

What is compost?

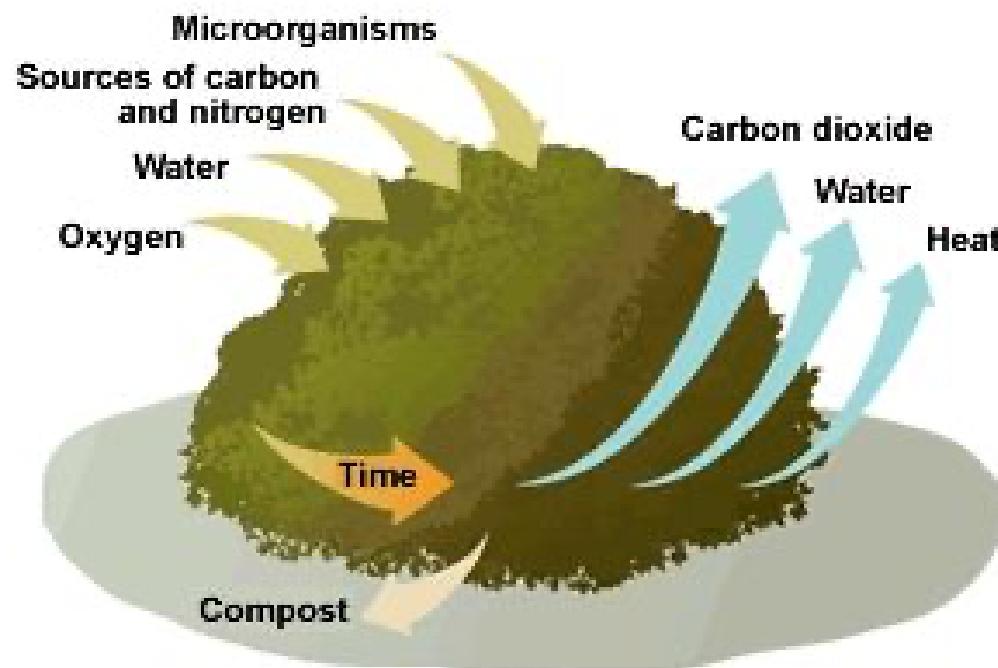
A valuable, functional soil-like product resulting from aerobic microbial decomposition of “fresh” organic materials.

It is:

- **Aerobic** ... at least in the end
- **Alive**, rich in organic matter and organisms
- **Stable**, slowly changing
- Weed “clean”
- **Variable** , esp. w/ feedstocks
- Enriches soils and supports plant vigor



Where does compost come from? The Composting Process



Graphic Courtesy Waste Agency of Catalonia

https://residus.gencat.cat/es/ambits_dactuacio/valoritzacio_reciclatge/installacions_de_gestio/tractament_biologic/el_compostatge/

Home Composting



Photo courtesy Joe the Gardener

Community Composting



Photo Courtesy Biocycle Magazine

On-Farm Composting

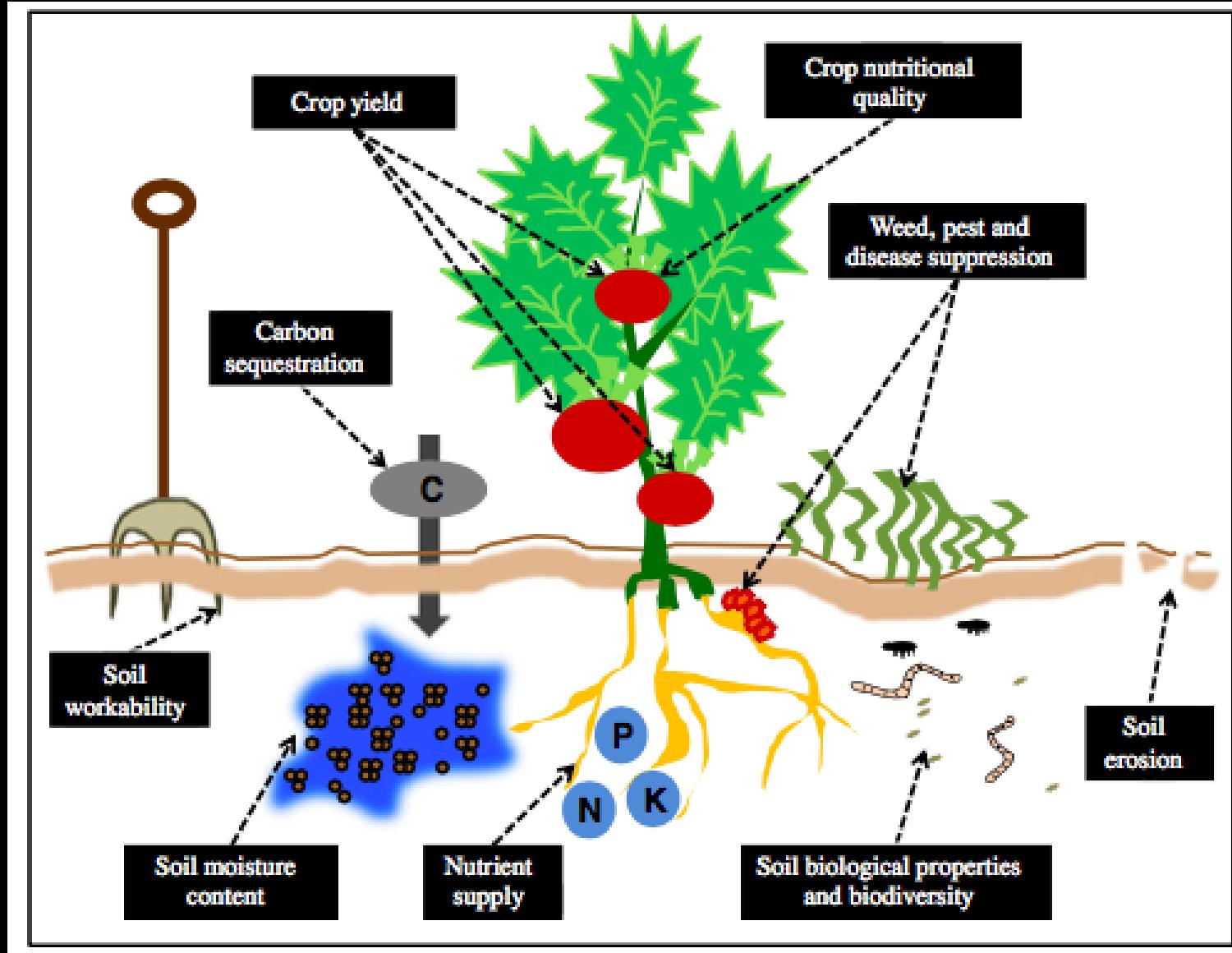


Photo Courtesy Bob Rynk

Commercial/Municipal Composting



Soil and plant benefits of compost



Slide courtesy of Dr. Huijie Gan, Cornell University (after Martinez-Blanco et al. 2013)

A Compost Miracle

Transformation of Bob's rock-hard front lawn into a verdant plant space

