





Typical Numbers of Soil Organisms in Healthy Ecosystems

| | Ag Land | Prairie | Forest |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Organisms per gram (teaspoon) of soil | | | |
| Bacteria | 100 mil. -1 bil. | 100 mil. -1 bil. | 100 mil. -1 bil. |
| Fungi | Several yards | 10s – 100's of yds | 1-40 miles (in conifers) |
| Protozoa | 1000's | 1000's | 100,000's |
| Nematodes | 10-20 | 10's – 100's | 100's |
| Organisms per square foot | | | |
| Arthropods | < 100 | 500-2000 | 10,000-25,000 |
| Earthworms | 5-30 | 10-50 | 10-50 (0 in conifers) |

Image courtesy of NRCS



