



Soil Foodweb Inc.

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Soil and Compost Foodweb Analysis

Client: Gina Kelsch

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Sample Received: 02/02/2000

Date Mailed: 2-17-2001

Plant: Fescues

Mid-bacterial-dominated

Invoice # 1812

Summer

Grower:

Organism Biomass Data

| Sample # | Treatment | Dry Weight of 1 gram Fresh Material | Active Bacterial Biomass (µg/g) | Total Bacterial Biomass (µg/g) | Active Fungal Biomass (µg/g) | Total Fungal Biomass (µg/g) | Hyphal Diameter (µm) | Protozoa Numbers /g | | | Total Nematode Numbers (#/g) | Percent Mycorrhizal Colonization of Root |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------|----------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | Flagellates | Amoebae | Ciliates | | |
| 82007 | Top of slope | 0.72 | 38 | 432 | 7.4 | 205 | 2.5 | 212,965 | 387,203 | 81 | 33.5 | NR |
| 82008 | Bottom of slope | 0.71 | 31 | 329 | 5.1 | 101 | 2.5 | 19,460 | 64,655 | 1,946 | 11.3 | NR |

Bold means low

OK Excellent Excellent Low, need to add fungal foods Both in good range, but need to balance bacteria, so need fungal foods OK Excellent numbers, great nutrient cycling at top of slope, but lack of oxygen in soil at bottom of slope. Need to improve drainage Water bear present in 82008, indicative of wet conditions Great number at top of slope, touch low at bottom, probably more the result of anaerobic conditions

| Desired Range | Field Capacity | 10 - 25 | 150 - 300 | 5 - 20 | 100 - 200 | (A) | 5,000+ | 5,000+ | 50 - 100 | 20 - 30 | 40%- 80' |
|---------------|----------------|---------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----|--------|--------|----------|---------|----------|
|---------------|----------------|---------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----|--------|--------|----------|---------|----------|

(A) Hyphal diameter of 2.0 indicates mostly actinomycete hyphae, 2.5 indicates community is mainly ascomycete, typical soil fungi for grasslands, diameters of 3.0 or higher indicate community is dominated by highly beneficial fungi, a Basidiomycete community.

Season, moisture, soil and organic matter must be considered in determining optimal foodweb structure. If sample information, such as pesticide, fertilizer tillage, irrigation are not included on the submission form, sender's locale is used. One report is sent to the mailing address on the submission form.

82008 had a water bear in it as well.

Organism Ratios

| Sample # | Treatment | Total Fungal to Total Bacterial Biomass | Active to Total Fungal Biomass | Active to Total Bacterial Biomass | Active Fungal to Active Bacterial Biomass | Plant Available N Supply from Predators (lbs/ac) | Root-Feeding Nematode Presence |
|----------|-----------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 82007 | Top of slope | 0.47 | 0.04 | 0.09 | 0.19 | 400+ | None detected |
| 82008 | Bottom of slope | 0.31 | 0.05 | 0.10 | 0.16 | 300 but N loss | None detected |
| | | Fescue needs more fungal biomass, add fungal foods | Need fungal foods to retain nutrients, bind soil even more, improve disease suppression | OK | Very bacterial, need to encourage fungi more. Add fungal foods | Anaerobic conditions at bottom of slope, need to improve soil structure | Excellent that not plant-pests were detected, but need to improve beneficial nematodes |
| Desired | Range | (1) | (2) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |

- (1) Brassica: 0.2-0.5; Row crops: 0.6 to 1.2; Early successional grass: 0.5-0.75; Late successional grass: 0.8 to 1.5; Berries, shrubs, vines: 2-5; Deciduous Trees: 5-10; Conifer: 10-100.
- (2) Warm spring, early summer: 0.25 to 0.95; Early spring, late winter & mid-summer: 0.10 to 0.15; Fall rain: 0.15 to 0.20; Drought/frozen soil/heavy metal/many pesticides: 0.05 or lower. Values greater than indicated mean the organisms are recovering from a negative impact. Values lower mean organisms are not recovering and help is needed, typically addition of their food resource is required.
- (3) Generally 1:1 results in good soil aggregate structure in crop soil; 2 to 5 for deciduous trees; 5 for conifers. Values above 1:1 mean soil pH may be decreasing, values less than 1:1 means pH increasing. Anaerobic conditions generally will result in extremely low soil pH.
- (4) Based on release of N from protozoan and nematode consumption of bacteria and fungi (see Ingham et al. 1985). Often protozoa and nematodes compete for food resources. When one is high, the other may be low. Also, if predator numbers are high, the prey may have low numbers.
- (5) Identification to genus.

