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Soil glossary

Green Manure- A cover crop planted from seed, grown until just before seed set, then dug into the soil. The cover crop decomposes, improving the structure and nutrition of the soil.

Humus- Organic matter in a highly-decayed state, rich in plant nutrient ions, and very retentive of water when added to soil.

Loam- A soil that contains 7-20% clay, 28-50% silt and less than 52% sand, which has an ideal structure for cultivation and plant growth.

Mycorrhizae- The symbiotic relationship between fungi and plants.

Soil Amendment- A substance added to the soil to alter one or more of its physical or chemical properties such water retention, water infiltration, permeability, drainage, aeration and structure.

Soil Structure- The way sand, silt & clay are naturally bonded together as aggregates.

Soil Texture- The relative proportions of (inorganic) particles of sand, silt & clay in the soil.