

Soil Scrutiny

"Soil forms a shallow layer in the earth's surface where plants take root and extract nutrients and water, and to which all life returns on death" (Springett 1981)

SOIL COMPONENTS

Tick ☒ any of these soil components which you find in this soil

Minerals	Organic Matter	Water	Air	Soil Organisms
Clay Sand Silt ☐	Dead plant and animal material that is now decaying ☐	Small spaces (Micropores) in the soil that hold water. ☐	Large spaces (Macropores) in the soil that allow air and water movement. ☐	•Roots •Living Organisms Mesofauna-larger animals that burrow and tunnel -ants -termites -earthworms Microfauna -move in existing spaces. Microflora -immobile and microscopic ☐
Minerals form the framework of soil.	Organic matter provides nutrients for recycling and increases the water holding capacity of soil.	Water is needed by plants to grow	Air is needed by plants and soil organisms, to breath.	A range of soil organisms are needed to break down the organic matter.

Optimum soil structure consists of:

45% soil nutrients
5% organic matter
25% air
25% water
Ph of 6.3



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