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Organic Matter (OM) is a barometer of soil health. The population of organisms that is supported by soil organic matter is of immeasurable benefit to plants. More OM means more decomposers that recycle nutrients from plant and animal residues much faster. Hence, more nitrogen fixing and mineralizing bacteria; more native beneficial organisms that help dissolve mineral, translocate water from soil depths and help control pathogenic fungi; while promoting more humus that increases the water retention and nutrient holding capacity of the soil. Humus acts like a sponge in the soil which expands and contracts as its moisture level changes. This activity within the soil increases porosity, which improves the movement of air and water throughout the soil system. As all these organisms travel through their own life cycles, they create even more organic matter.

High Organic Matter is so important because it increases the life span of any given soil by inhibiting weathering forces such as wind and water from destroying it beyond its most productive stage.

MicroSoil works best when the soil's Organic Matter is a minimum of about 2% (1% OM is required by the plant and the other 1% OM is required by the soil microorganisms). The reason for this is that the nitrogen (N) serves the microorganisms as much as, if not more than, it serves the plants. Therefore, if there is only enough nitrogen (i.e. 1%) in the soil for either the plant or the bacteria, the bacteria will **always get it – **which leaves the plants deficient in nitrogen.****

(Reference: Edaphos: Dynamics of a Natural Soil System / Paul D. Sachs)