Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association
Green Industry Winter Forum; February 12 & 13, 2025

Healthy Soils for High Functioning Landscapes

Presentation Handout

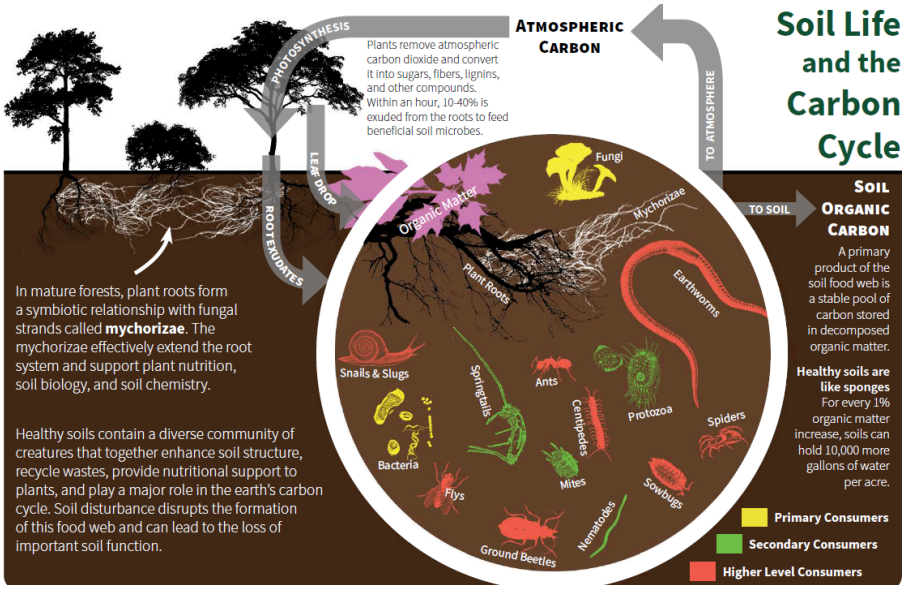
The **Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan**, released in 2023 by the MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, provides an assessment of the condition of our soils and a blueprint for how we can effectively conserve and protect, restore, and properly manage our soils to improve the vitality of nature around us and the health and quality of life of our residents. In our field, we have the opportunity to contribute to our collective climate resilience by maximizing the potential of landscapes to sequester carbon and support thriving ecosystems.

Learning Objectives

- Dive deep into the "Pedosphere" and learn about soil composition, function, and formation; including soil organic carbon (SOC), and how it interacts with the natural carbon cycle.
- Learn about the potential emissions associated with disturbing existing soil and importing blended soils + tips for avoiding these emissions with low-impact design best standards.
- Learn key best practices and innovative approaches and strategies for enhancing the carbon storage potential of soils through amendments, soil texture design, planting design, and management recommendations.
- Discuss the opportunities and challenges to shifting project management and installation practices to increase long-term soil health.

Presentation Outline

1. Overview of Soil Structure, Formation, and Function
   a. Where the 'Magic' Happens: Soil Organic Carbon
2. Soils + Construction
   a. Wetland + Fragile Ecosystem Soils: A Case Study
3. Amendments + Management
4. Summary Take-Aways + Discussion



Project Website

www.masshealthysoils.org/guide

Sebastian 'Bas' Gutwein | Lead Designer, Worker-Owner
Regenerative Design Group Cooperative
info@rdgland.coop