



Summit for Recycling
&
Rocky Mountain Composting Symposium

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield Farms

Rutger Myers, Soil Health Technician

August 23 - 24, 2022 Aurora, Colorado



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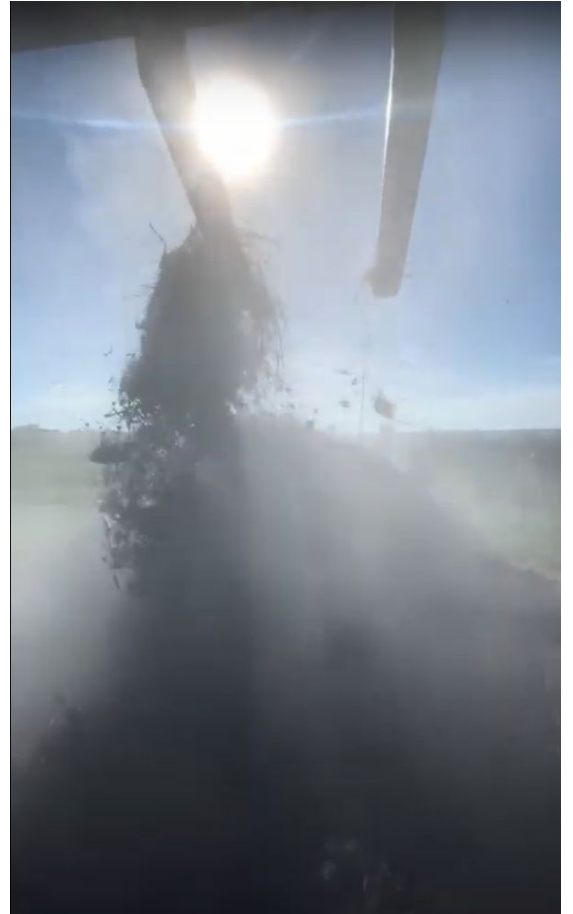
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Elaine

THE SOIL FOOD WEB

Our soil teems with a multitude of organisms which provide the necessary work for healthy plants to grow free from disease, pests and infertility. These interconnected interactions and feeding relationships (quite literally, "who eats who") help determine the types of nutrients present in soil, its depth and pH, and even the types of plants which can grow.

ORGANIC MATTER
(waste, residue and metabolites from plants, animals and microbes)

PLANTS
(shoots + roots)

FUNGI
(mycorrhizal + saprophytic)

BACTERIA

PROTOZOA
(amoebae, flagellates, and ciliates)

NEMATODES
(fungal and bacterial-feeders)

NEMATODES
(Root-Feeders)

ARTHROPODS
(shredders)

ARTHROPODS
(Predators)

BIRDS

ANIMALS

NEMATODES
(Predators)

[ELAINE'S NOTE TO FARMERS:
Making a more vibrant soil food web begins with making good compost. Properly composted organic wastes are worth their weight in platinum.]



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Resources

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Denver Master Composters
Soil Food Web

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