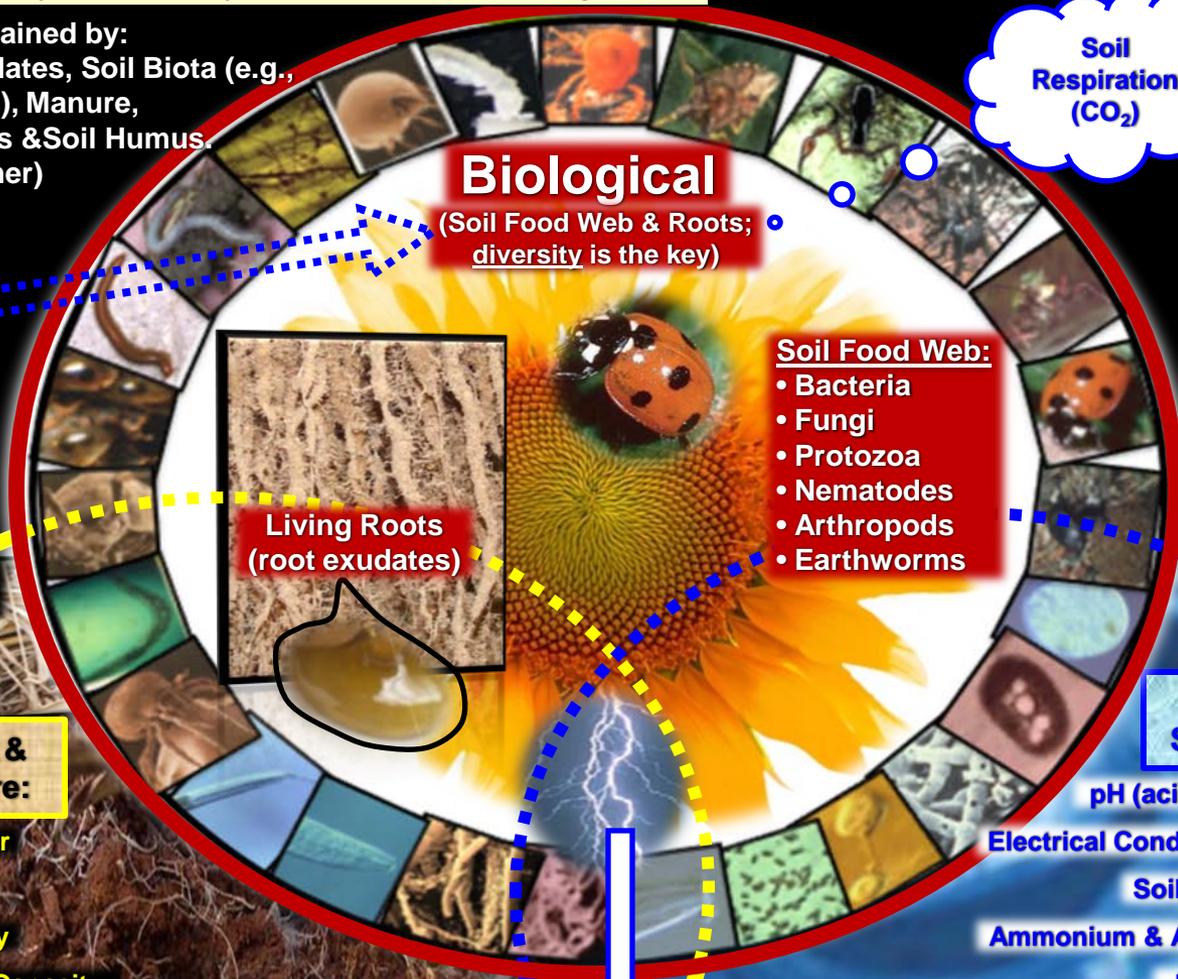


The **Soil Food Web** is sustained by: Crop Residues, Root Exudates, Soil Biota (e.g., predator-prey interactions), Manure, Compost, Plant Symbiosis & Soil Humus. (Photos: Soil Biology Primer)



Healthy Soils grow Healthy Plants, which produce Nutritious & Healthy Crops. Therefore, manage soil as an ecosystem.



Soil Temperature
Crop Residues

Soil Texture & Soil Structure:

- Soil Organic Matter
- Active Carbon
- Aggregate Stability
- Available Water Capacity
- Cation Exchange Capacity
- Infiltration
- Bulk Density
- Precipitated Minerals

Physical

Humus-Clay complexes

Soil Solution:

- pH (acidity or alkalinity)
- Electrical Conductivity (Salinity)
- Soil Moisture Tension
- Ammonium & Ammonia Nitrogen
- Nitrates/Nitrites
- Other Nutrients (Ca, Mg, K, Na, SO₄, etc.)
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Redox potential (aerobic or anaerobic)
- Dissolved CO₂

Chemical

All Physical, Chemical & Biological disturbances and inputs, will adjust the Dynamic Soil Properties to a NEW EQUILIBRIUM.

Soil Health is the KEY to Sustainable Agriculture

Soil Health is either improving, sustaining or degrading (i.e. management & cultural practices have a major effect on soil health)