If

THE Organic Lawn Care MANUAL

▶ Wipe out weeds and beat the pests, naturally

▶ Start a new lawn or improve an existing one

▶ Pick and maintain grass varieties that will thrive in your region

A Natural, Low-Maintenance System for a Beautiful, Safe Lawn | **Paul Tukey**

Foreword by **Nell Newman**, President of Newman's Own Organics

MANAGING HEALTHY SPORTS FIELDS

HOW MUCH COMPOST IS NEEDED?

To calculate how much material is needed to cover a given area, multiply the thickness of the intended topdress layer by 3.086 for cubic yards per 1,000 square feet, or multiply by 134.44 for cubic yards per acre. For example, to topdress a 1/4-inch layer of material,

$$3.086 \times 0.25 = 0.77 \text{ yd}^3 \text{ per } 1000 \text{ ft}^2, \text{ or}$$

$$134.44 \times 0.25 = 33.6 \text{ yd}^3 \text{ per acre.}$$

If the topdress mixture contains 50 percent compost, then 16.8 cubic yards of compost is needed per acre of turf per topdress application. (To convert fractions to decimals, divide the numerator by the denominator, e.g., $\frac{1}{4} = 1 \div 4 = 0.25$.)

LOW-MAINTENANCE AND CHEMICAL-FREE

PLAYING FIELDS

Section 3 WaterWise Landscaping



Regional District of North Okanagan – Greater Vernon Water

Landscape & Irrigation WaterWise Handbook



Design

It's all in the planning. The starting point to water conservation is a WaterWise design.

2

Irrigation

How to automate irrigation and reduce your landscape water use.

7

Landscaping

Improve your soil and select the best plants for our climate.

10

Troubleshooting

Still using too much water? Chase down leaks with these tips.

13



Love Your Lawn with Less Water

One inch a week will do. Learn more at www.rdno.ca/water

Overwatering can lead to overgrowth.

Too much water makes plants grow more than they should, meaning extra mowing, pruning, and fertilizing.

Check your system once a month to make sure the spray is staying on your plants and not the pavement.

Sprinkler heads are easily broken, particularly those near driveways or walkways.

Sprinkler heads can be easily replaced to reduce overspray and better fit the area you're watering.

During the monthly check, make sure that all of the sprinkler heads are directed where they

Topdress - add no more than 6mm (1/4") of topsoil mixed with compost in a thin layer over the lawn. This returns nutrients to your lawn like a fertilizer while also helping improve your soil.

Plan to topdress immediately after aerating in the spring.

If grass is well established it also helps to leave the clippings on the ground after mowing. This recycles nutrients back into the soil.

If you are regularly mowing to the recommended 6-8cm, clippings should be short and mix well into the lawn.

Train your lawn to use less water by delaying watering until June to encourage deep root growth.

An application 1 cm thick
is 1.5 cubic yards per 1000 square feet of lawn



Thank you for attending !

