

Soil Biology:
Understanding It Will Make
Your Thumb Greener!
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Landscaping Tips with Biology In Mind

- Assess soil for physical
 - Compaction, waterlogging
- Mineral assessment
 - Determine if any deficiencies
 - Understand organic matter in existing soil
- Soil Biology assessment
 - Populations/diversity
 - Disease causing microbes?

Landscaping Tips with Biology In Mind (con't)

- Turf – bacterially dominated but with some fungi.
- Shrubs/Trees/Woody Plants – fungally dominated
- Fertilizers promote bacterial soils (weeds)
- Mulches, composts are fungal foods
- Don't mix different successional plants together (turf and trees) – Mulch beds around tree bases

Landscaping Tips with Biology In Mind (con't)

- Try to de-compact soil before planting
- Amend soil to increase organic matter to at least 3%
- Shrubs need 50/50 sand and organic matter for best results
- Address drainage issues – **difficult to resolve – ideally address prior to construction**
- Find shady spot in your yard, build leaf and wood chip pile and keep moist

What Does Soil Life Organics do?

- Full soil assessment
 - Compaction, waterlogging
 - Mineral analysis
 - Biological analysis
 - Report
- Make composts and amendments with full soil food web present
- Design-build solutions

Great Resources

- You Tube videos of:
 - Dr. Elaine Ingham
 - Dr. David Johnson/Chico State Univ
 - Dr. Christine Jones
 - Dr. James White/Rutgers Univ. (rhizophagy)
- Podcasts:
 - Regenerative Agriculture/John Kempf
- Websites:
 - www.soilfoodweb.com
 - www.bionutrient.org
 - <https://attra.ncat.org>