

Landscapes on Healthy Soil

By Jim McClain

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Landscapers are charged with maintaining the beauty of properties surrounding buildings, both commercial and residential. As most of us know all too well, it takes effort, expensive materials, and time to have a good-looking landscape and lawn. However, most just look at and concentrate on what they see – the flowers, lawn, shrubs, and trees. However, it makes our job easier if we devote some attention to what is below the surface, the soil that supports the growth of that we admire. If we work to build Healthy Soil (please see my article on Healthy Soil), not only will we have beautiful surroundings, but its sustainability will cost less long-term.

The soil is a teeming mass of life or should be and includes microbes, beetles, bugs, worms, and organic matter. Together they work as an ecosystem to support our Lawns and Landscapes as well as contribute to general health. The soil also returns oxygen to our air and removes CO₂ and other pollutants.

Most focus on inputs like chemical fertilizer, disease and pest control agents, and spend fortunes on water control systems. However, the most overlooked soil-moisture control are microbes. Soil microbes help structure the soil so that it holds moisture during draughts and releases moisture when there is too much. In a documented case in 2012 in Mississippi, there were two fields of corn one treated with BIOMAX Soil Enhancer with SumaGrow™ and one untreated. That year there was record heat and no rain. The treated field had above average corn yield while the untreated field did not germinate - zero yield. Adding our microbes will improve lawn and plant root structures – deeper and larger root systems which lead to hardier lawns and shrubs that are more disease and weather resistant. When applying BIOMAX Soil Enhancer with SumaGrow™ reduce the normal fertilizer application by 50%. (Chemical fertilizers kill soil microbes.) In addition to better looking lawns and landscapes, soil and water toxicity are reduced. BIOMAX Soil Enhancer is cheaper than the replaced fertilizer.

Public landscapes, lawns, and even golf courses use recycled water that has a high saline content. BIOMAX Soil Enhance with SumaGrow™ remediates the soil from recycled water. A study conducted by the City of Costa Mesa in Southern California that after the first application of BIOMAX Soil Enhancer saline buildup was decreased.

Another mark of healthy soil is organic matter (OM) content. The greater the organic matter the higher the soil's water content. Microbes work with other soil life to process clippings and leaves into soil organic matter to promote plant growth and raise the soil's water content. Those who manage sloped areas should be very interested in this approach. The increased water content will slow and eventually prevent soil and slope erosion. As OM content increases in the soil, water content increases and will slow soil and slope erosion.

Chemical fertilizers and pest and disease agents kill soil microbes. Without the aid of microbes to aid plant metabolism, more fertilizer and more water are needed to achieve that gorgeous

landscape and lawn. The accumulation of the chemicals toxicifies the soil and water supply from the excess runoff. Adding BIOMAX Soil Enhancer with SumaGrow to your lawn and landscapes is the efficient way to reduce fertilizer and control soil water content and improve the health of the soil beneath your landscapes and lawns.

I am available for further conversation at jim.mcclain1842@sbcglobal.net or call me at 714-728-0376. I look forward to speaking with you. Have a good day and stay safe. Much Success! Jim