

Boost Your Bottom Line with Healthy Soil

Healthy soils are the foundation of a productive and sustainable farming system.



HEALTHY SOIL STARTS WITH

Diverse crop rotations

Different crops in a rotation grow in different ways and at different times of year. They are diverse in their root structures, their nutrient uptake patterns, and their relationships with soil biology and disease.

Nutrient management

Nutrient cycling in the soil depends on a community of healthy soil organisms. Feed the soil with a variety of organic amendments and crop residues, and inoculate legume crops with rhizobia to catch nitrogen from the air.



AS A RESULT, YOU WILL HAVE

Large and diverse soil community

A handful of soil can contain billions of organisms ranging from earthworms and beetles to fungi and bacteria. These organisms interact with soil minerals, plant roots, and each other to form a healthy ecosystem.

Efficient nutrient cycling

The diversity of soil organisms allows more efficient decomposition of organic matter, releasing nutrients that plants can use. Mycorrhizal fungi form a relationship with roots to more efficiently explore the soil for nutrients and water.

Reduced disease pressure

Having soil biodiversity limits disease-causing bacteria and fungi by competing with pathogens for space and resources, stimulating resistance in plants, maintaining good soil aeration, and decomposing residues that can hold disease.

For more information on soil health research, please visit: dal.ca/oacc/soil-health

