



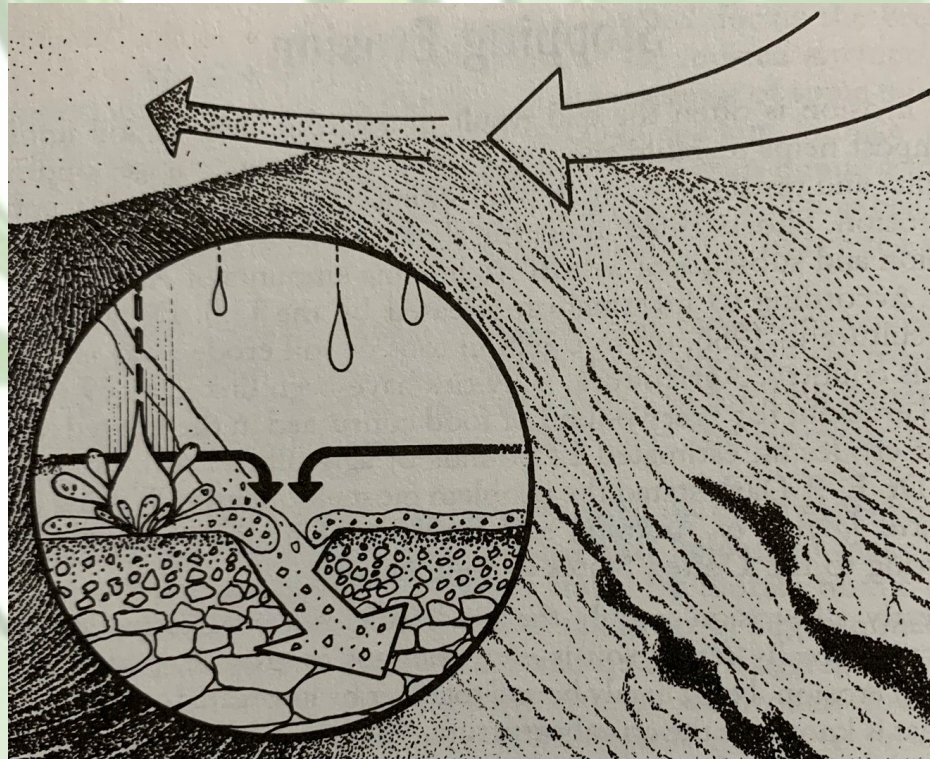
# Module 02.03: Benefits of Compost – Increase Water Holding Capacity & Aeration, Reduce Erosion

LSU AgCenter Home Composting Certificate Course

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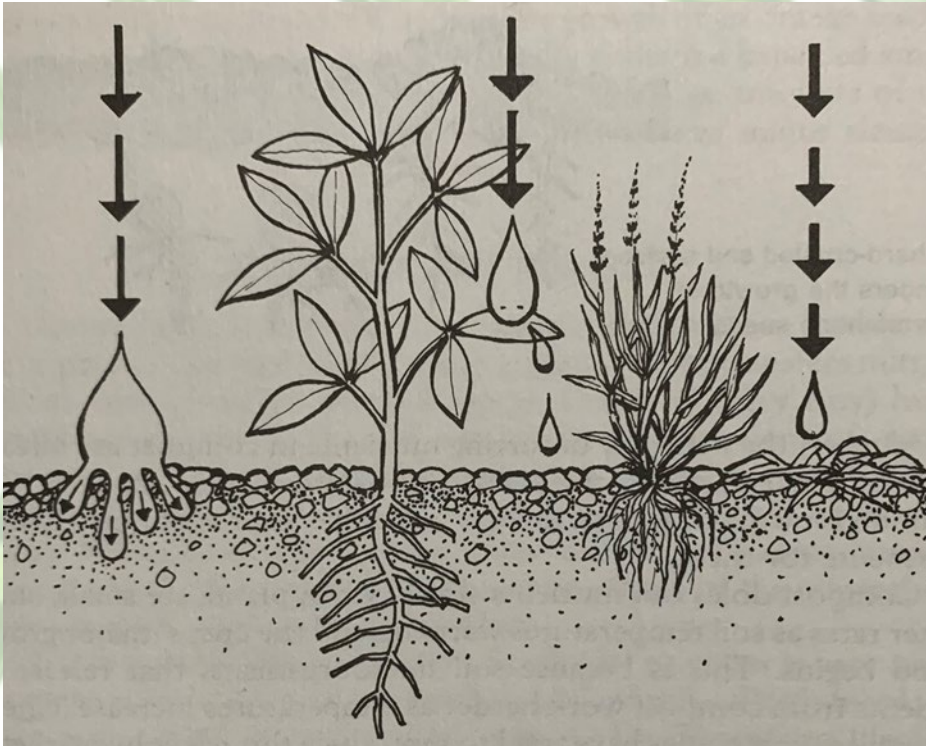
- 100 lbs. of humus will hold 195 lbs. of water.
- Better soil structure due to aggregate formation increases water penetration.
- Increased water percolation decreases runoff decreasing soil erosion.



Topsoil erosion from wind and rain when soil organic matter is low.



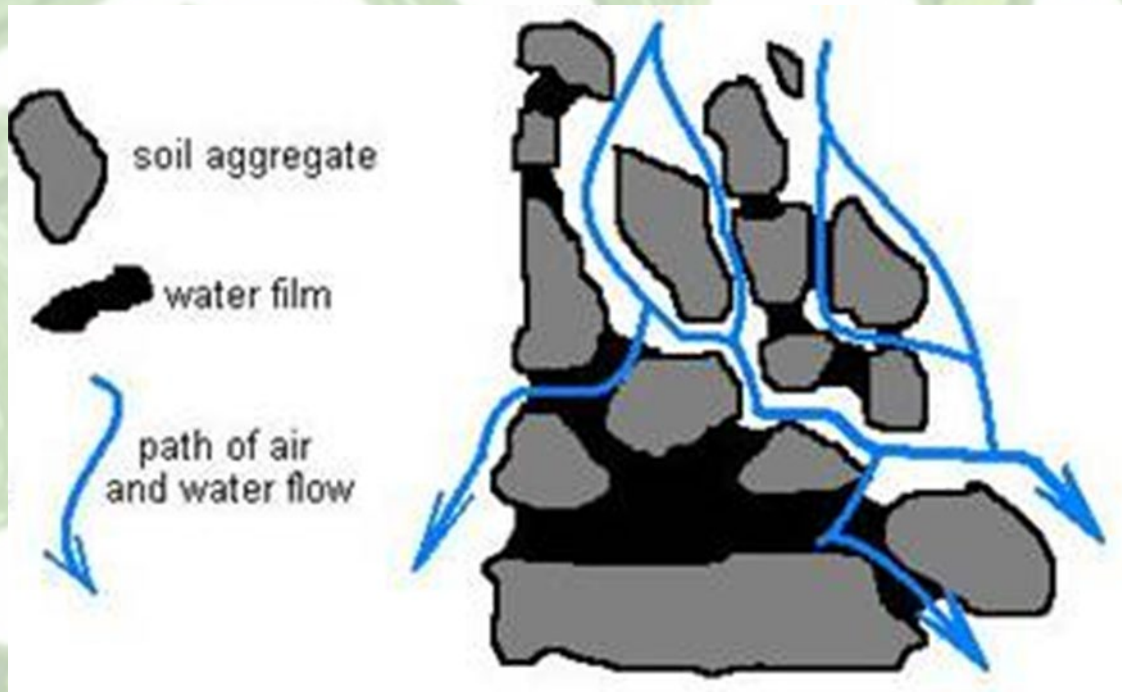
- Increased soil fertility and soil crumb structure increases plant growth and abundance.
- Decreases raindrop impact, increases water absorption, slows the flow of surface water.
- Deep healthy plant roots hold the soil in place.





Good soil aeration is essential for:

- $\text{CO}_2/\text{O}_2$  gas exchange
- Aerobic beneficial soil organisms (including mycorrhizae)
- Chemical conversion of soil components to forms plants can utilize as nutrients







Please post all your questions and results to the message board .