



Managing Soil for Organic Production

Morro Bay Organic Production Seminar

JUNE 30, 2011

HEALTHYSOIL



EFFECTIVE
Soil
Management

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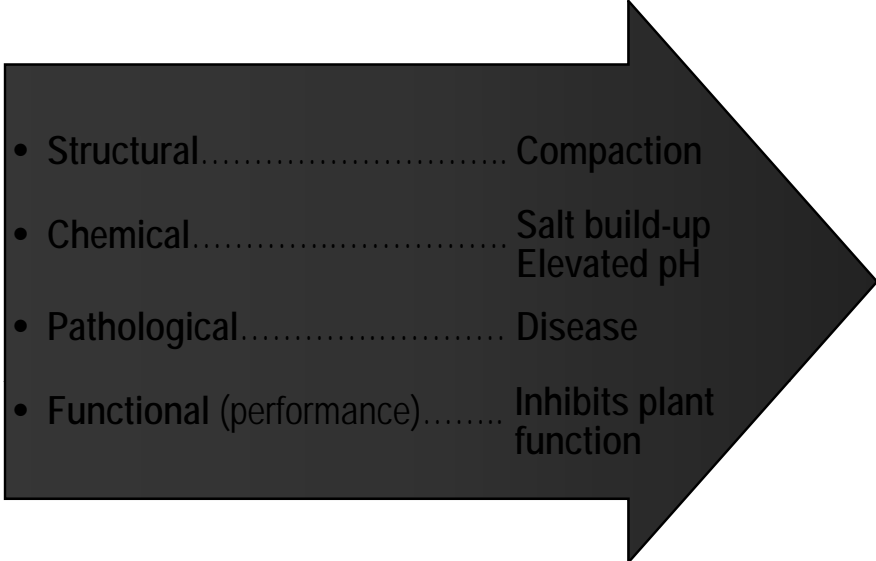
SOLUTION
to
Production
Challenges

- Managing requires *monitoring*
- Management is a **process** not a product

HEALTHY SOIL IS...

- Not just an anchor
- A living, dynamic environment
- In a state of well-being (biological, chemical, physical)
- Not diseased or infirmed
- Able to reach its full potential and resist degradation
- A provider of long-term agronomic benefits
- *A key contributor to optimal plant health + function*

THE CHALLENGES

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- Structural..... Compaction
 - Chemical..... Salt build-up
Elevated pH
 - Pathological..... Disease
 - Functional (performance)..... Inhibits plant
function

- By definition:
 - 45% Minerals
 - 25% Water
 - 25% Air
 - 5% Organic Matter

KEY MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE:

Create water-stable aggregates in soil.

- Enables water to:
 - Pass vertically through soil (infiltration)
 - Move laterally through soil (dispersement)
 - Resist gravity
 - Remain accessible for plant uptake

WATER STABLE AGGREGATES



Water movement provides:

- Oxygen
- Water
- Nutrients

...resulting in a healthy soil environment.

STEPS TO CREATE HEALTHY SOIL:



1. Establish/maintain a diverse, functional and robust soil foodweb
2. Condition soil aggressively
3. Provide major, minor and trace minerals
4. Understand your inputs (make-up, source, quality)
5. Develop a management "tool box"
6. Measure and monitor

- Reduces **water** use
- Improves **fertilizer** efficiency
- Retains / recycles **nutrients**
- Enables efficient **leaching**
- Provides **disease suppression**
- **Relieves compaction**
- Promotes healthy root system

LOWERS PRODUCTION COSTS

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