

Soil Biology

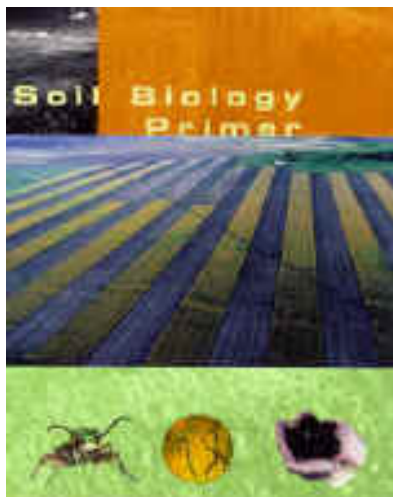
Overview

The creatures living in the soil are critical to soil quality. They affect soil structure and therefore soil erosion and water availability. They can protect crops from pests and diseases. They are central to decomposition and nutrient cycling and therefore affect plant growth and amounts of pollutants in the environment. Finally, the soil is home to a large proportion of the world's genetic diversity.

Soil Biology Technical Notes

[NRCS Soil Biology Technical Notes](#) are a series of technical publications designed to provide additional information about soil biology.

The Soil Biology Primer



The *Soil Biology Primer* is an introduction to the living component of soil and how it contributes to agricultural productivity, and air and water quality. The Primer includes units describing the soil food web and its relationship to soil health, and units about bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes, arthropods, and earthworms. It is suitable for a broad audience including farmers, ranchers, agricultural professionals, resource specialists, conservationists, soil scientists, students, and educators.

Starting with The Soil Food Web, use the navigation links above to access the web-based version of the *Primer* and additional resources. This on-line version includes all of the text of the original, but not all of the images of the soil organisms. The full story of the soil food web is more easily understood with the help of the illustrations in the printed version.

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[Clip art from the Primer](#) is available for downloading.

Printed Version

Printed copies of the Soil Biology Primer may be purchased at the Soil and Water Conservation Society online store at www.swcs.org.

How to Cite the Soil Biology Primer

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