

Functions of Soil Components

1.Humus: it is made up of dead animals and plants that are decomposed by bacteria. The end products are salts such as phosphates, ammonium and nitrates. When dissolved in water they become available to the plants and provide them with nutrients needed for growth. Humus:

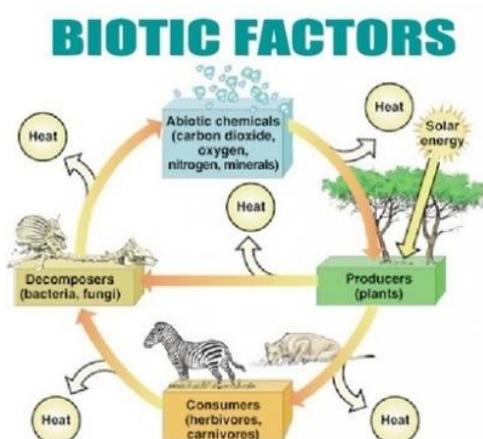
- a. Improves texture- cause soil to clump increasing aeration.
- b. Absorbs moisture and reduce drainage retaining essential salts.
- c. Provides a source of food for animals that live in the soil.

2.Mineral particles: allows the roots to absorb when dissolved in water. It can also affect pH of the soil making it impossible for some organism to inhabit.

3.Rock particles: provide anchorage for plants.

4.Air: aerobic organisms use the oxygen available, the roots also use oxygen. If there is a lack of oxygen it will result in poor root growth. If oxygen is not being circulated the soil is said to be infertile.

5.Water: needed for metabolic processes such as photosynthesis.



Biotic factor: help to maintain soil fertility. Decaying animals along with their waste serves to improve fertility.