

Weekly Newsletter
from Agresource Inc.
for turning waste into
opportunity

The Power of Soil Organic Matter: Building Healthier, More Productive Soils

Soil is more than just dirt—it's a living, breathing system that supports plant growth, stores carbon, and sustains ecosystems. At the heart of healthy soil is soil organic matter (SOM), a vital component that influences nearly every aspect of soil function.

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"The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share." — Lady Bird Johnson

Soil Organic Matter

What Is Soil Organic Matter?

SOM is made up of decomposed plant and animal material, along with living soil organisms. It plays a crucial role in:

- ✓ Improving soil structure – Enhances aeration and drainage while reducing compaction.
- ✓ Boosting water retention – Helps soil hold moisture, reducing drought stress.
- ✓ Supporting microbial life – Fuels beneficial bacteria and fungi that break down nutrients.
- ✓ Enhancing nutrient availability – Acts as a reservoir for essential nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus.
- ✓ Reducing erosion – Strengthens soil stability, preventing loss from wind and water.

Why Does It Matter?

Soil organic matter isn't just about fertility—it's about resilience. Soils with higher SOM levels are better equipped to withstand extreme weather, support sustainable farming, and sequester carbon to combat climate change.

How Can We Build Soil Organic Matter?

We can actively improve SOM levels through simple, sustainable practices:

- Cover Cropping: Protects soil between growing seasons and adds organic material.
- Composting: Returns valuable nutrients and organic matter to the soil.
- Reduced Tillage: Preserves soil structure and prevents carbon loss.
- Diverse Crop Rotations: Encourages biodiversity and soil health.

By investing in soil health, we create stronger agricultural systems and healthier environments for future generations.

