

NRCS Soil Health Webinar:

Soil Life in Organic Farming

The Central Role of Soil Organisms in Soil Health and Resource Conservation

December 5, 2022, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Some Resources on Soil Life and Soil Biological Functions in Organic Farming

Soil Health and Organic Farming : Understanding and Optimizing the Community of Soil Life, by Mark Schonbeck, Diana Jerkins, and Vicki Lowell, Organic Farming Research Foundation, 90 pp. *See pages 40-46 for many additional resources.*

This and nine other Soil Health guidebooks are available at <https://ofrf.org/resources/soil-health-and-organic-farming-reports/>.

Soil Biology Primer. Elaine R. Ingham, Andrew R. Moldenke, and Clive A. Edwards. 2000. Soil and Water Conservation Society, Ankeny, IA. *The classic educational booklet that introduced the soil food web to mainstream agriculture.*

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soils/soil-health/soil-biology-primer>.

Soil and Fertility Management eOrganic articles listed at <https://eorganic.org/menu/867>.

See especially:

- *Soil Microbes in Organic Cropping Systems 101*, <http://eorganic.org/node/34601>.
- *Management of Soil Microbes on Organic Farms*, <http://eorganic.org/node/34646>.

The Nature and Properties of Soils, 15th Edition. Ray R. Weil and Nyle C. Brady, 2017. Pearson. 1086 pp.

- Chapter 11 Organisms and Ecology of the Soil
- Chapter 12, Soil Organic Matter.

These chapters provide excellent science-based information in accessible language, covering major functional groups of soil organisms, their roles in soil and plant health, soil-microbe-plant-root interactions, soil health management, and a balanced assessment of microbial inoculant products.