Importance of Soil Health/Management For Blueberry Production



Adam M. Coulter
Resource Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rationale of Presentation

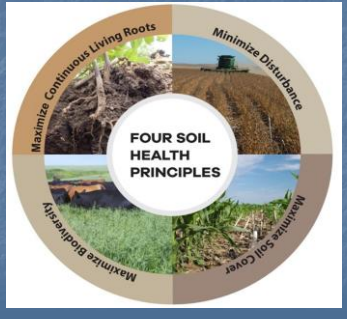
1. Importance of Soil Health
2. Basic Soil Factors Influencing Blueberry Production
3. Management Strategies

What is Soil Health?

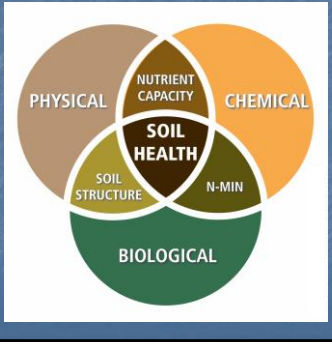
The continued capacity of a soil……
to function as a vital living ecosystem
that sustains plants, animals and humans.

Viewing and managing soils as a
wholistic
physical, chemical and biologic system

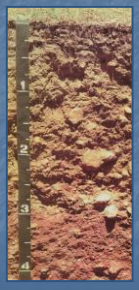
Principles of Soil Health



Soil Health Balance



Limiting Factor of Local Soils



Improper Drainage

Clay Content

Compaction

Low Organic Matter

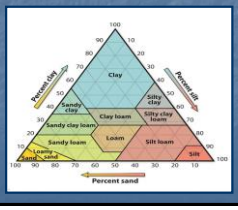
Soil Texture

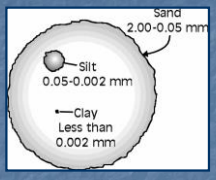
Blueberry plants need:

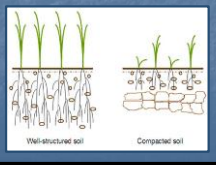
Well-drained soil

Particle Size

Root Growth







Management Strategy for Soil Texture

1. Contoured Berms, Raised Beds
2. Soil Amendments
3. Mulching

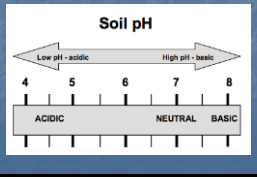
Soil Chemistry

Blueberry plants need:

1. Acidic soils

4.5-5.5

Iron, Ammonium , Macro & Micro Nutrient Availability



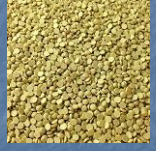
Management Strategy for Soil Chemistry

1. Soil Amendments

pH levels

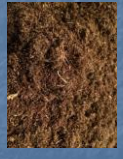
Sustained Fertilization

Commercial Acidifiers



Elemental Sulfur

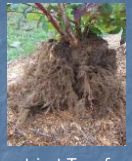
Ammonium Sulfate



Peat Moss

Soil Biology

Blueberry plants need:

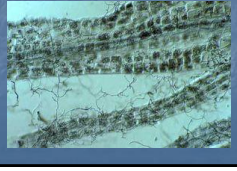


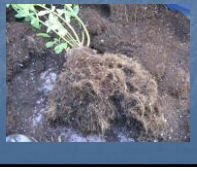
1. Bacteria, Fungi and Nematodes

5:1 Ratio of Fungi to Bacteria

Ericoid Endomycorrhizae

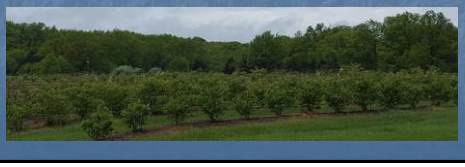
Root Development, Nutrient Uptake/ Micronutrient Transfer





Management Strategy for Soil Biology

1. Soil Amendments
2. Compost
3. Mulching

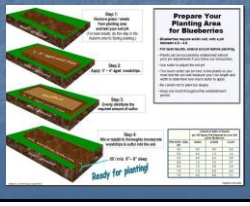


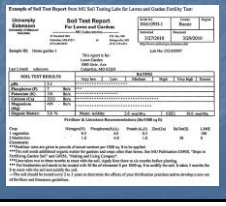
Home Gardening

Home Gardening

Summary

1. Prepare soil bed before planting
2. Take regular annual or bi-annual annual tests
3. Think of soil as a long-term investment
4. You are the expert.





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