

What affects your soil biology?

Many crop practices (tillage, fallow land, flooding and crop rotation) contribute to decreasing the beneficial biology, such as mycorrhizal fungi population, in your agricultural soils. For example, it is well known that crops following Brassicaceae plants (canola and mustard), in a rotation generally tend to demonstrate reduced yield, compared to results when seeded after another crop. It can largely be explained by the relationship (or lack of relationship) between Brassicaceae and beneficial microorganisms, such as mycorrhizae^A. Canola roots exude a toxic compound that reduces populations of those beneficial microorganisms in the soil. Furthermore, the "absence of a mycorrhizal host plant during the fallow period decreases mycorrhizal colonization potential for the succeeding crop and results in P deficiency symptoms in plants that are mycorrhizal dependent, such as corn, soybean, sunflower, and cotton." B

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- D. Jones, C. E. 2009. Mycorrhizal fungi powerhouse of the soil. Evergreen Farming 8:4-5.
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Reach more nutrients and water

Sufficient nutrient and water uptake is critical for effective plant growth and ultimately to maximize your yield potential, especially for low mobility nutrients such as P and Zn.^C By adding a mycorrhizal inoculant, the plant develops a secondary root system (mycorrhizal hyphae) allowing it a larger soil contact surface and thus better to access to nutrients and water. "The absorptive area of mycorrhizal hyphae is approximately 10 times more efficient than that of root hairs and about 100 times more efficient than that of roots." ^D

Ensure early P uptake

"Phosphorus plays a critical role in energy reactions in the plant [such as photosynthesis. Phosphorus is also a key component in building blocs for plant.] Deficits can influence essentially all energy requiring processes in plant metabolism. Phosphorus stress early in the growing season can restrict crop growth, which can carry through to reduce final crop yield." E Mycorrhizae make soil phosphorus (P) more available to the plant, and actively absorb and transfer it via the mycorrhizal filament network (hyphae) directly to the root.

Increase your yield potential

By introducing mycorrhizal inoculant close to the seed at seeding, you get the association working early with the full benefits of increased nutrient and water uptake when plants need them. Therefore, get more out of the fertilizer you have already invested into the crop.

