



**LOWERING
EARTH'S
TEMPERATURE
WITH
COMPOST**



SAN FRANCISCO













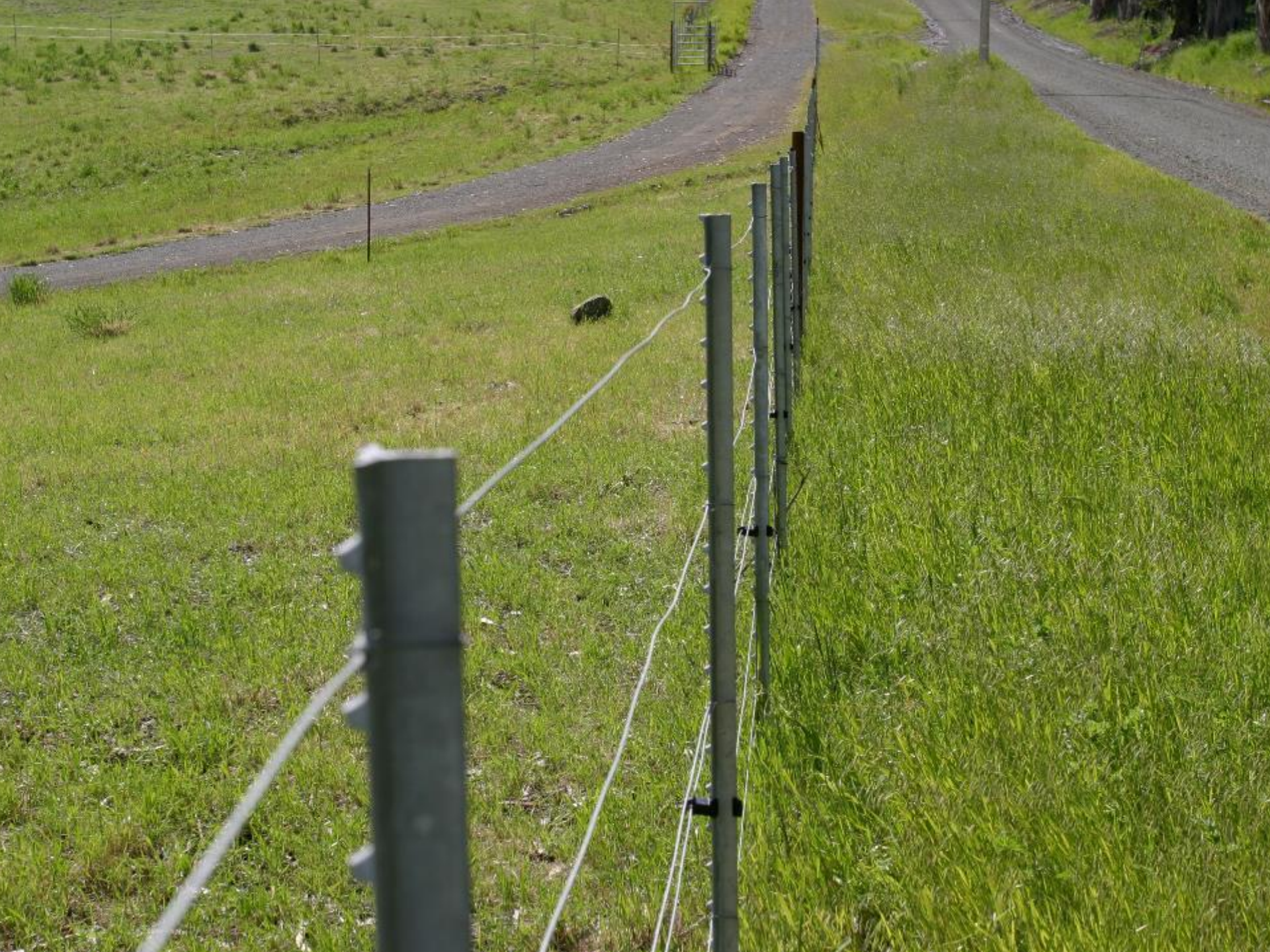




















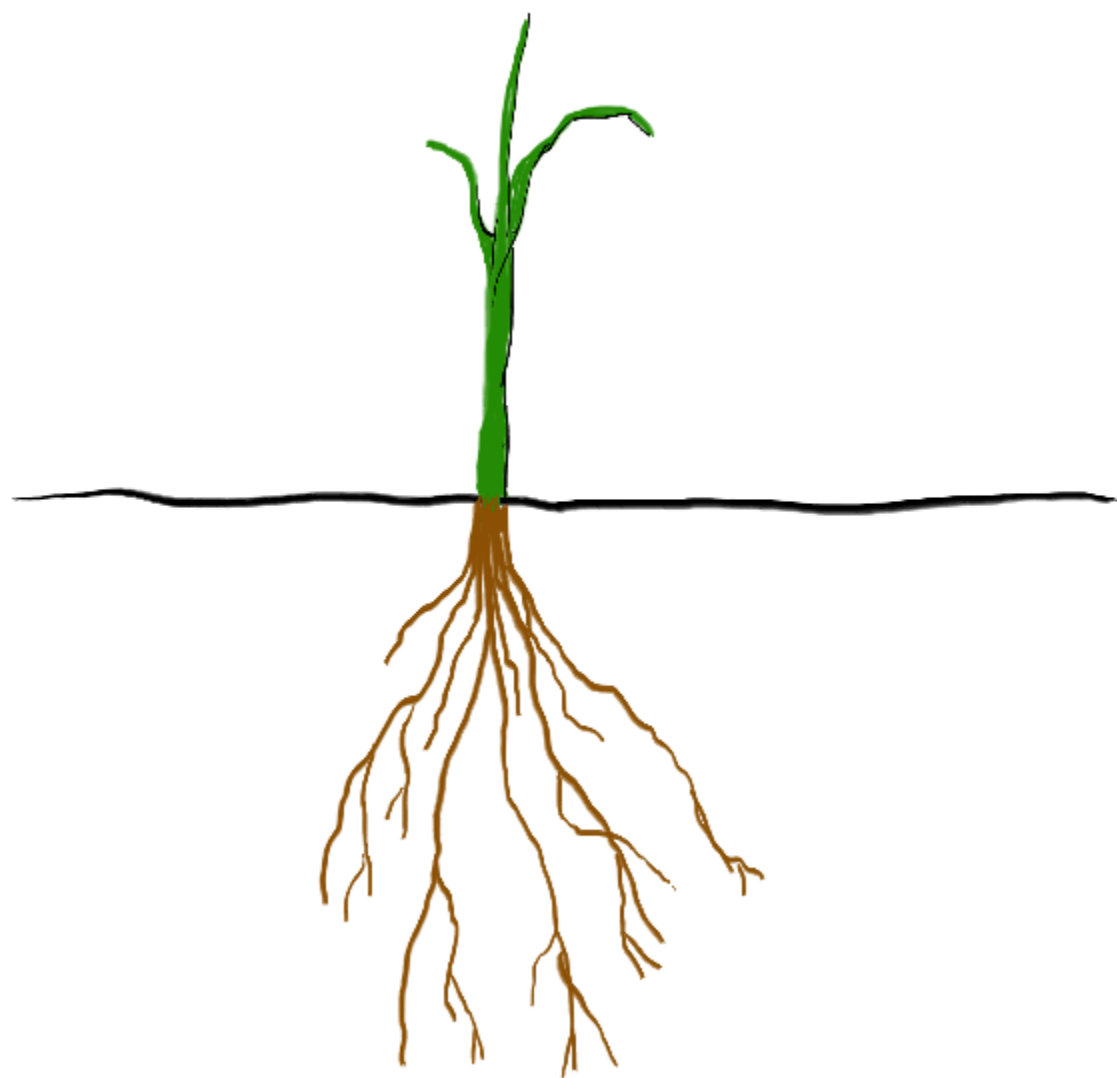




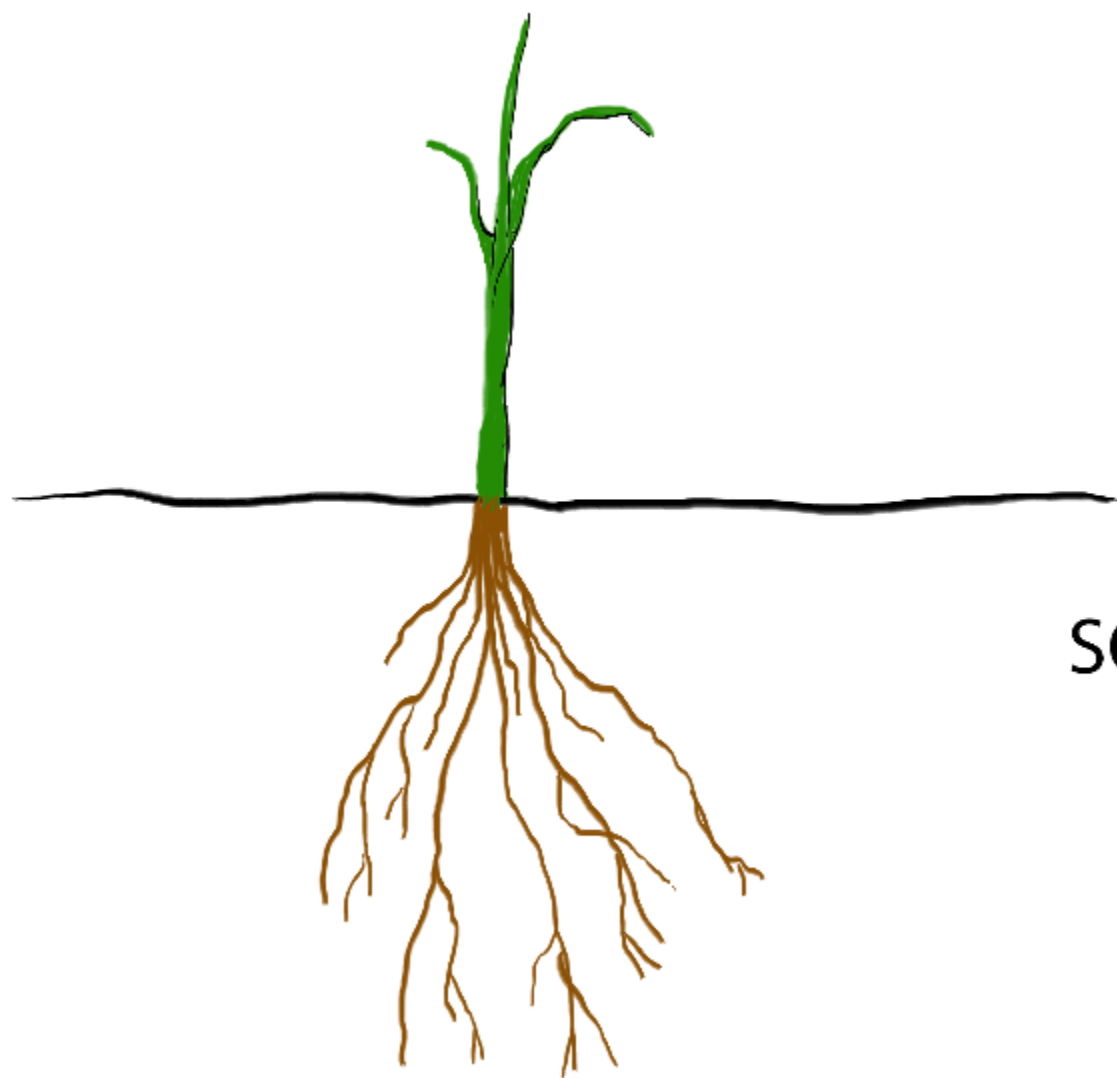
That's **50,000 lbs.**
of weight gain
from eating fresh grass
that did not exist
six months ago.

Grass plants are straws
that **sip carbon from the air.**

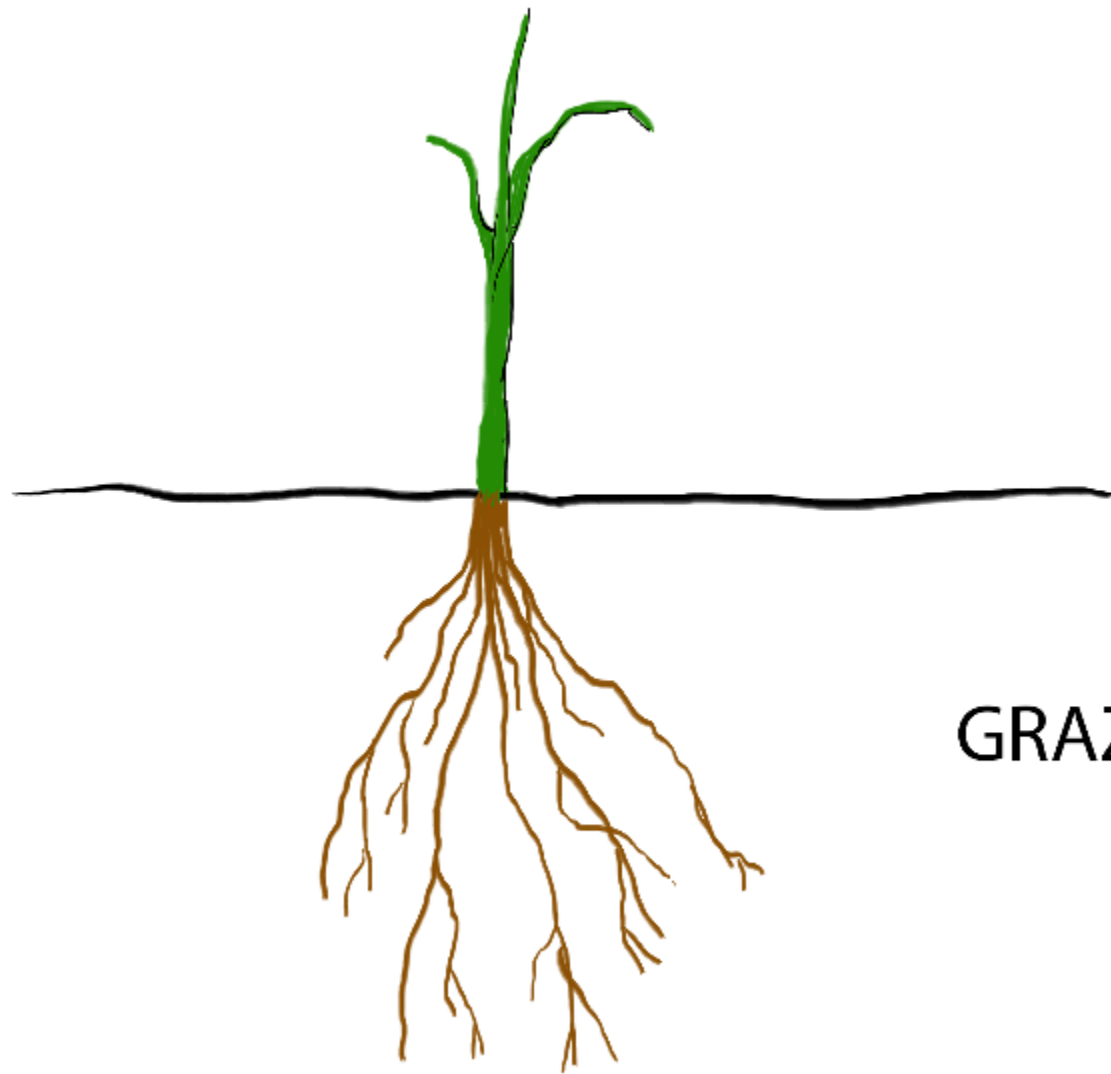




Only PLANTS
[and some bacteria]
can make SUGAR
from CO₂!



SOIL ORGANIC MATTER
"SOM"
is approx. 50%
CARBON
"C"



DR. CREQUE
MEASURED
SIGNIFICANT
INCREASES IN
SOIL ORGANIC
MATTER FROM
GRAZING MANAGEMENT
AND COMPOST
APPLICATIONS.

IN FACT,
DR. CREQUE HAS
INCREASED
S.O.M.
FROM 1% TO 12%
IN THE SOILS
OF THE
McEVOY RANCH
IN MARIN.



Darren Doherty, Australian Keyline Expert

“A **1.6%** increase of the organic matter in the soils of all the arable lands on Earth would stop and reverse global warming within a decade.”

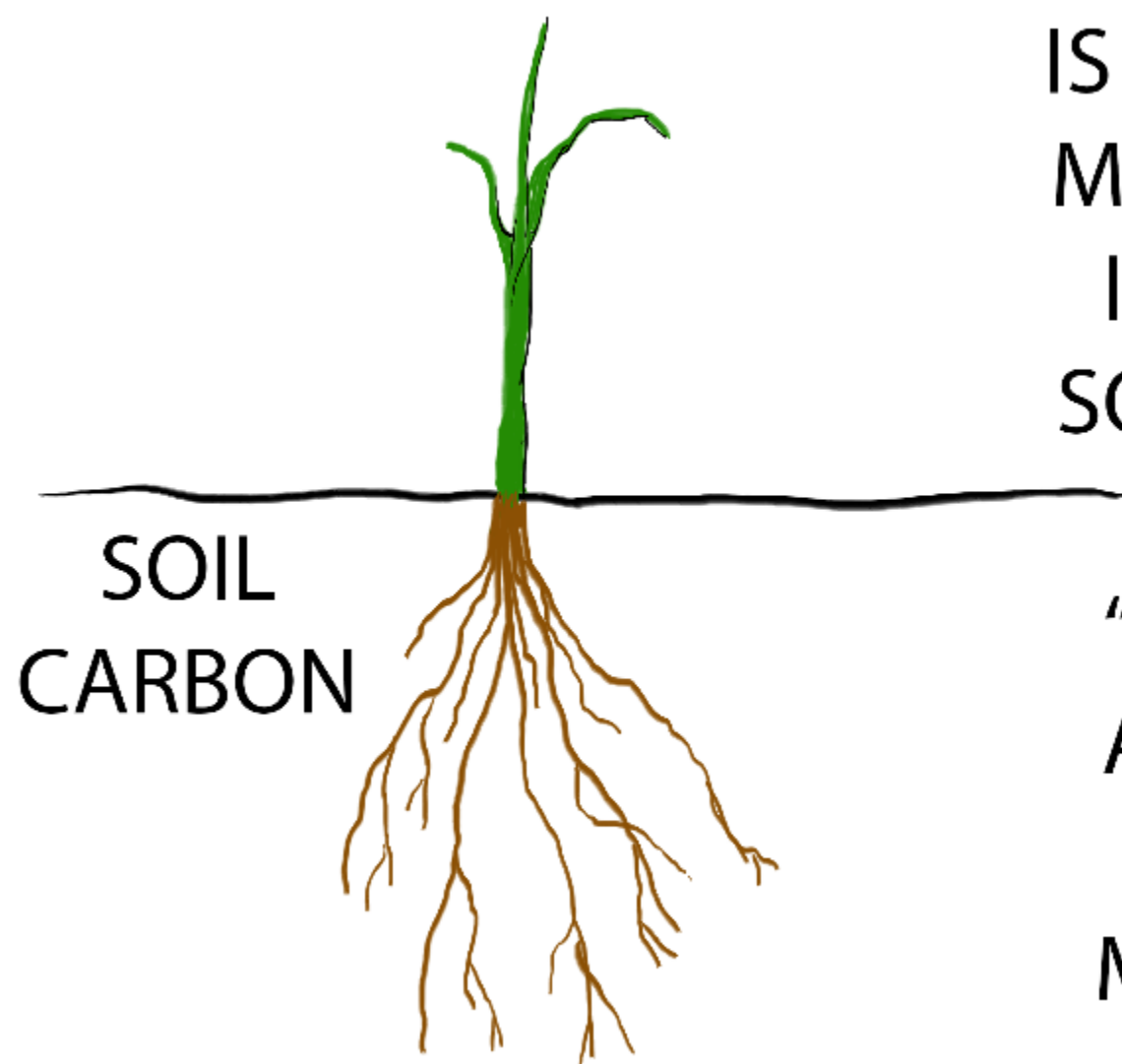
AB-32,
THE CLIMATE SOLUTION ACT
HAD BEEN
SIGNED INTO LAW
IN 2006.

A NEW REVENUE FOR
RANCHERS TO DO
THE **ADDITIONAL** WORK
OF SEQUESTERING
PERMANENT CARBON,
(**NO LEAKAGE**
OR **EXTERNALIZATIONS.**)

WE NEEDED A
PROTOCOL.

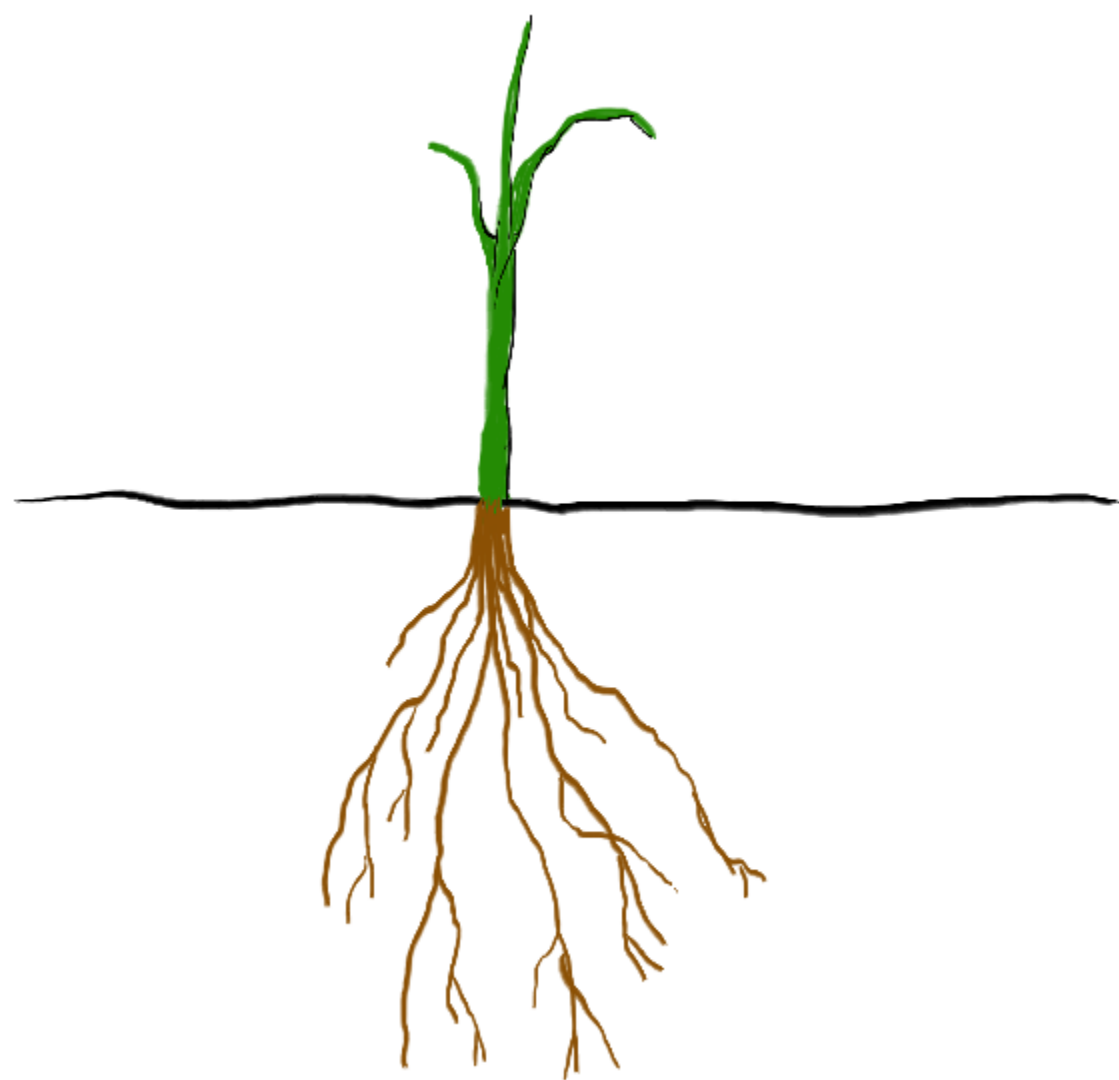


Dr. Whendee Silver, UC Berkeley Professor
BioGeoChemist
World Renowned Soil Carbon Expert

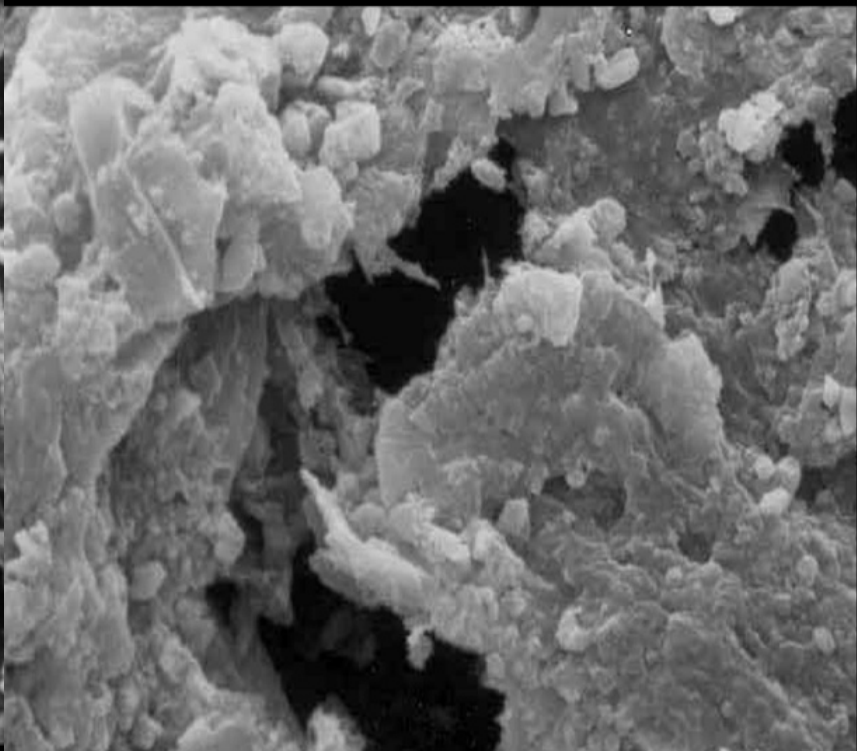
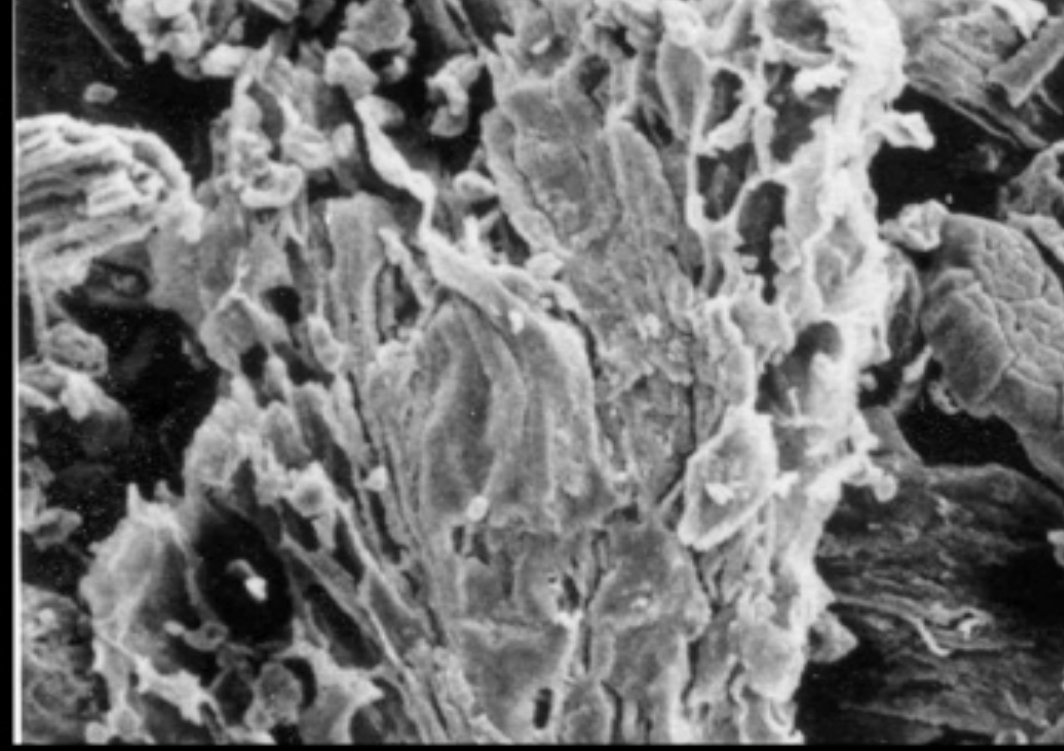
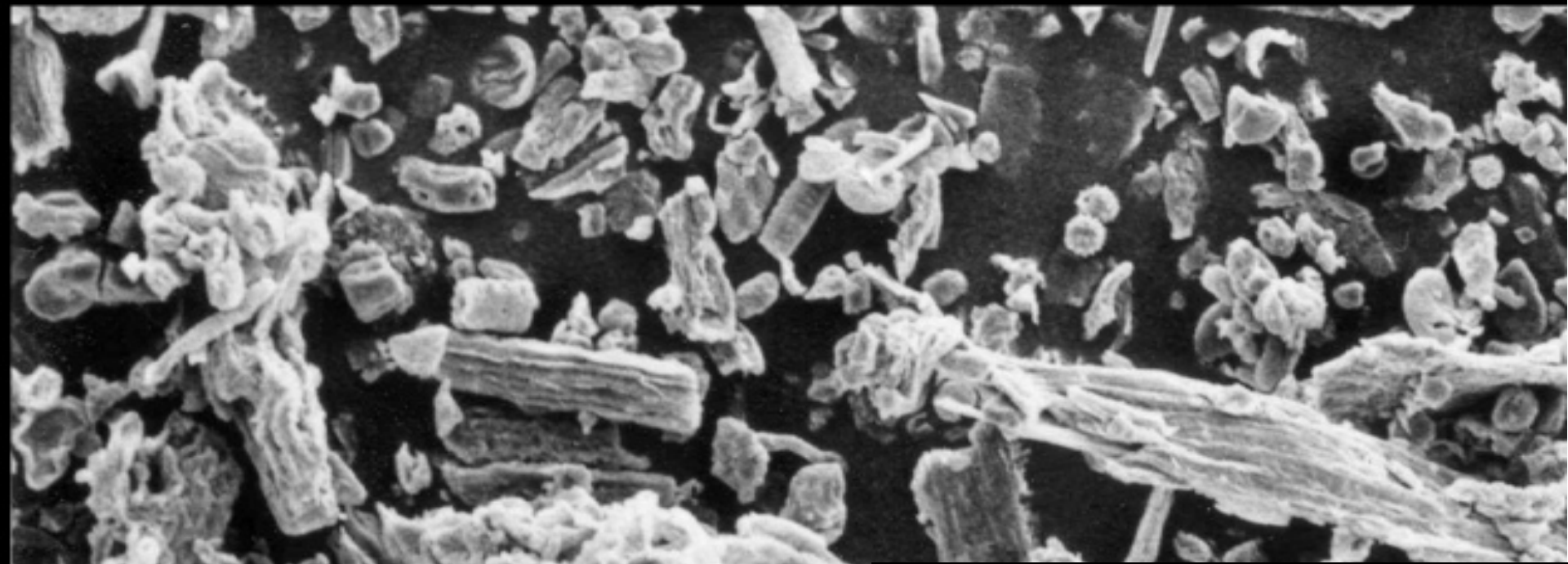


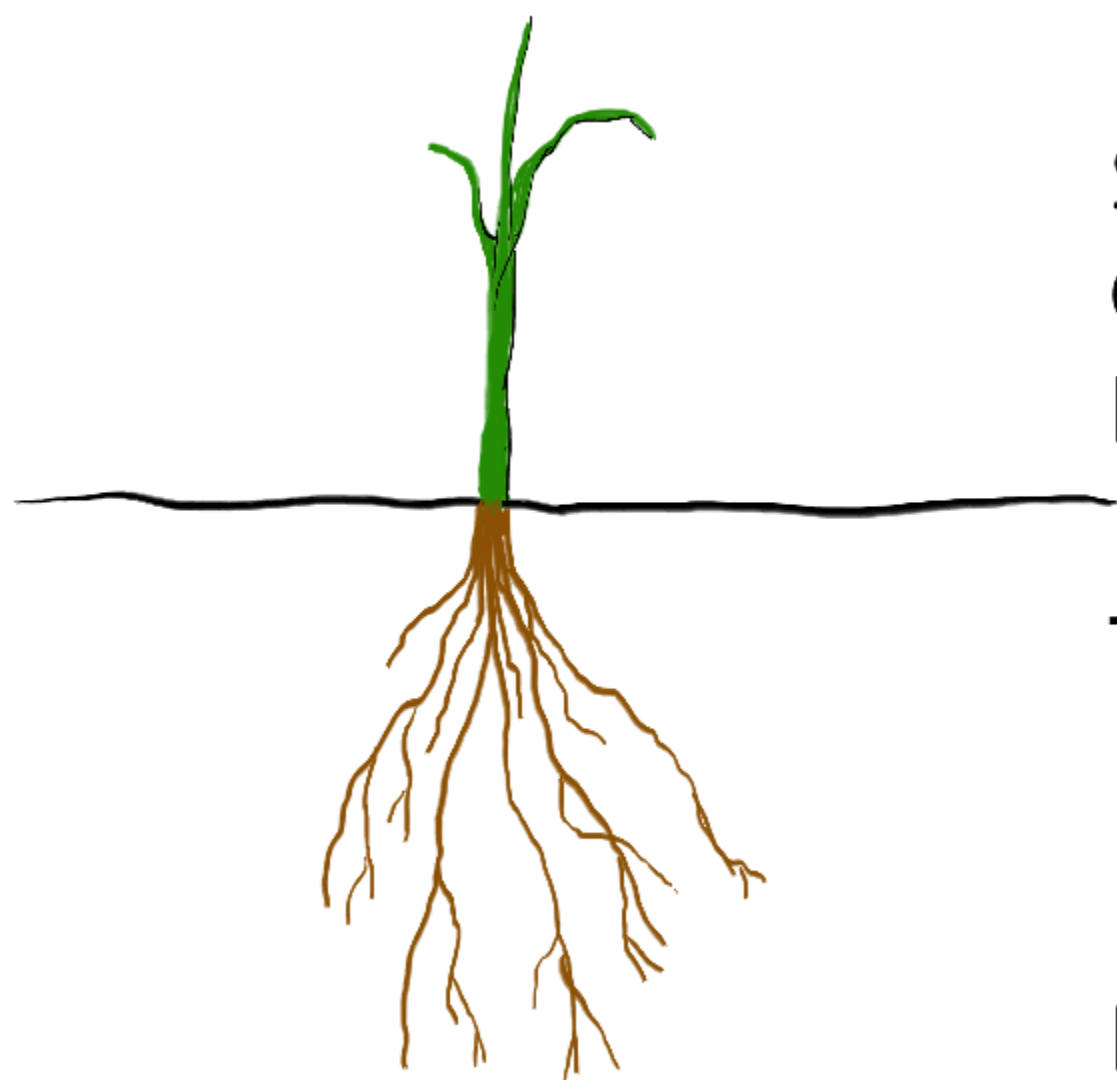
IS MY GRAZING
MANAGEMENT
INCREASING
SOIL CARBON?

"I DOUBT IT,
AND DOUBT
WE CAN
MEASURE IT."



MEASURING
BULK SOIL
CARBON
DOES NOT
TELL THE
WHOLE STORY.





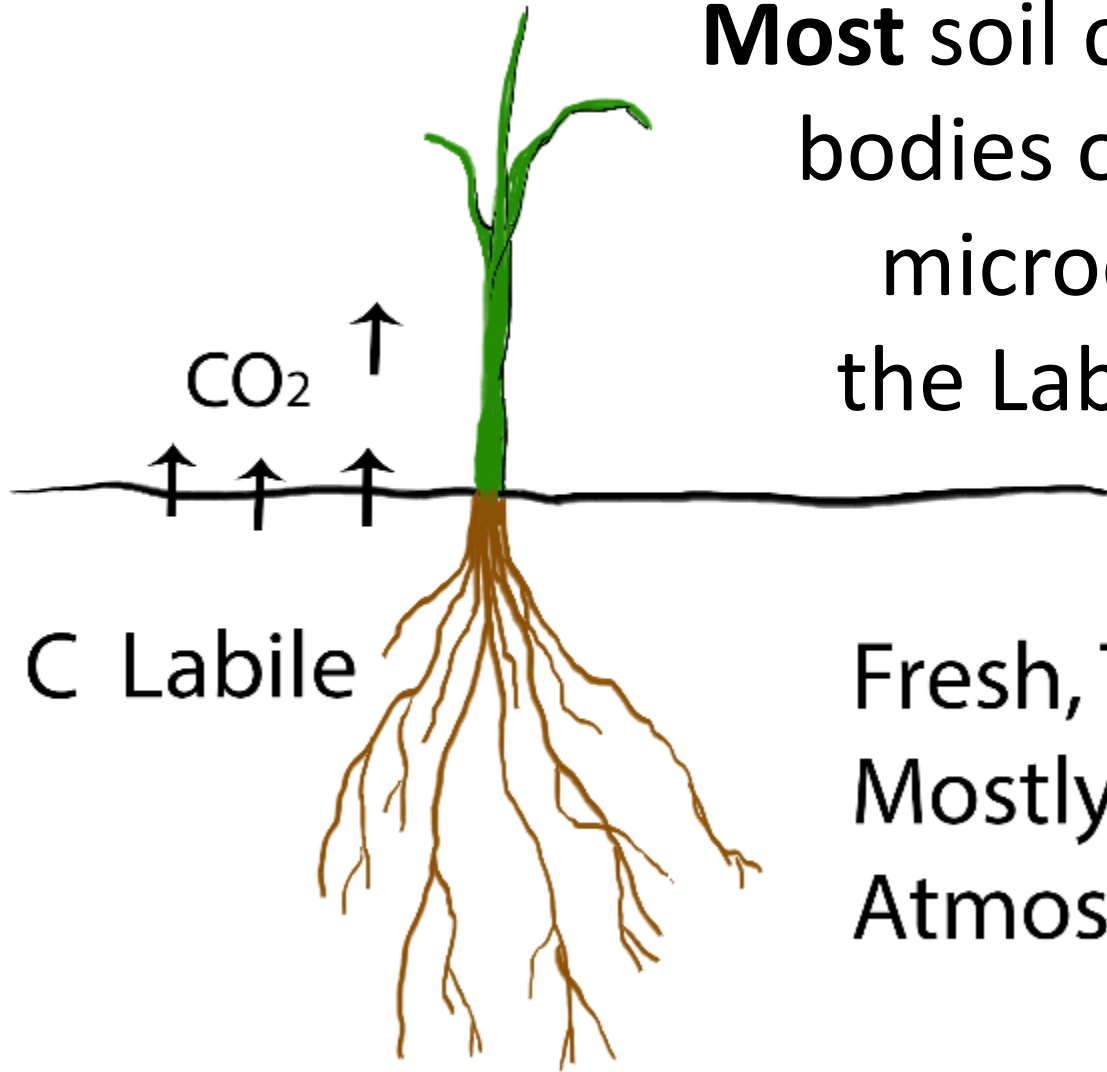
SOIL
CARBON
FRACTIONS:

TEMPORARY

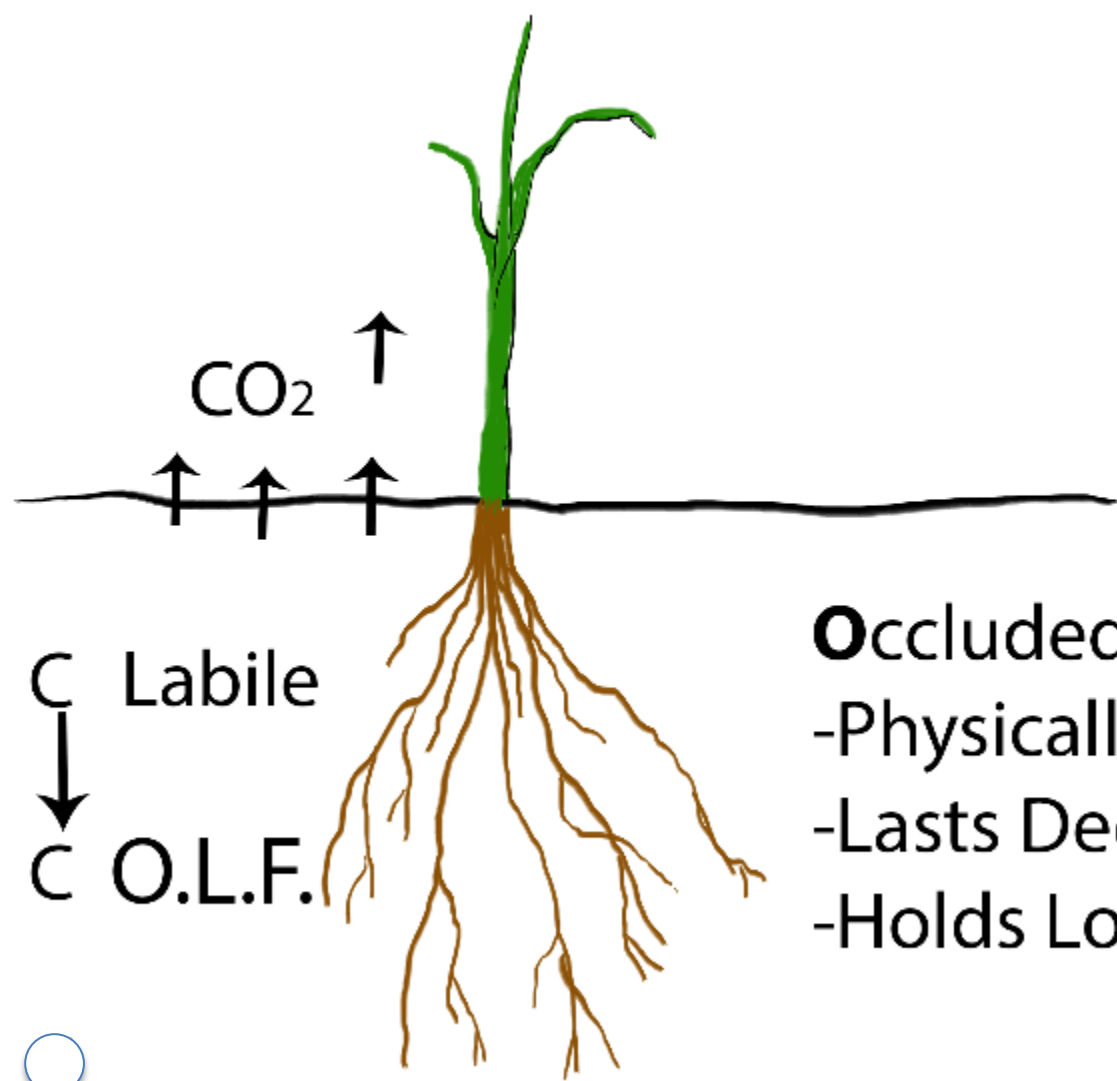
DECADES

PERMANENT

Most soil carbon is in the bodies of plants and microorganisms, the Labile fraction.



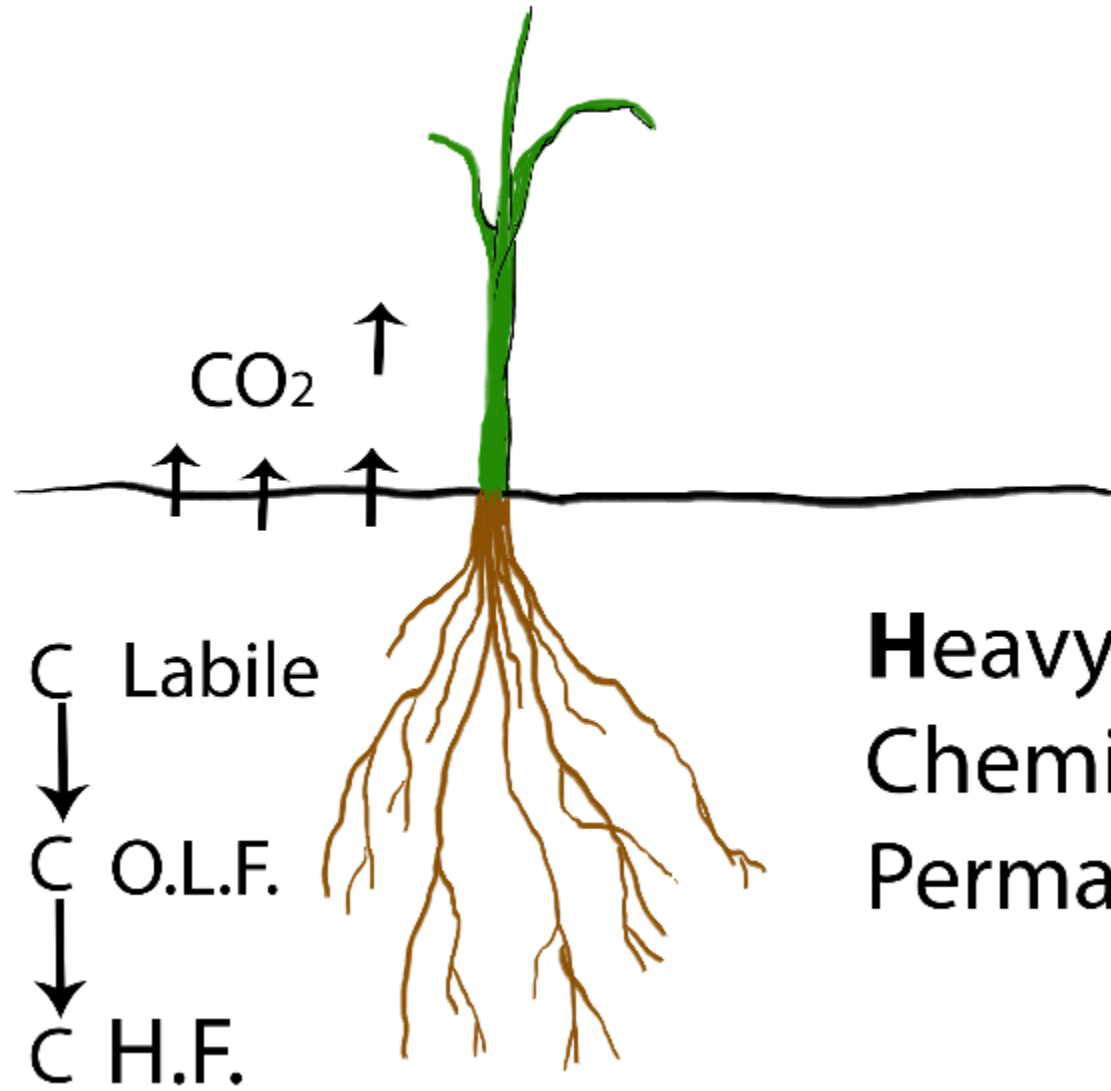
Fresh, Temporary,
Mostly Returns to the
Atmosphere as CO₂.



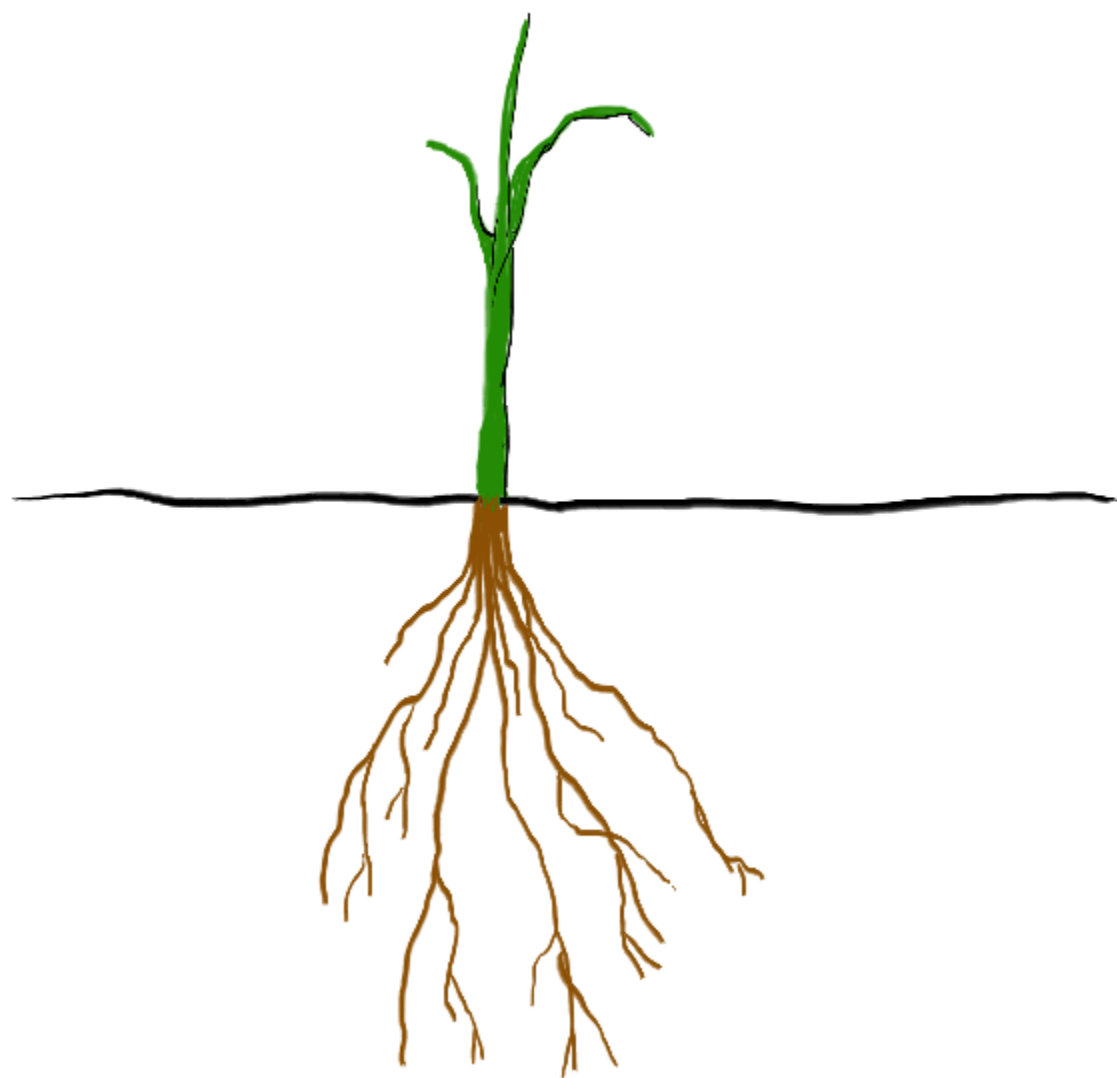
Occluded Light Fraction:

- Physically Protected
- Lasts Decades
- Holds Lots of Water



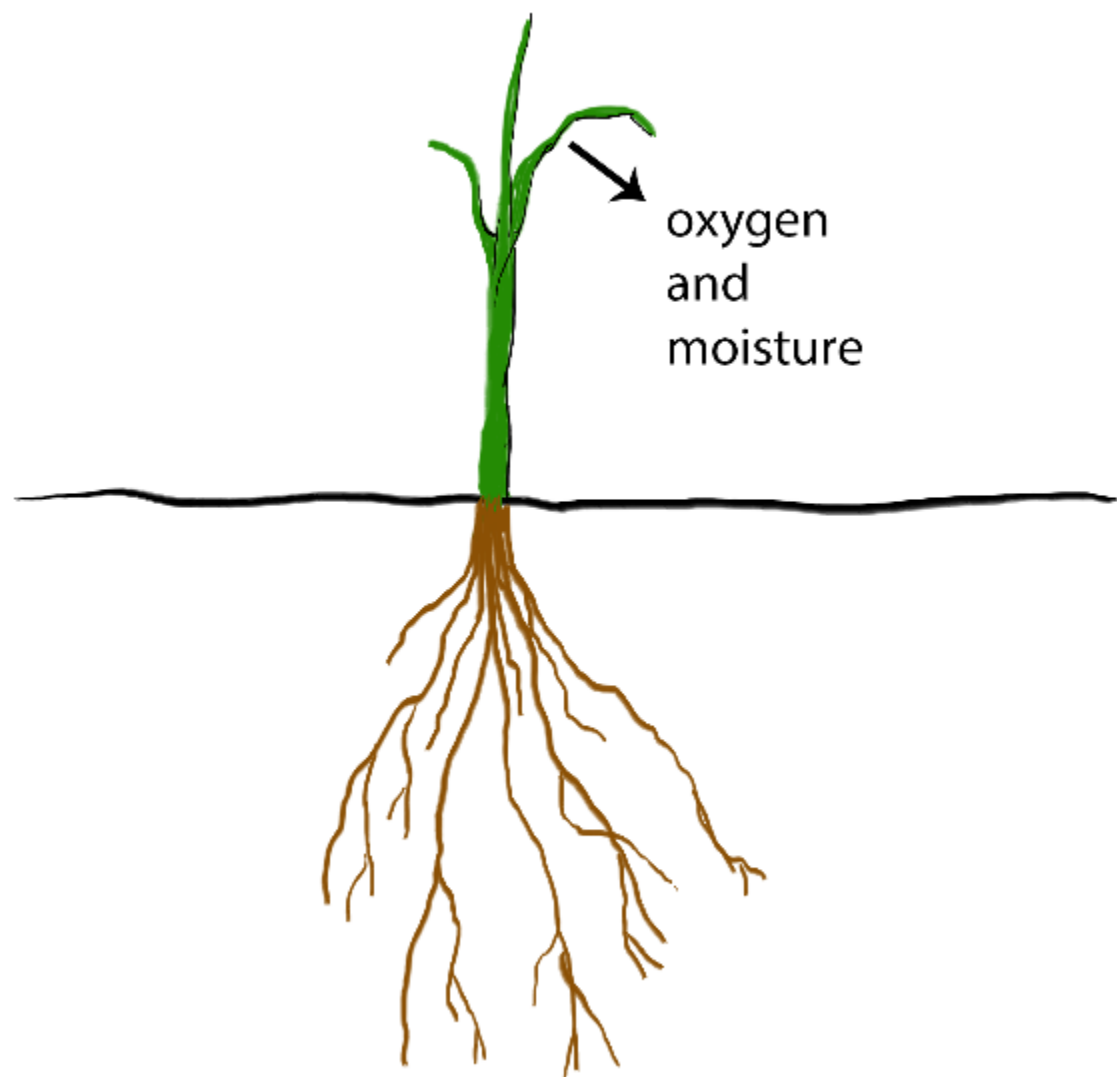


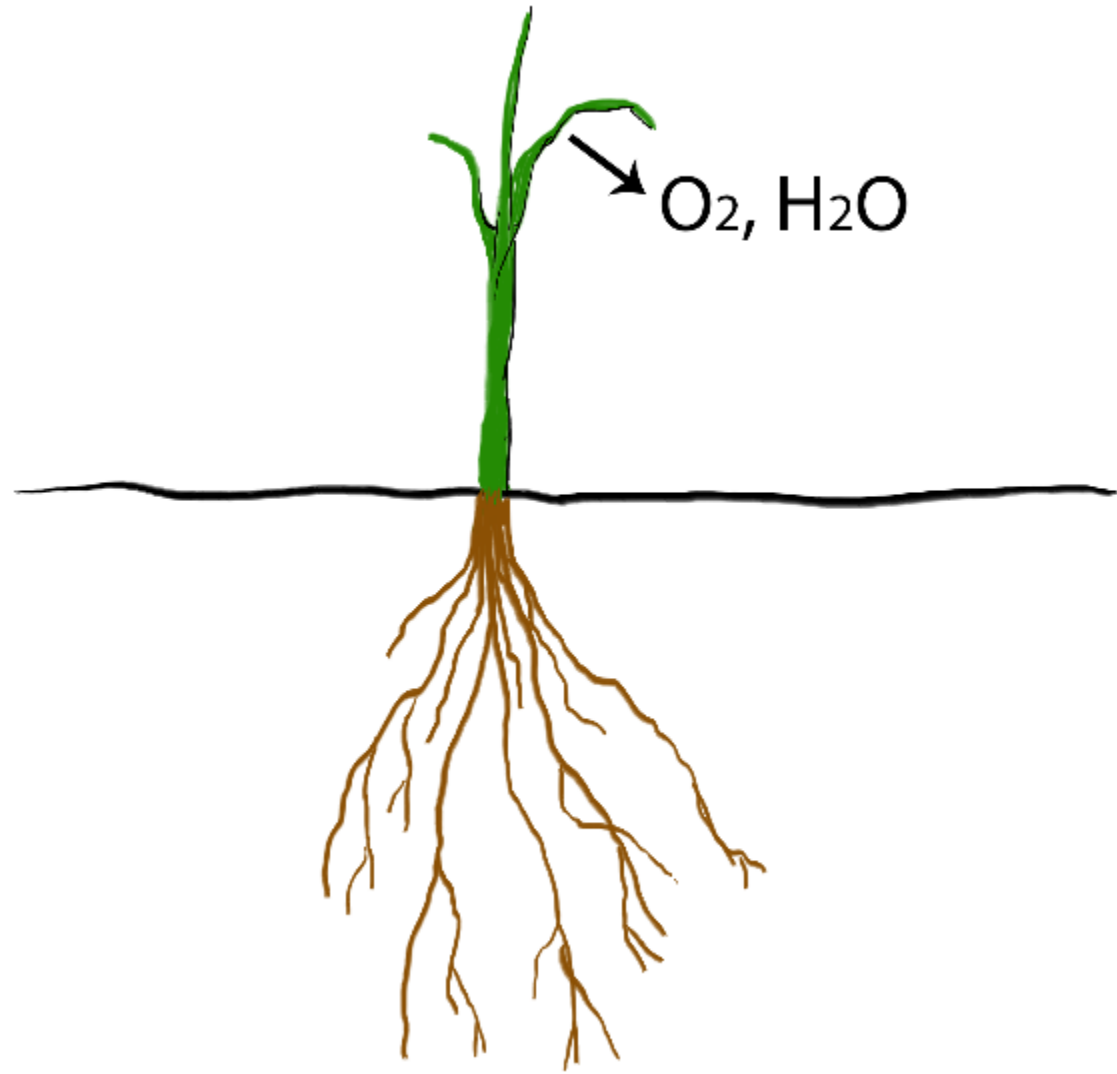
Heavy Fraction:
Chemically Protected,
Permanent

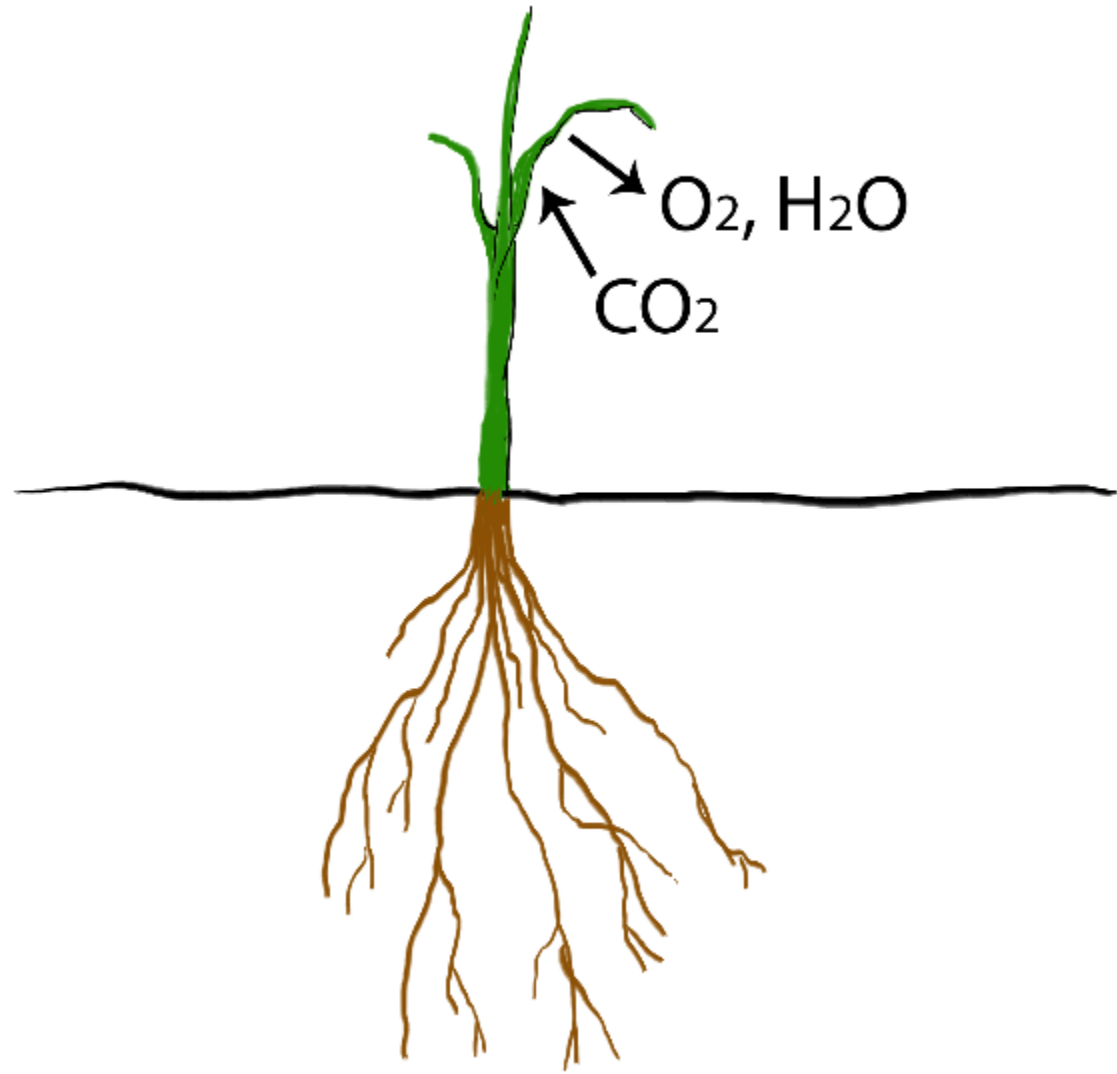


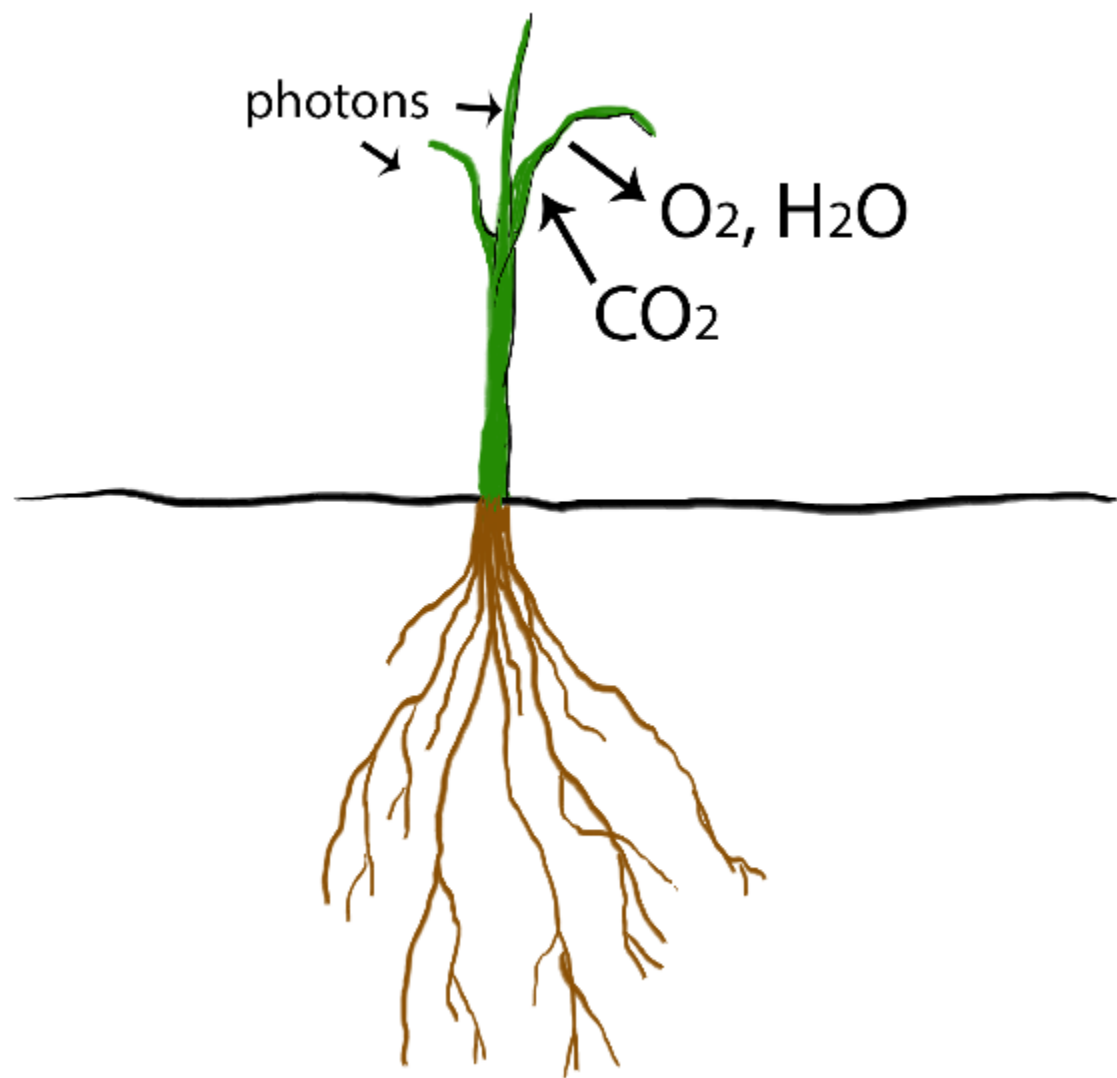
WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE?

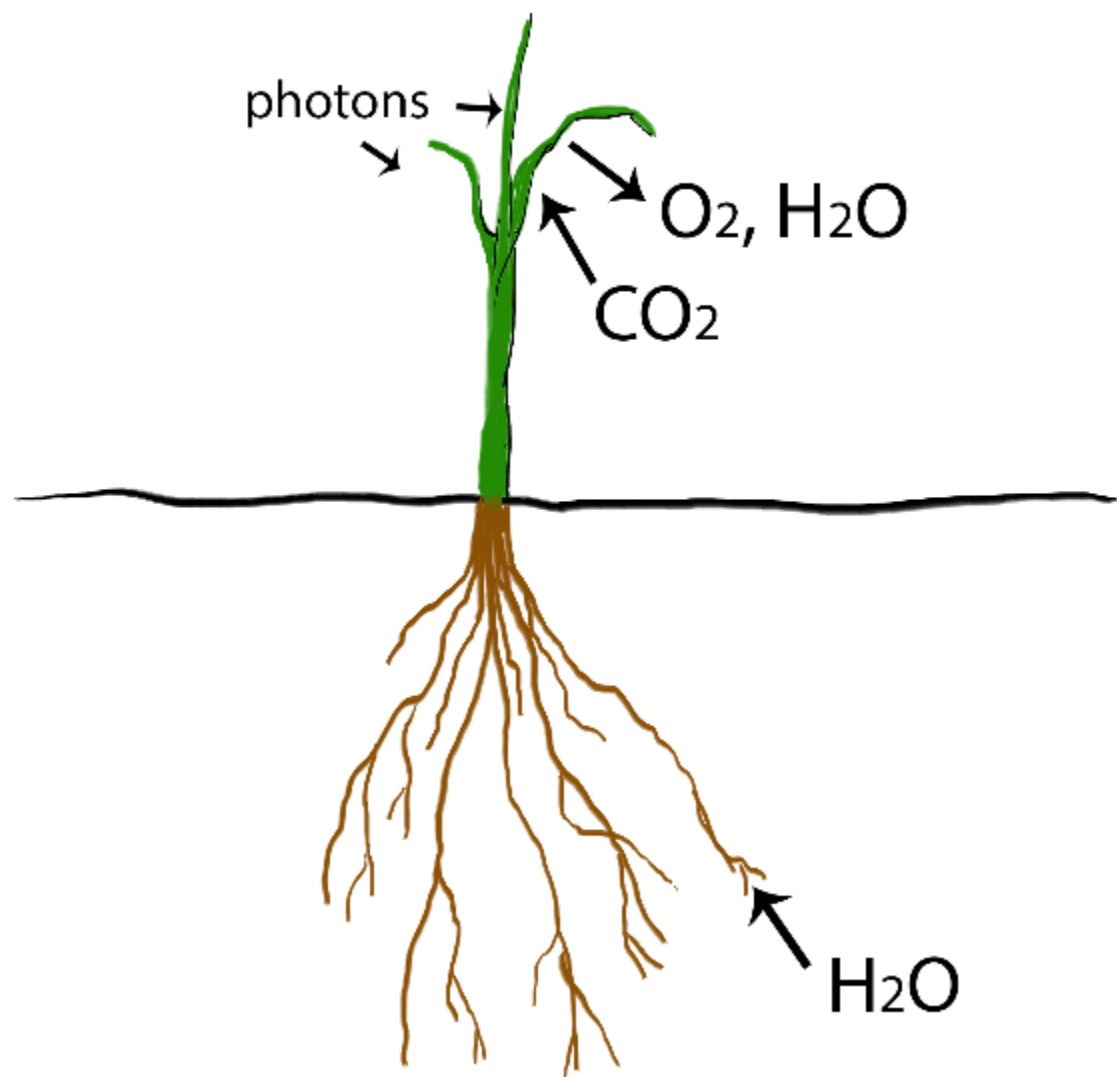
2 SCIENTISTS
WITH
OPPOSING
VIEWS!

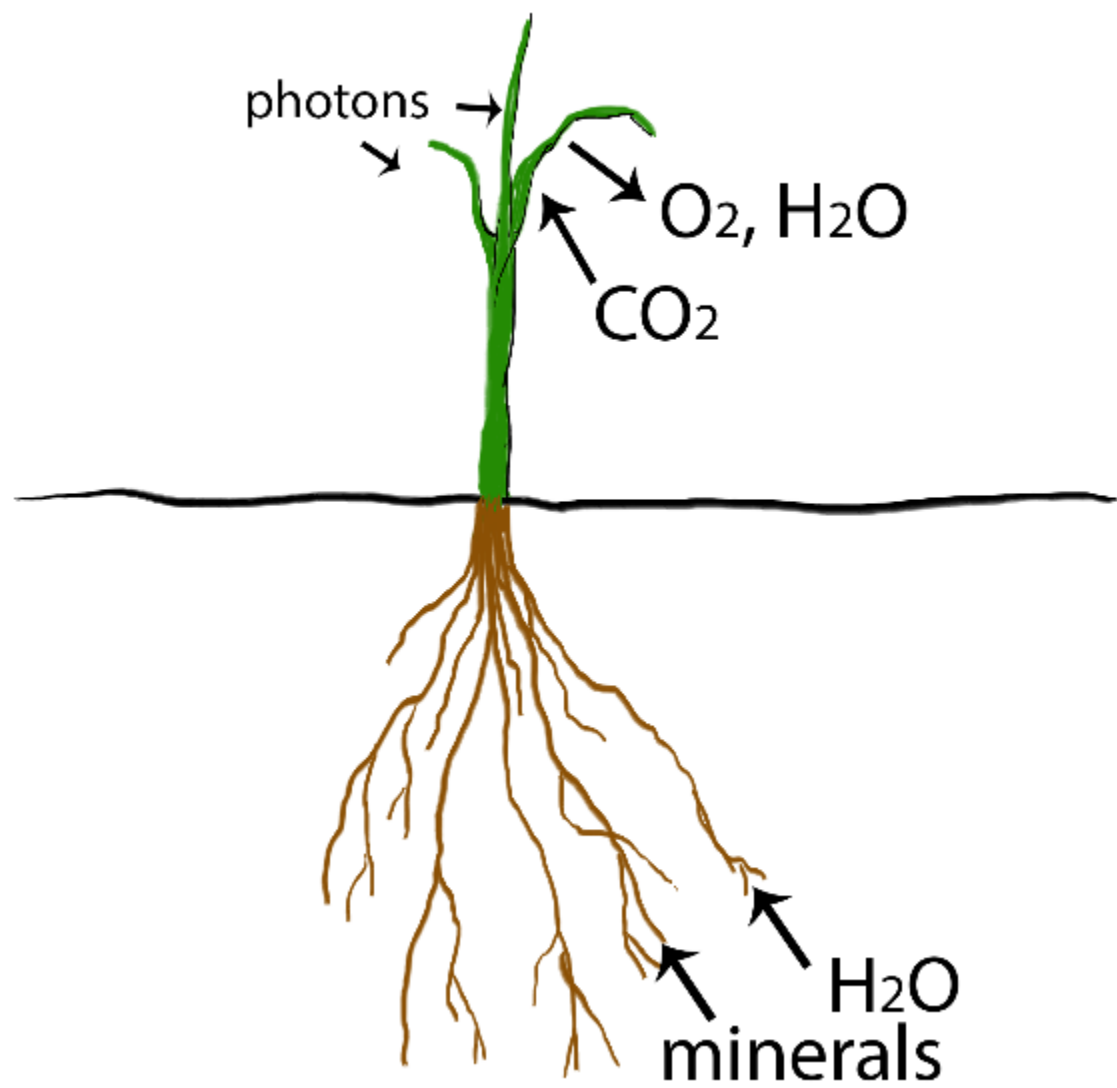


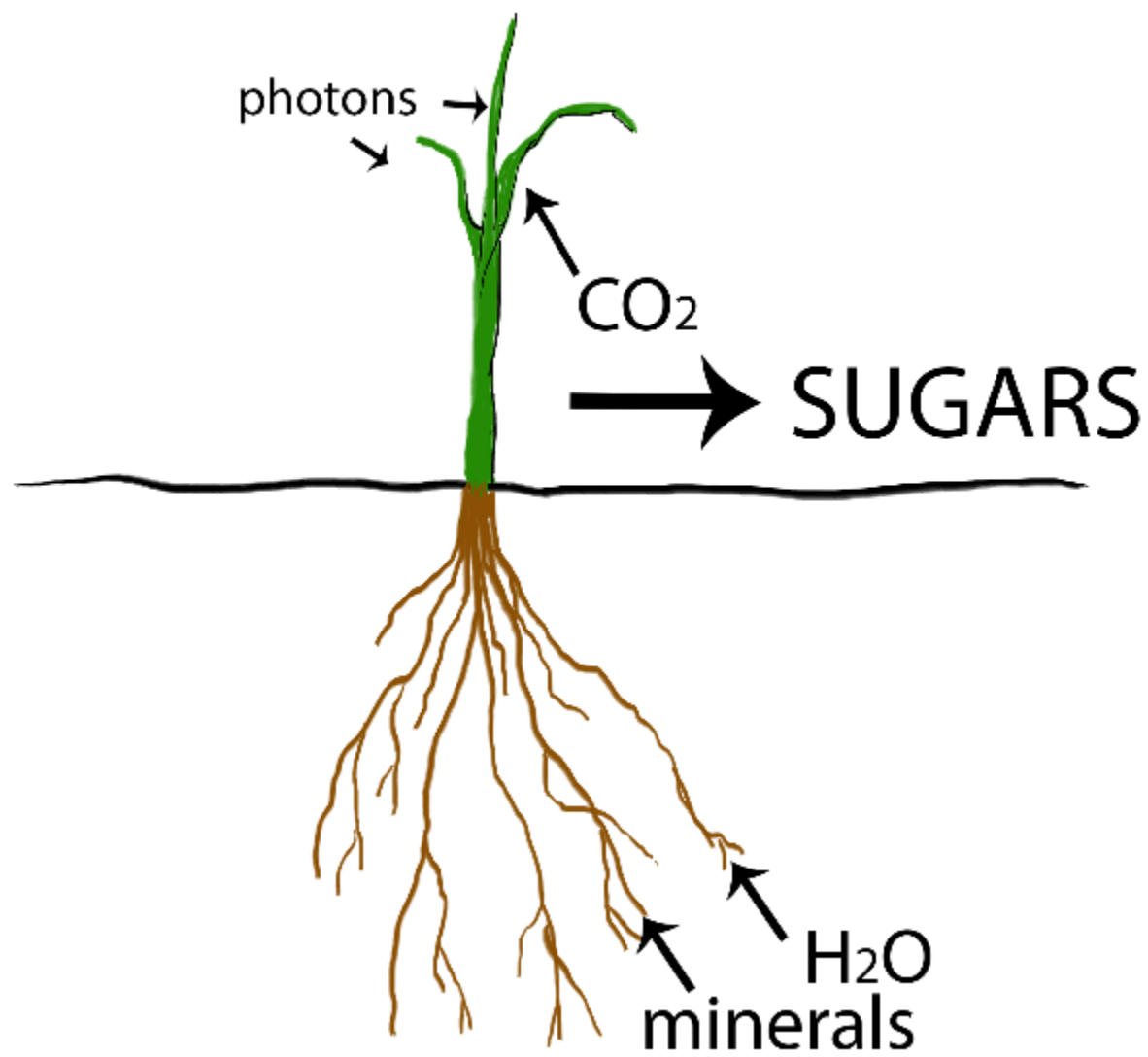


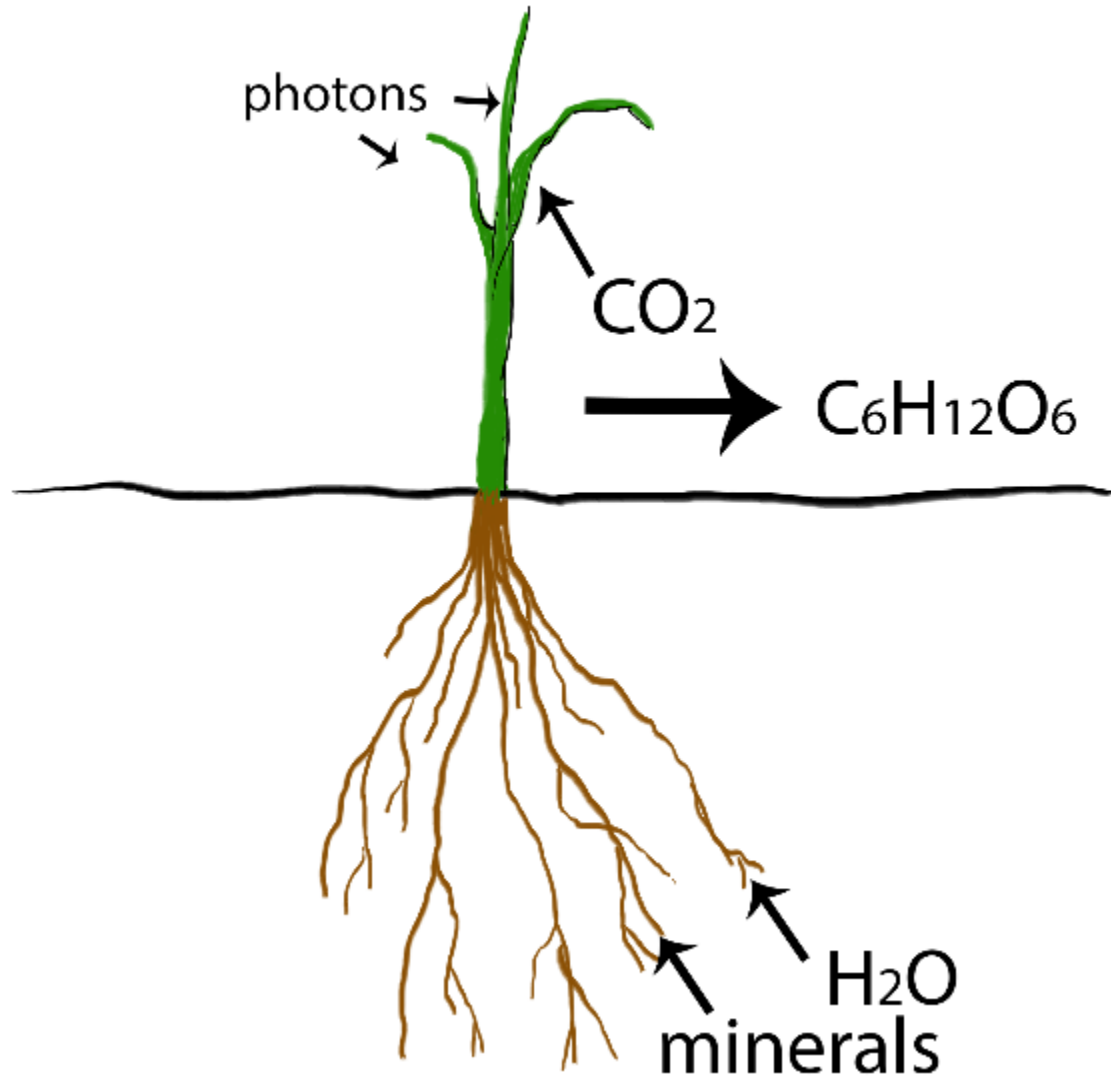


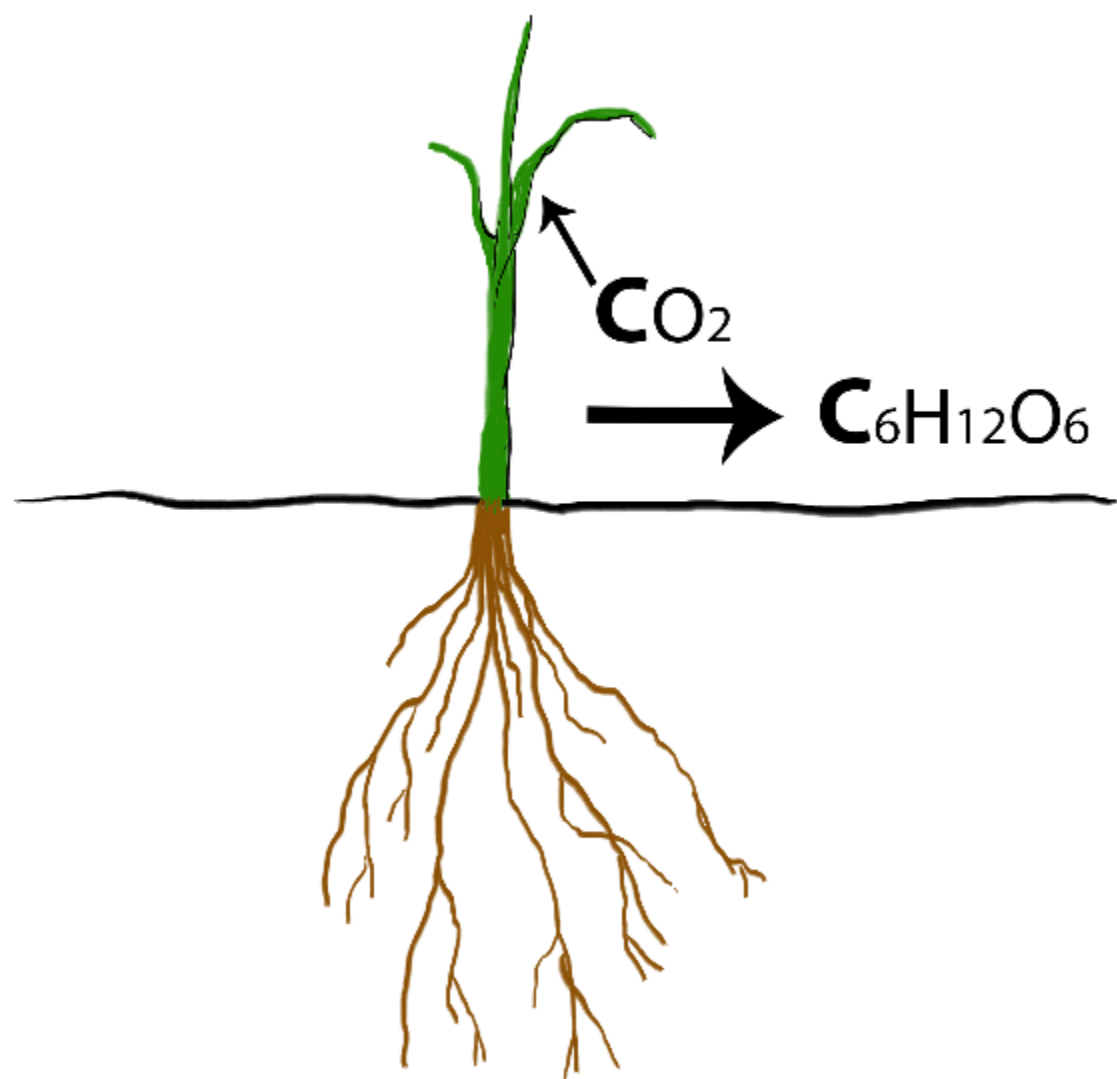




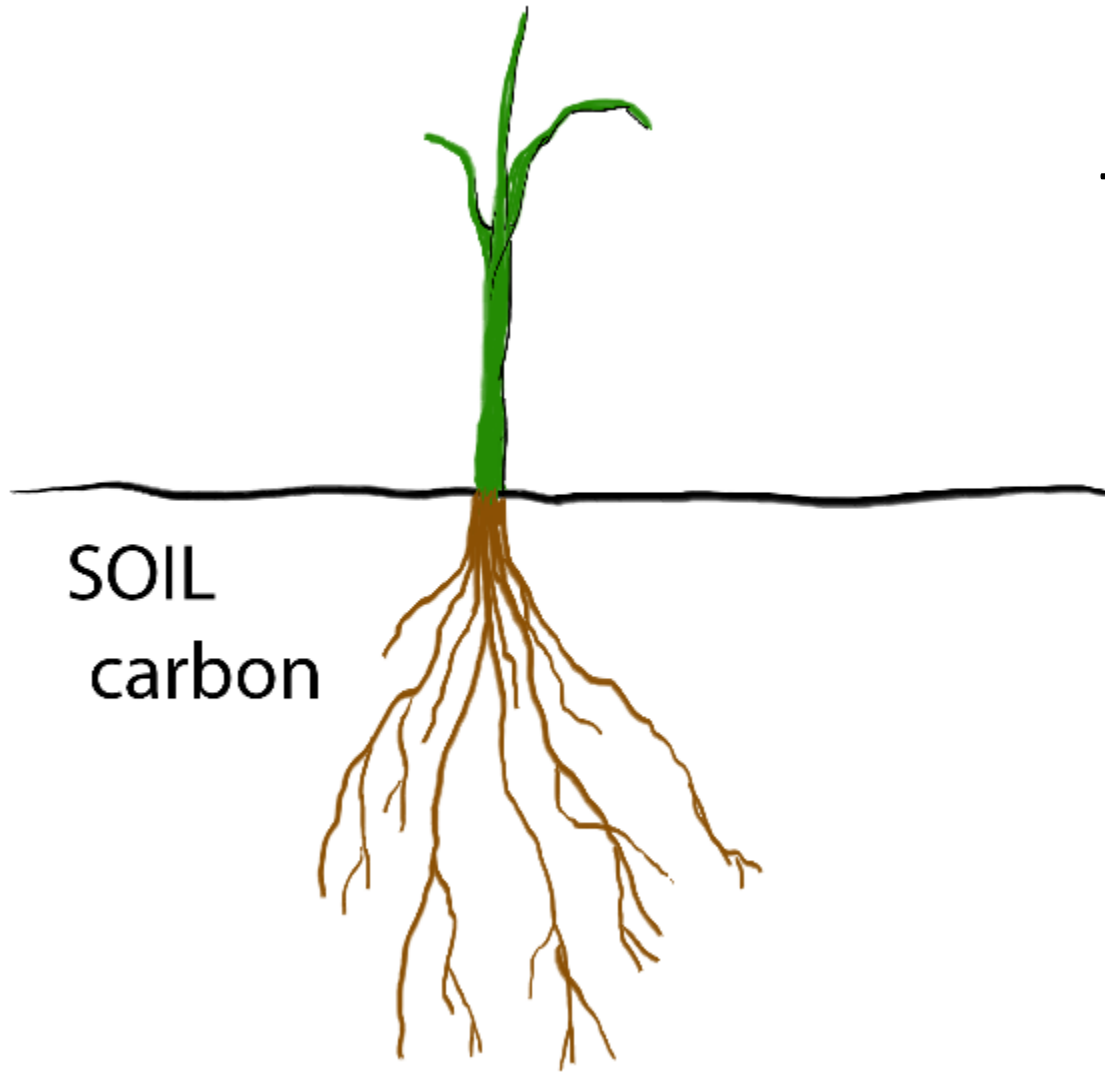




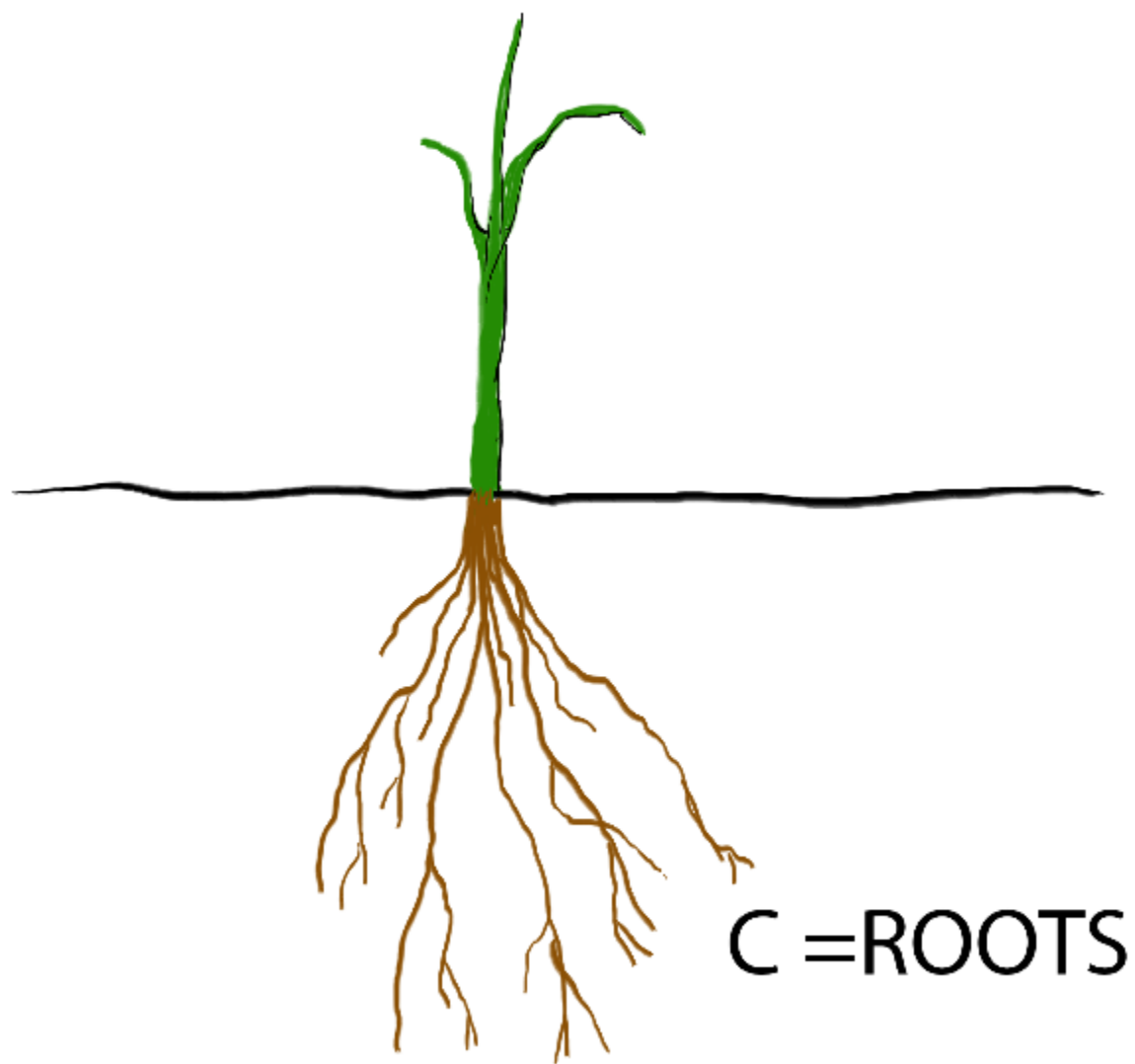


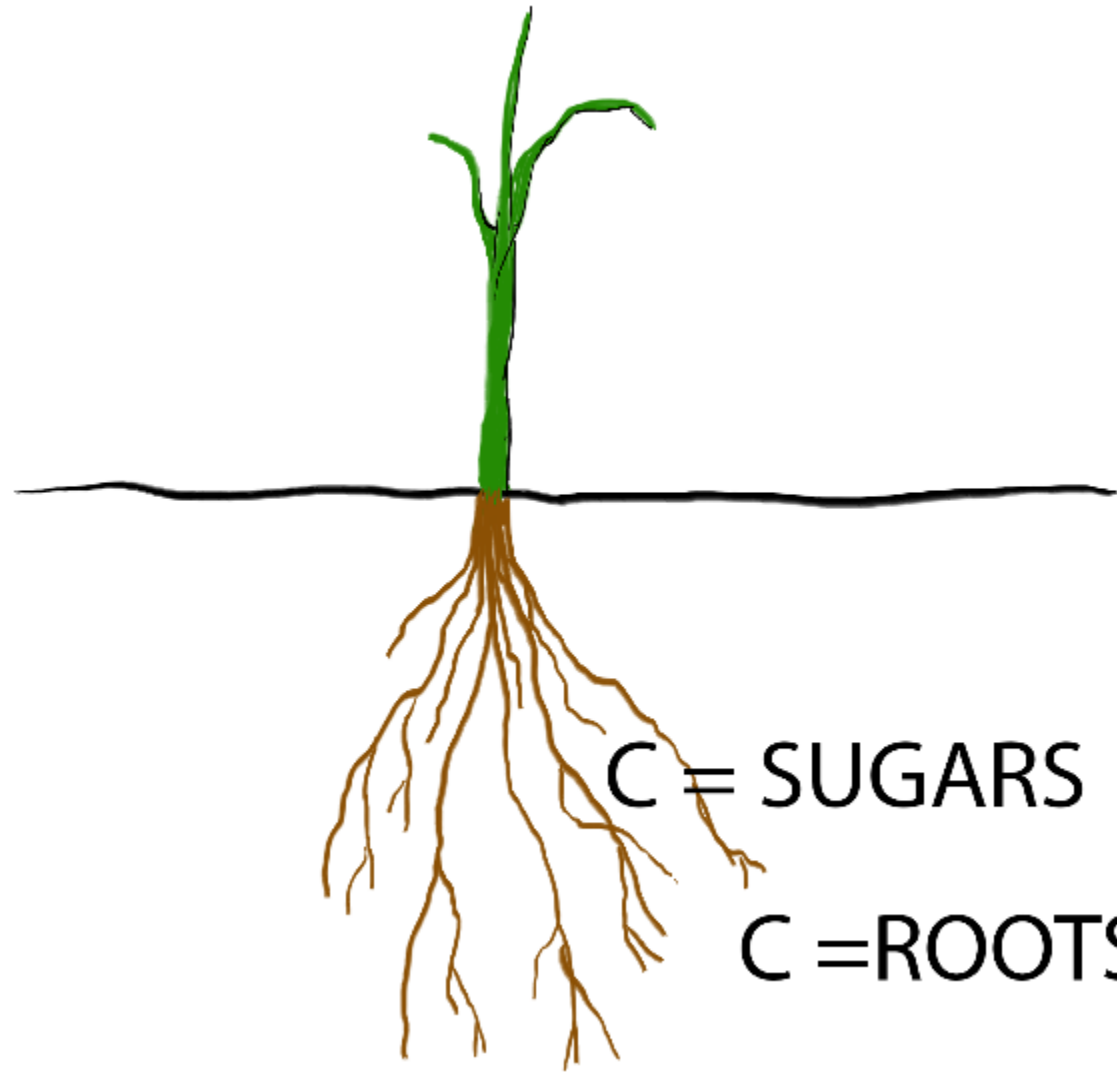


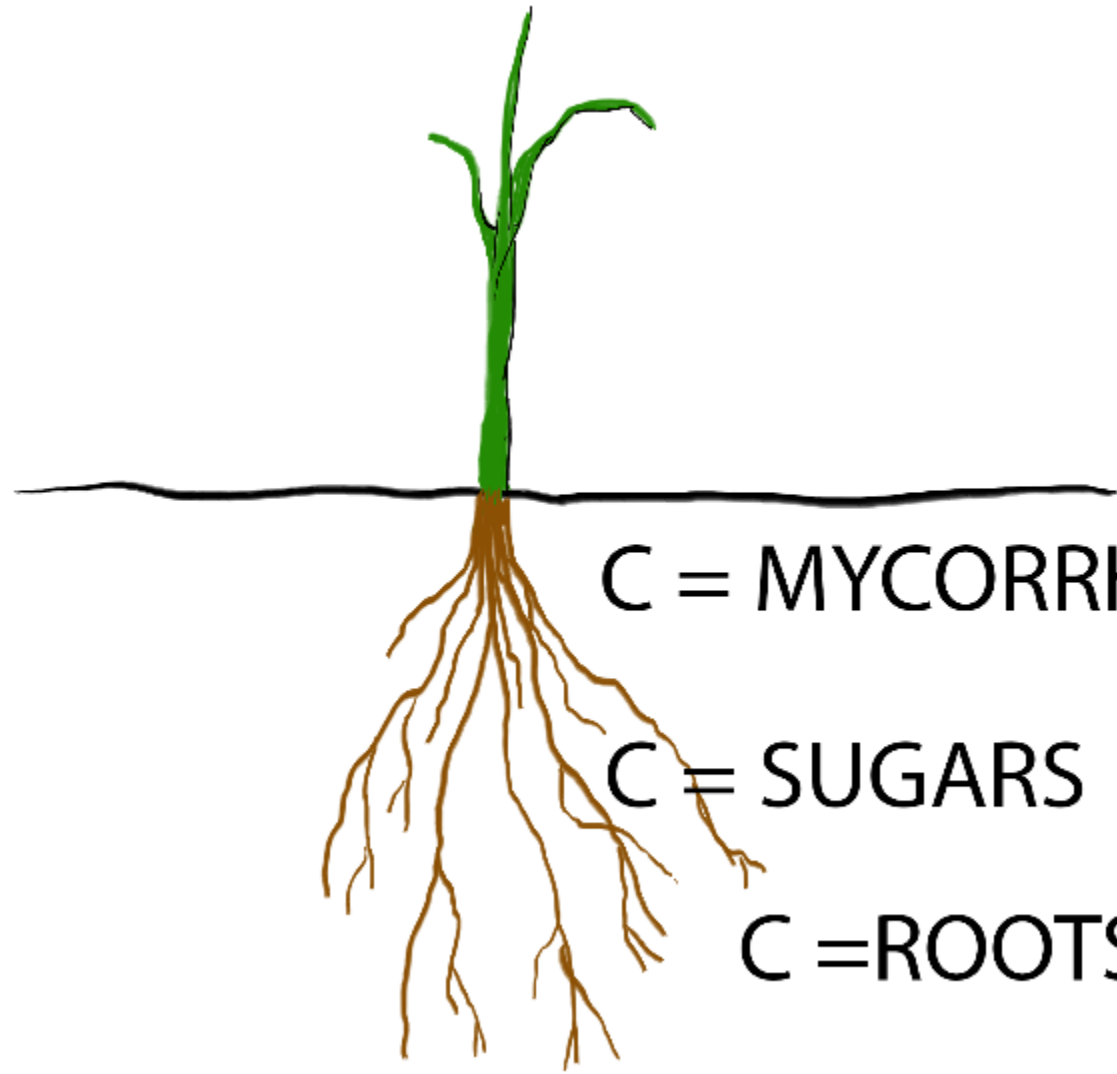
**ALL OF THE
CARBON
IN
CARBOHYDRATES
COMES FROM
THE AIR.**



THERE IS CARBON
IN THE SOIL,
BUT IT DOES NOT
ENTER THE
PLANT.
IN FACT, IT'S THE
OPPOSITE!







C = MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI

C = SUGARS

C = ROOTS



A diagram of a plant root system. A green stem with leaves extends above a horizontal line representing the soil surface. Below the surface, a network of brown roots is shown. To the right of the roots, three lines of text are stacked vertically, each preceded by a 'C' and an equals sign. The top line is 'C = MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI', the middle line is 'C = SUGARS', and the bottom line is 'C = ROOTS'.

SURFACE LITTER

C = MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI

C = SUGARS

C = ROOTS



A diagram of a plant root system. A green stem with three leaves grows upwards from a horizontal line representing the soil surface. Below this line, a dense network of brown roots extends downwards. To the right of the roots, there are three lines of text. The top line is 'SURFACE LITTER' and is positioned just below the soil surface line. The middle line is 'C = MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI' and is positioned above the root network. The bottom line is 'C = SUGARS' and is positioned within the root network. The bottom line is 'C = ROOTS' and is positioned below the root network.

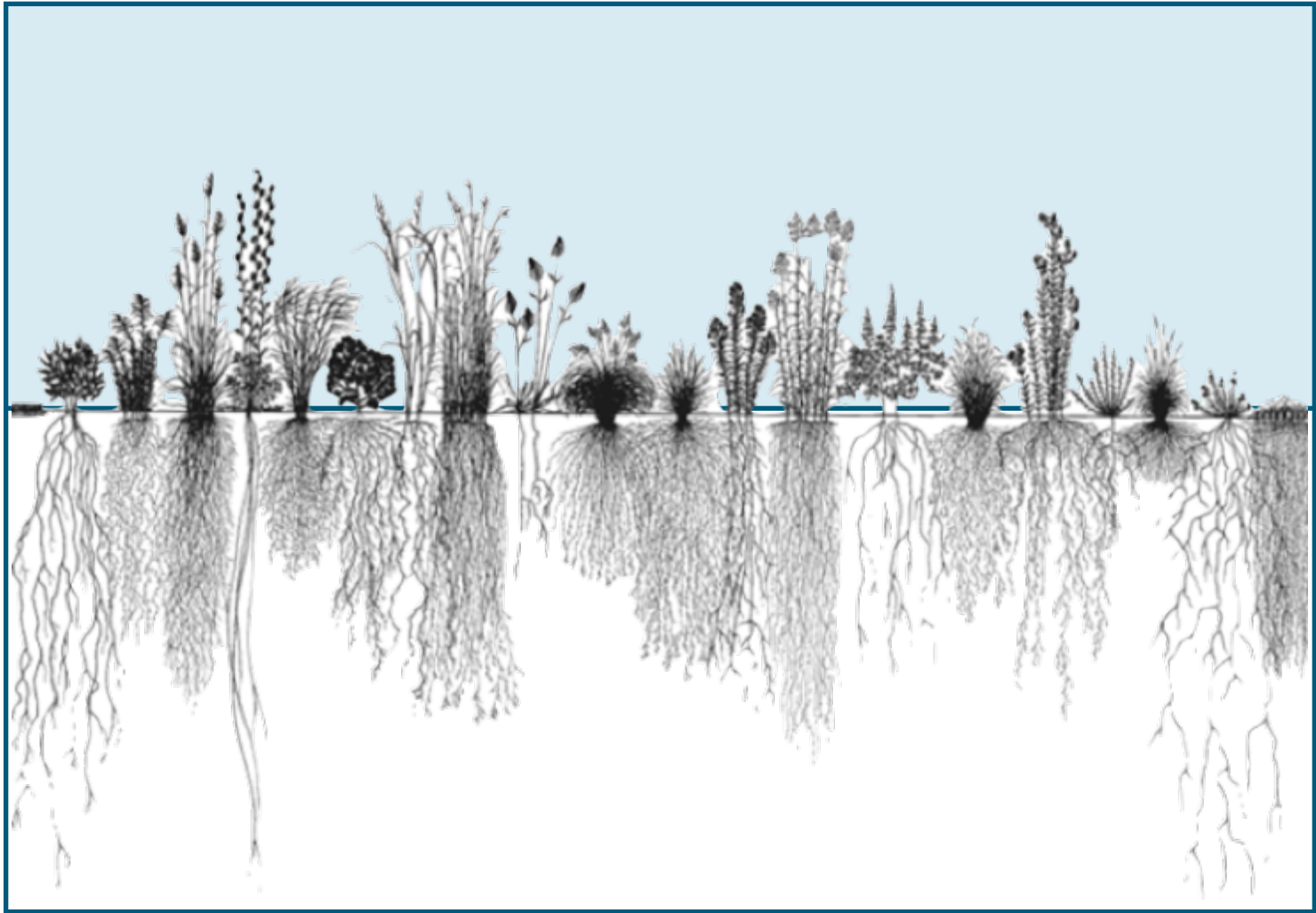
SURFACE LITTER

C = MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI

C = SUGARS

C = ROOTS

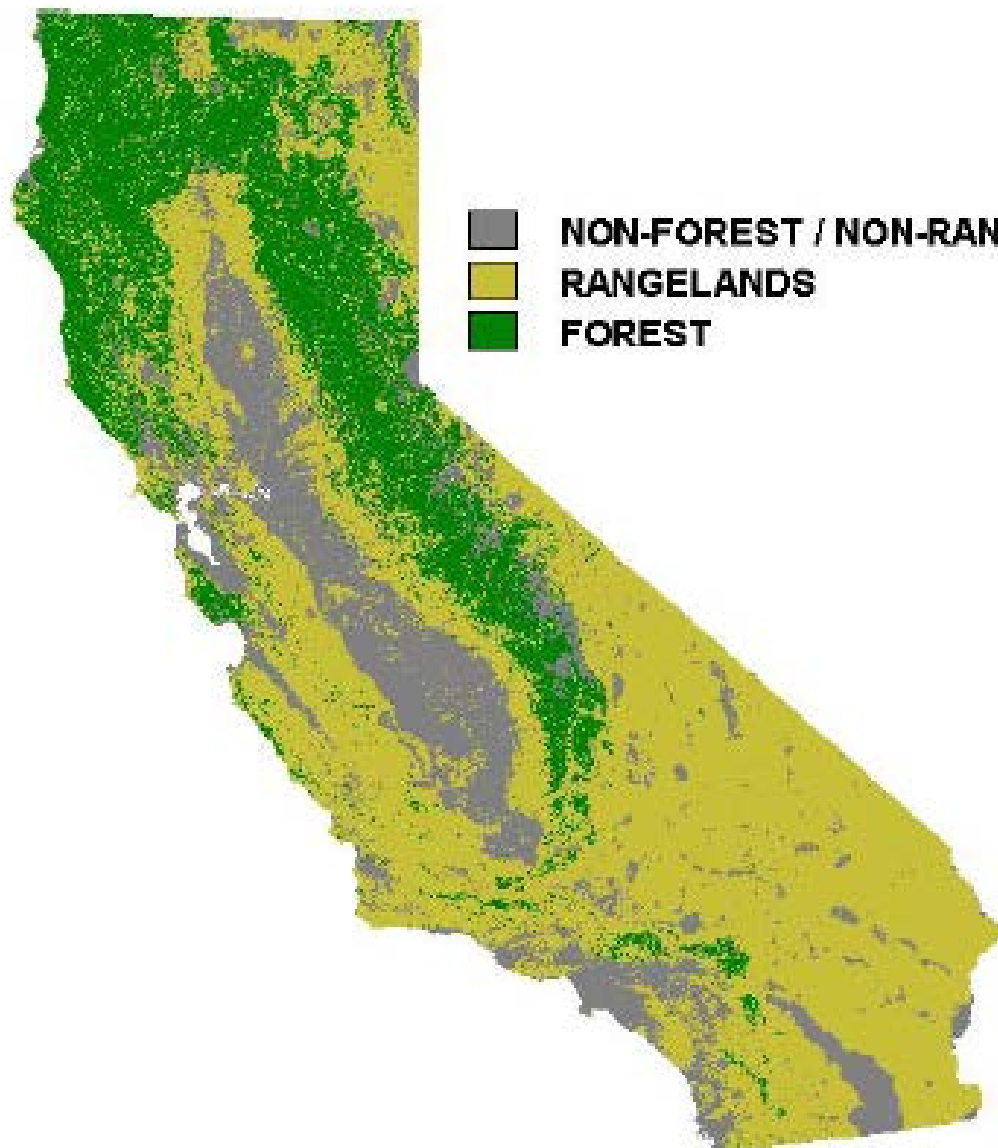
Grasslands store one-third of the world's soil carbon



Grasses allocate a large percentage of their photosynthate belowground to roots, exudates and soil biota, including mycorrhizae.



California Rangelands and Carbon Sequestration



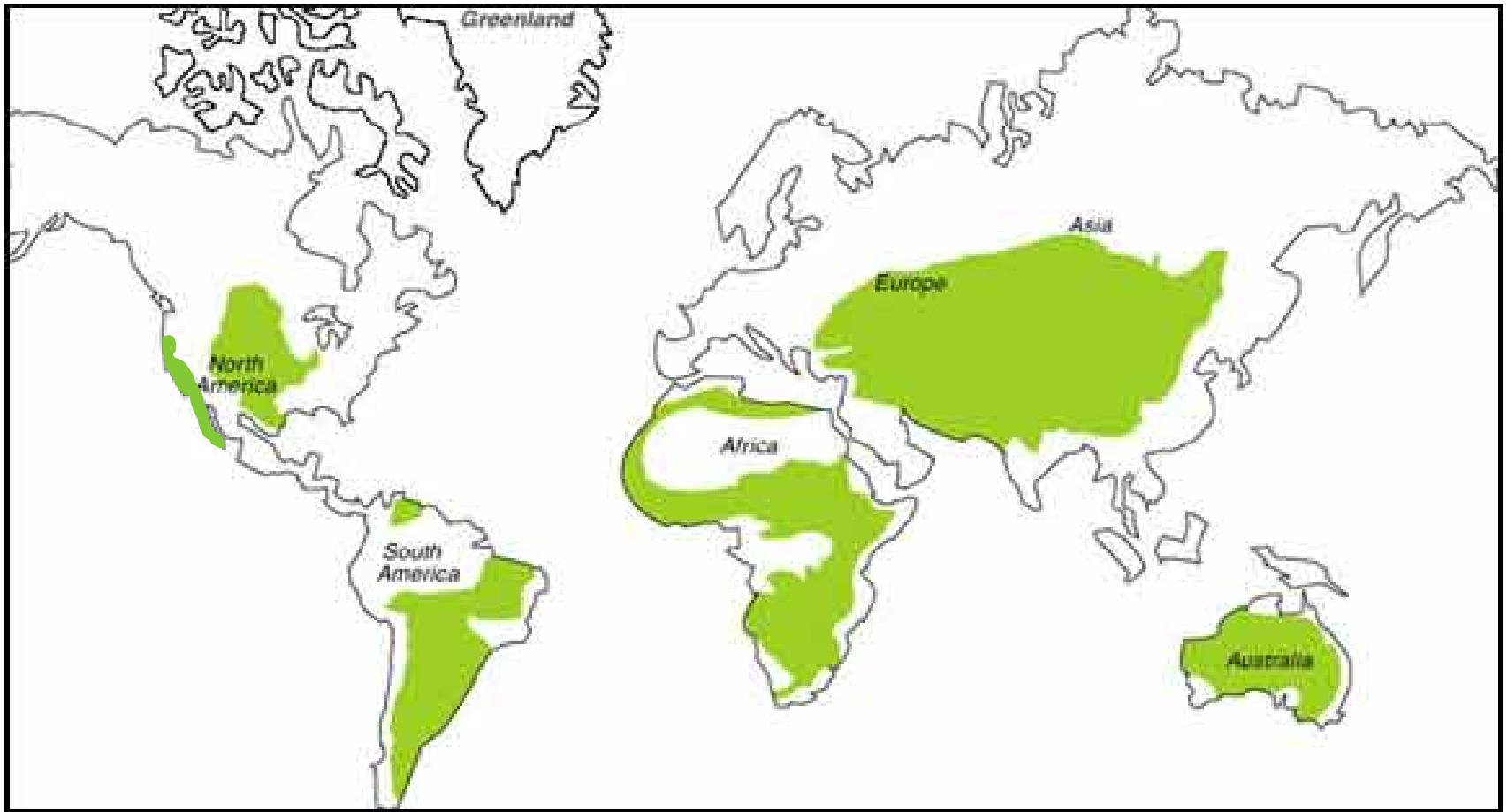
1 MT C = 42 MMT CO₂e/y
5 MT C = 211 MMT CO₂e/y
10 MT C = **422** MMT CO₂e/y

- Livestock ~15 MMT CO₂e/y
- Comm'l/Residential ~41 MMT CO₂e/y
- Transportation ~188 MMT CO₂e/y
- Electrical generation ~109 MMT CO₂e/y

=**353** MMT CO₂

23 million hectares of rangeland statewide Assume 50% available for C sequestration

THERE ARE 3.5 BILLION HECTARES OF GRAZED RANGELAND ON EARTH



*30% of global land surface
*33% of the US land area

*Over half of the global land use
*56% of California land area

MARIN CARBON PROJECT TEAM:

JOHN WICK

DIRECTOR AND CO-FOUNDER, MARIN CARBON PROJECT

JEFF CREQUE, PHD

DIRECTOR, WEST MARIN COMPOSTING COALITION, CO-FOUNDER, MARIN CARBON PROJECT

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MARIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

BOB BERNER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

HELGE HELLBERG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARIN ORGANIC

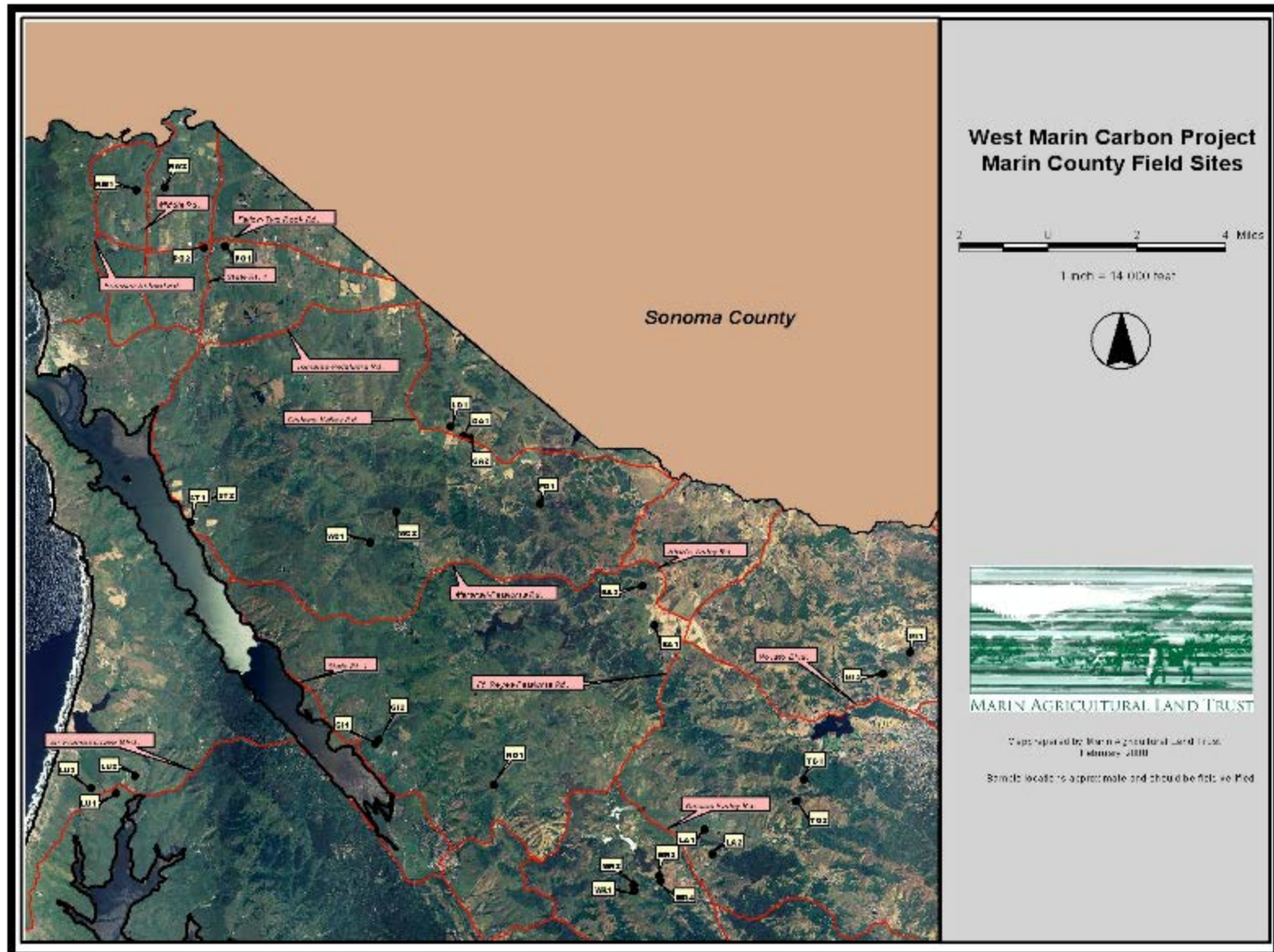
CHARLETTE EPIFANIO

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST, USDA NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

TORRI ESTRADA

PROGRAM OFFICER, MARIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

We sampled 35 sites that were typical of land under management in our area; beef and dairy pasture.



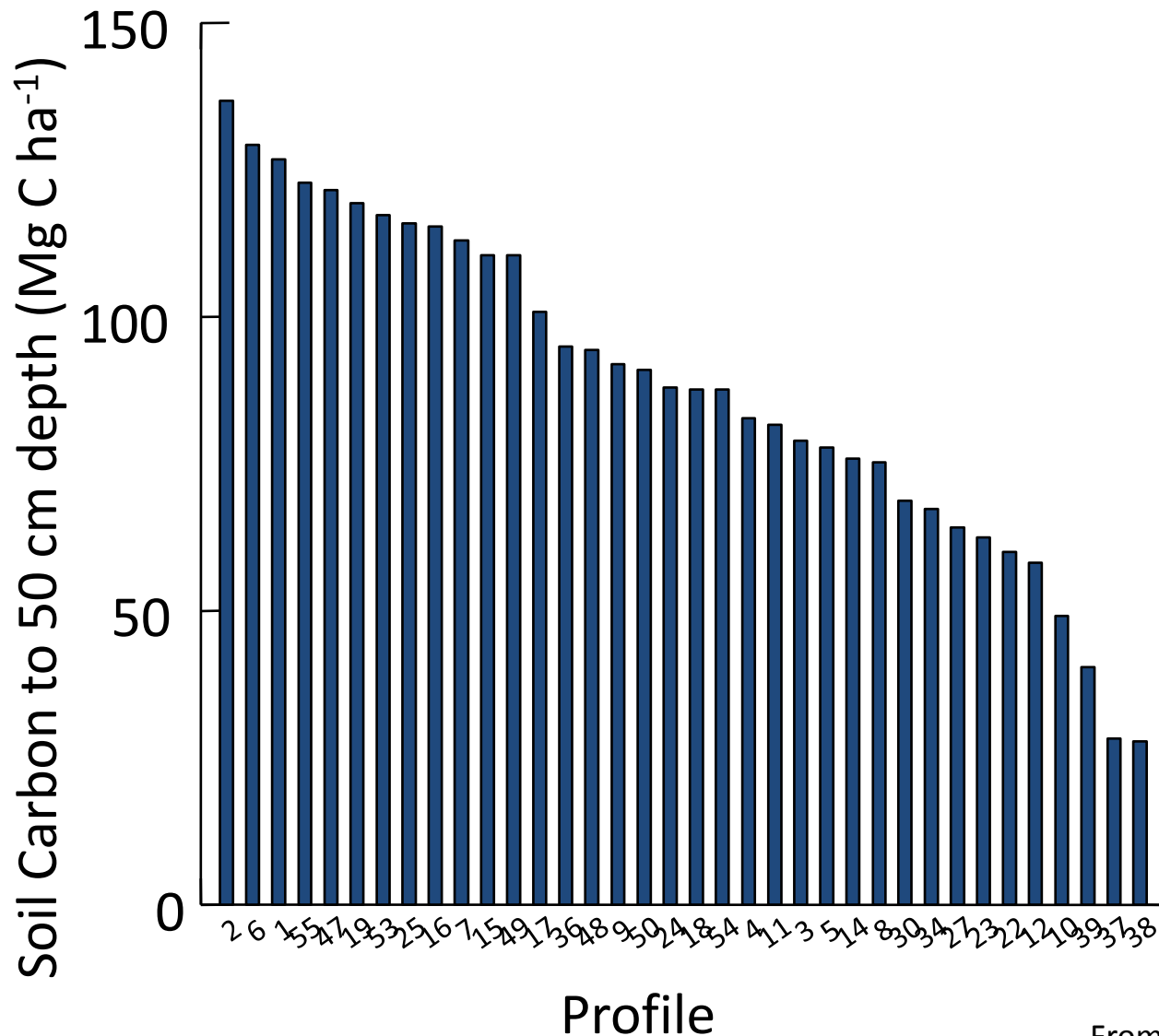




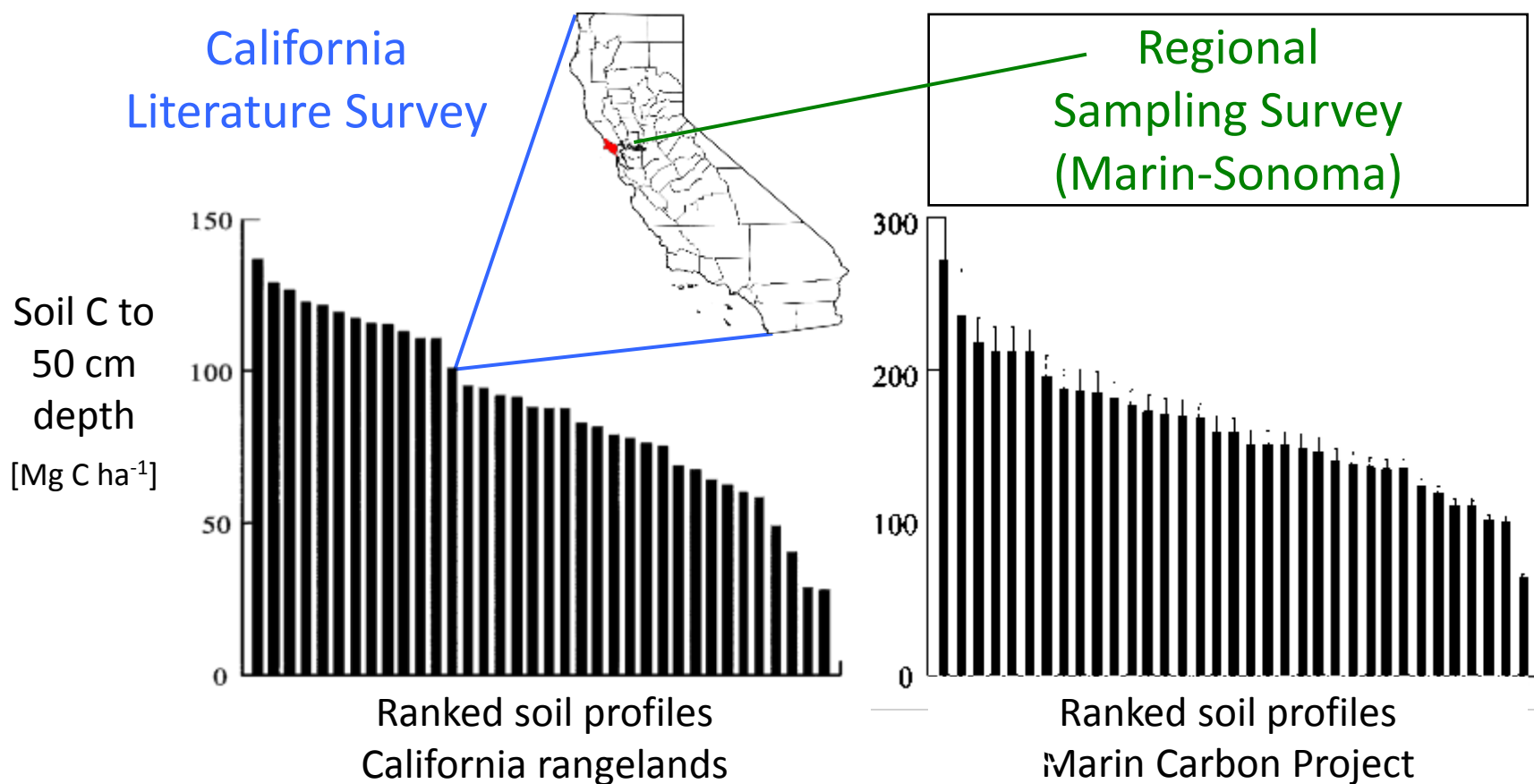




- Large range in soil carbon pool size
- Considerable soil C storage capacity



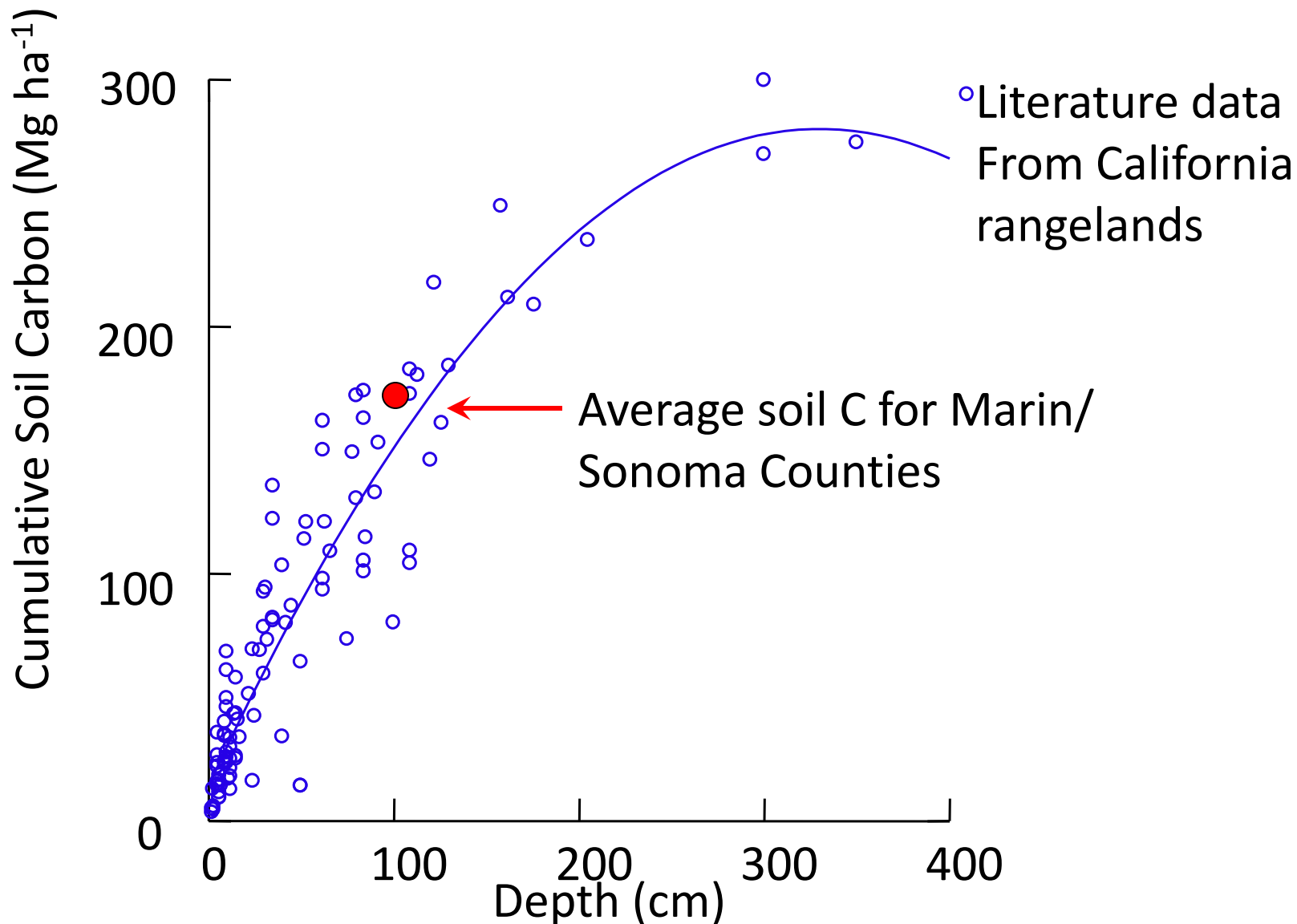
Soil carbon pools vary widely,
due to management history, precipitation,
vegetation and soil type.

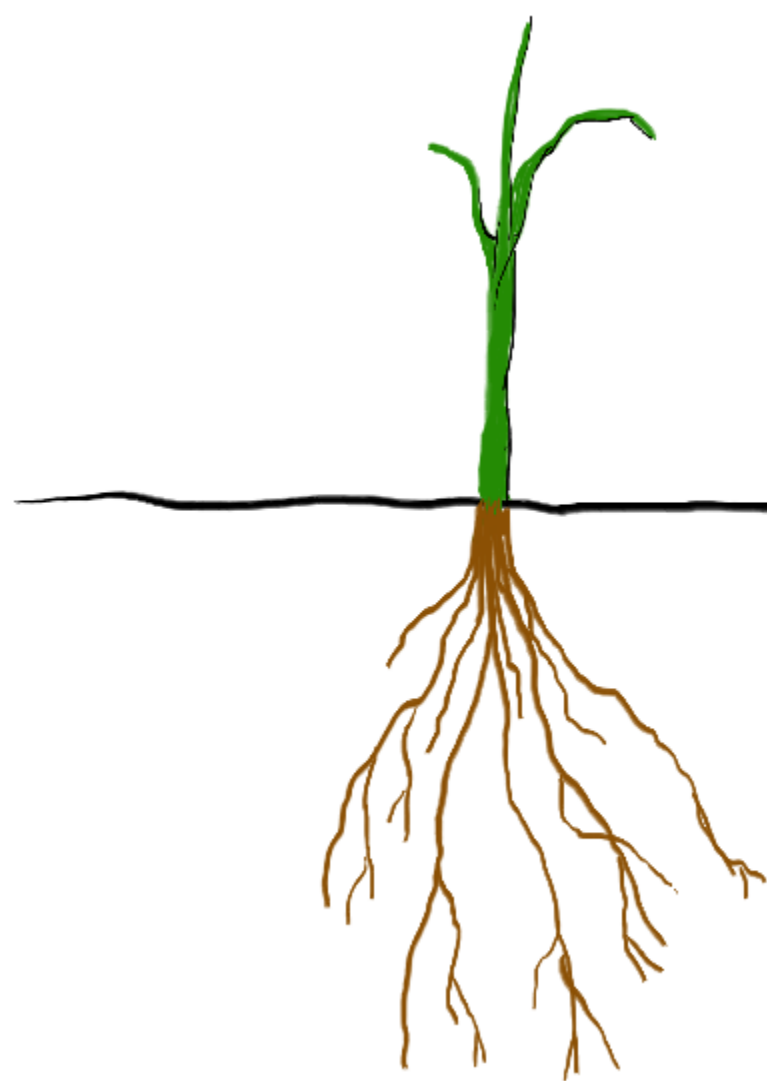


Silver, Ryals & Eviner 2010

Silver, Ryals, et al. in prep

On average Marin soils appear to be in the mid range of California rangelands





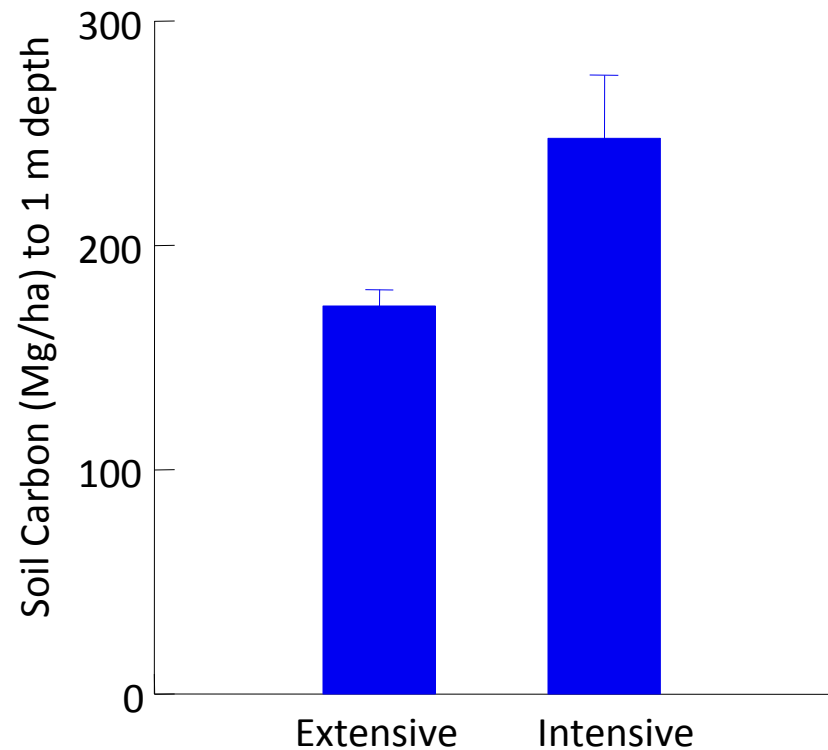
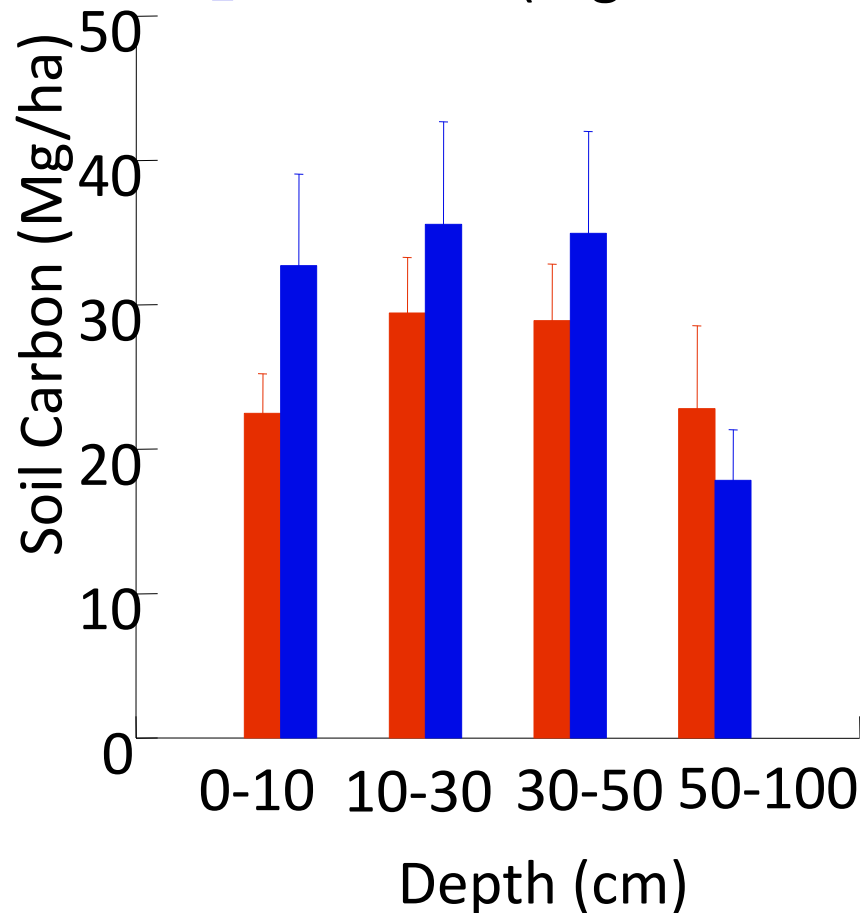
2008 SOIL SURVEY
OF 35 SITES IN
MARIN AND
SONOMA;
A WIDE RANGE
OF SOIL CARBON
30-150 TONS
CARBON PER
HECTARE.





Organic amendments increased soil carbon by 50 Mg C ha⁻¹ in the top meter of soil

- Extensive
- Intensive (organic amendments)





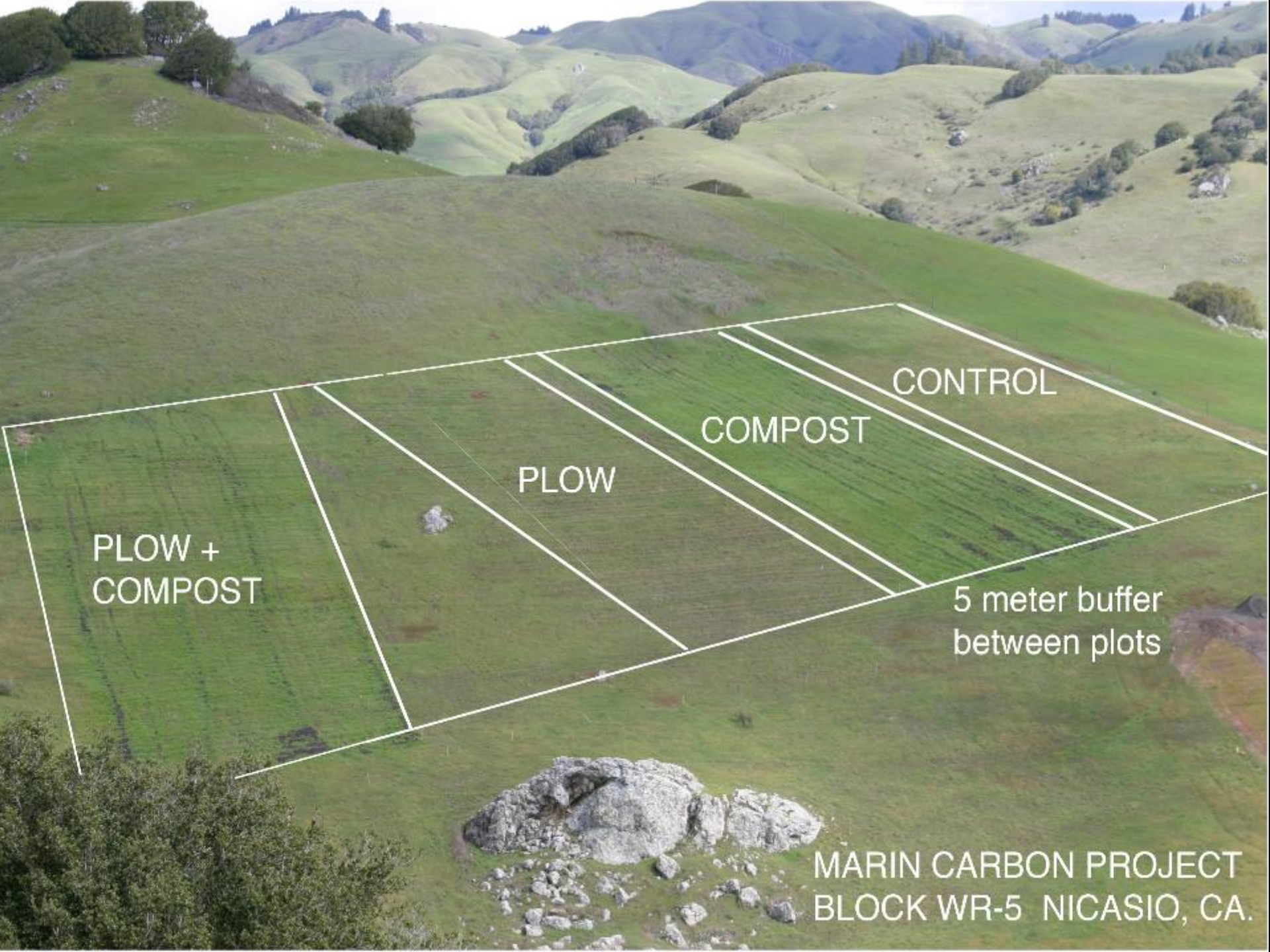
In 1996, French Nuclear testing
Released a very unique Carbon Isotope
Into the atmosphere.
Scientists use this isotope as a
“Distinct Time Stamp.”

Dr. Silver is quoted as saying,

“We were looking for a needle
in a Haystack, and we found **bricks**
of 10 year old French carbon
a meter deep
in Marin County soils!”

WE NEEDED A WAY
TO SCIENTIFICALLY
TEST THE
MECHANISM OF
PHOTOSYNTHETIC
CARBON TRANSFER
WITHOUT THE
EMISSIONS

COMPOST!



PLOW +
COMPOST

PLOW

COMPOST

CONTROL

5 meter buffer
between plots

MARIN CARBON PROJECT
BLOCK WR-5 NICASIO, CA.



Valley Grassland

UC Sierra Foothills Research & Extension Center

Mean seasonal temp: 2°C (Jan), 32°C (July)

Mean annual precipitation: 750 mm/yr

Coastal Grassland

Nicasio Native Grass Ranch, Nicasio, CA

Mean annual temperature: 6°C (Jan), 20°C (July)

Mean annual precipitation: 850 mm/yr

2008 - 2011 Field experiments

Controlled, replicated experiments on working grasslands to test the effects of management practices on soil carbon sequestration.







Site: WR-HIG-8

Date: 4.11.09

Plot: GRAZ'N4

Line #: LEFT

Direction: E











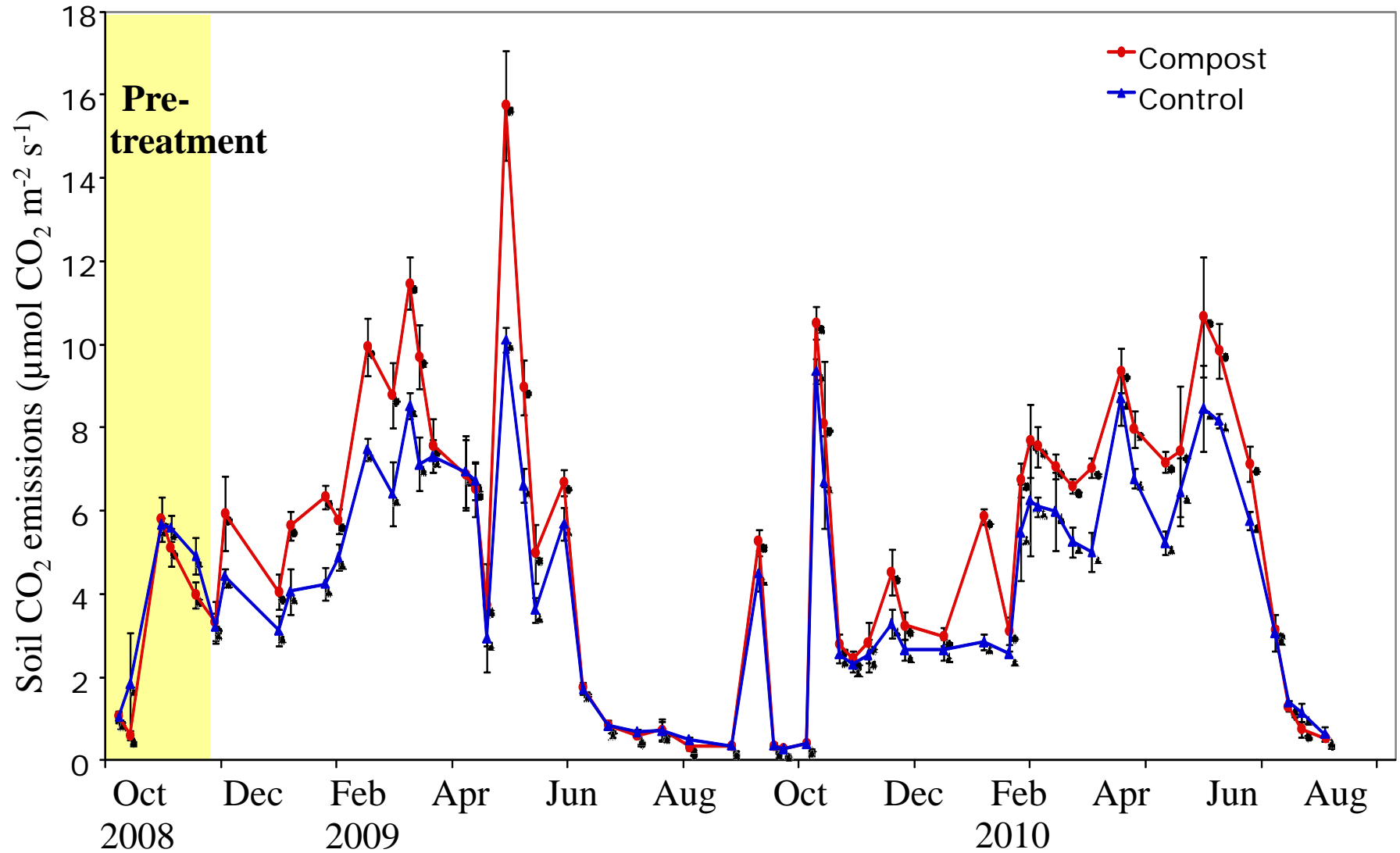




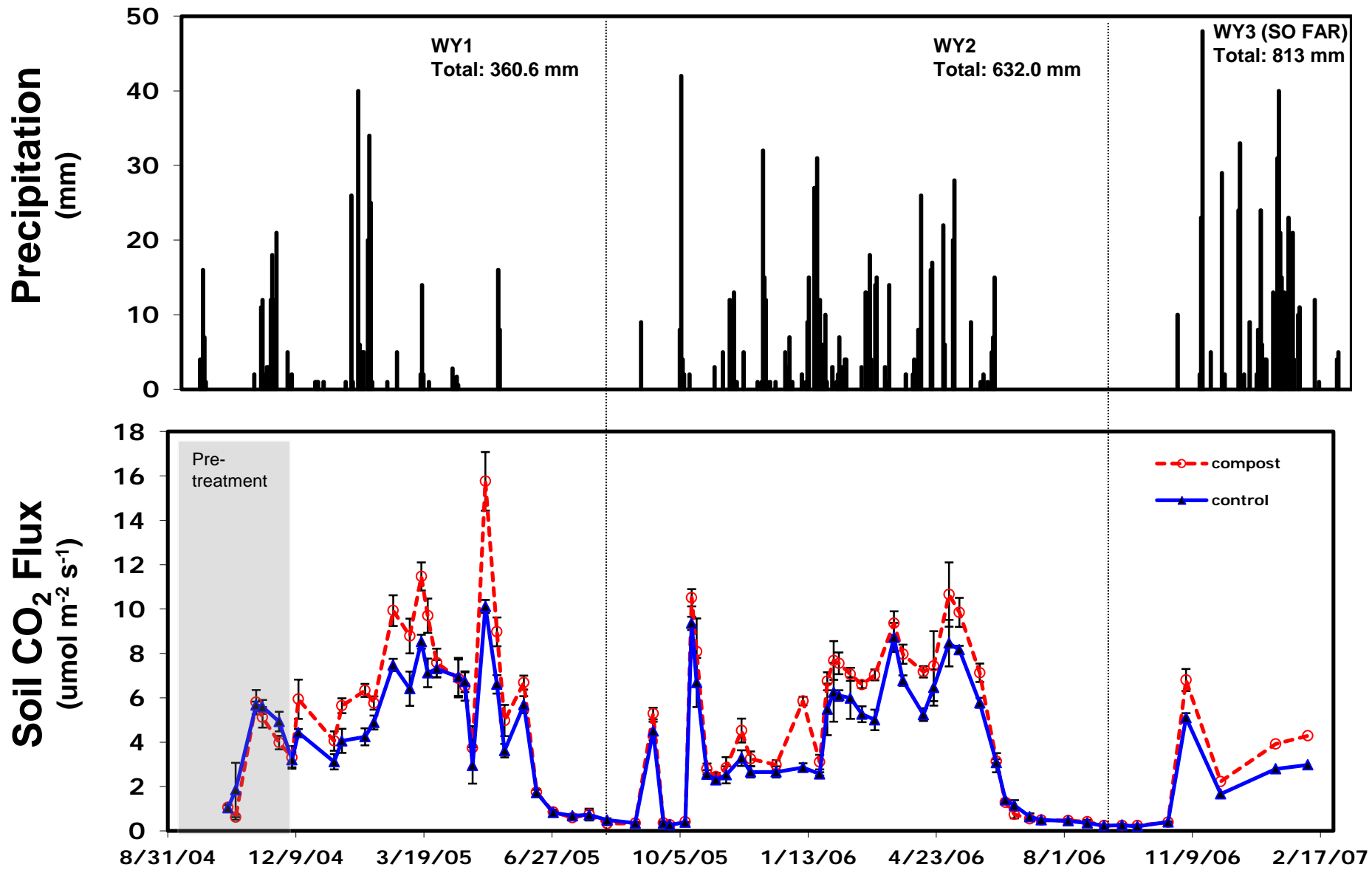




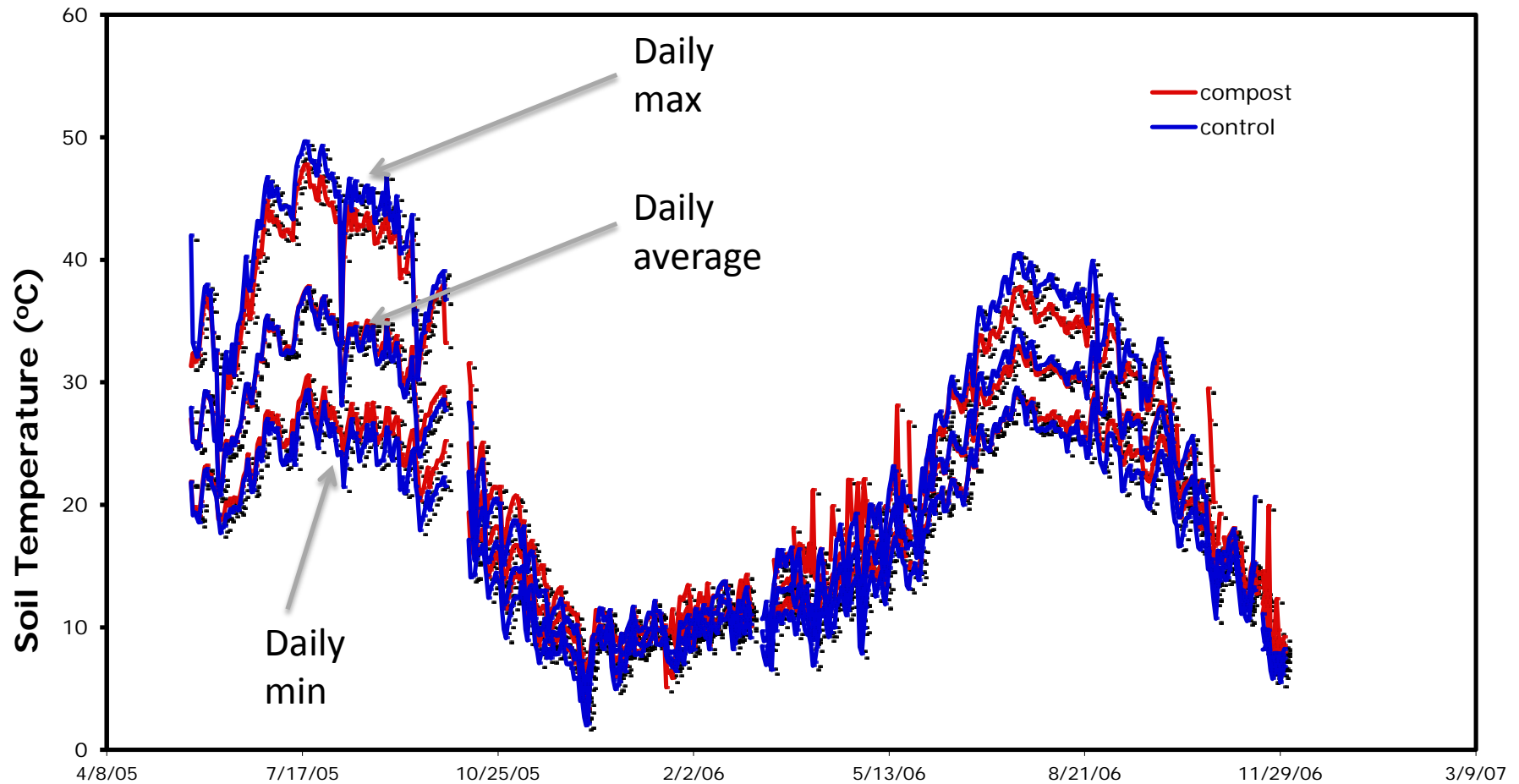
Compost addition increased soil respiration over the first two years of the experiment



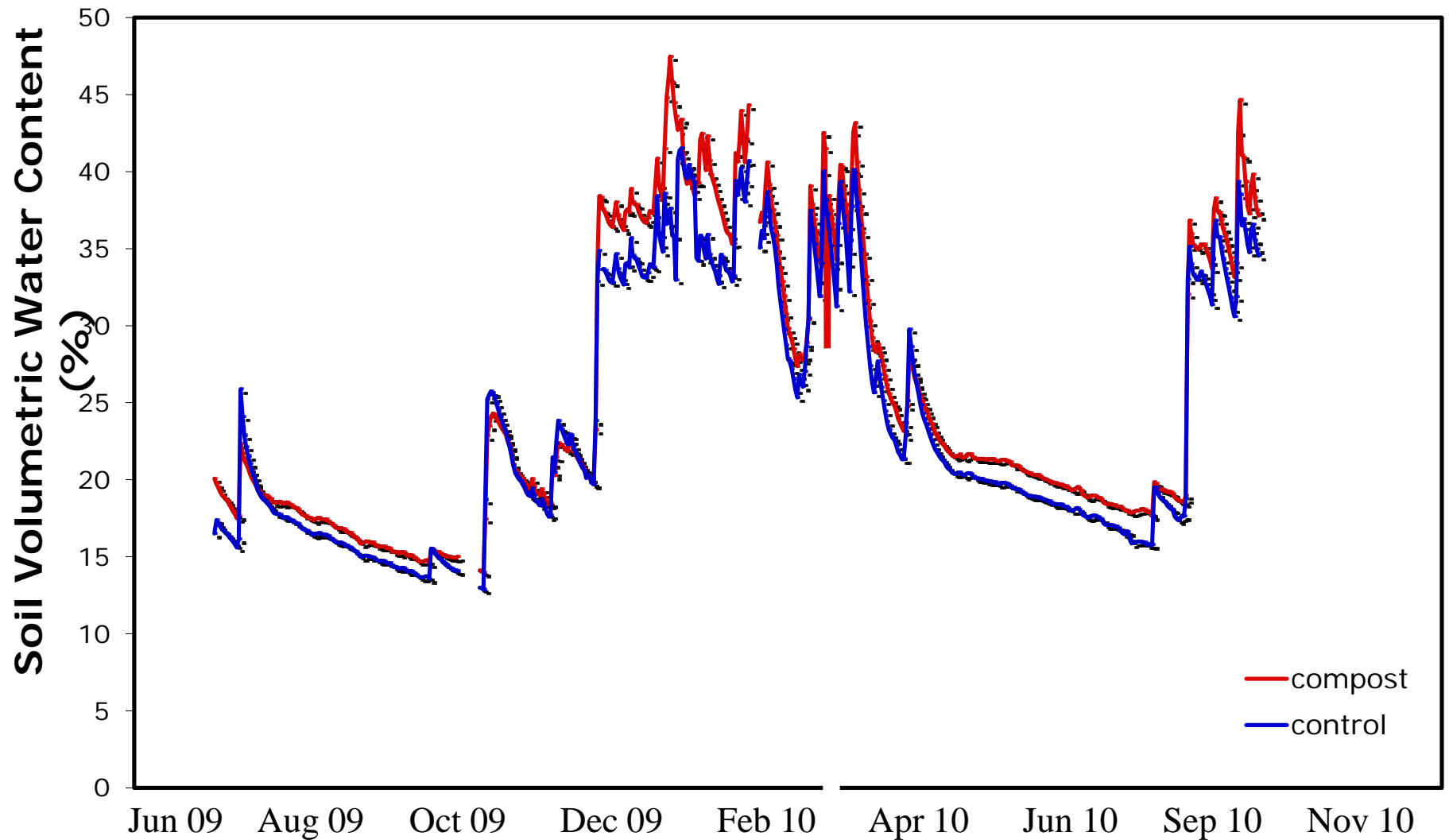
Outputs I: Soil respiration influenced by rainfall and compost



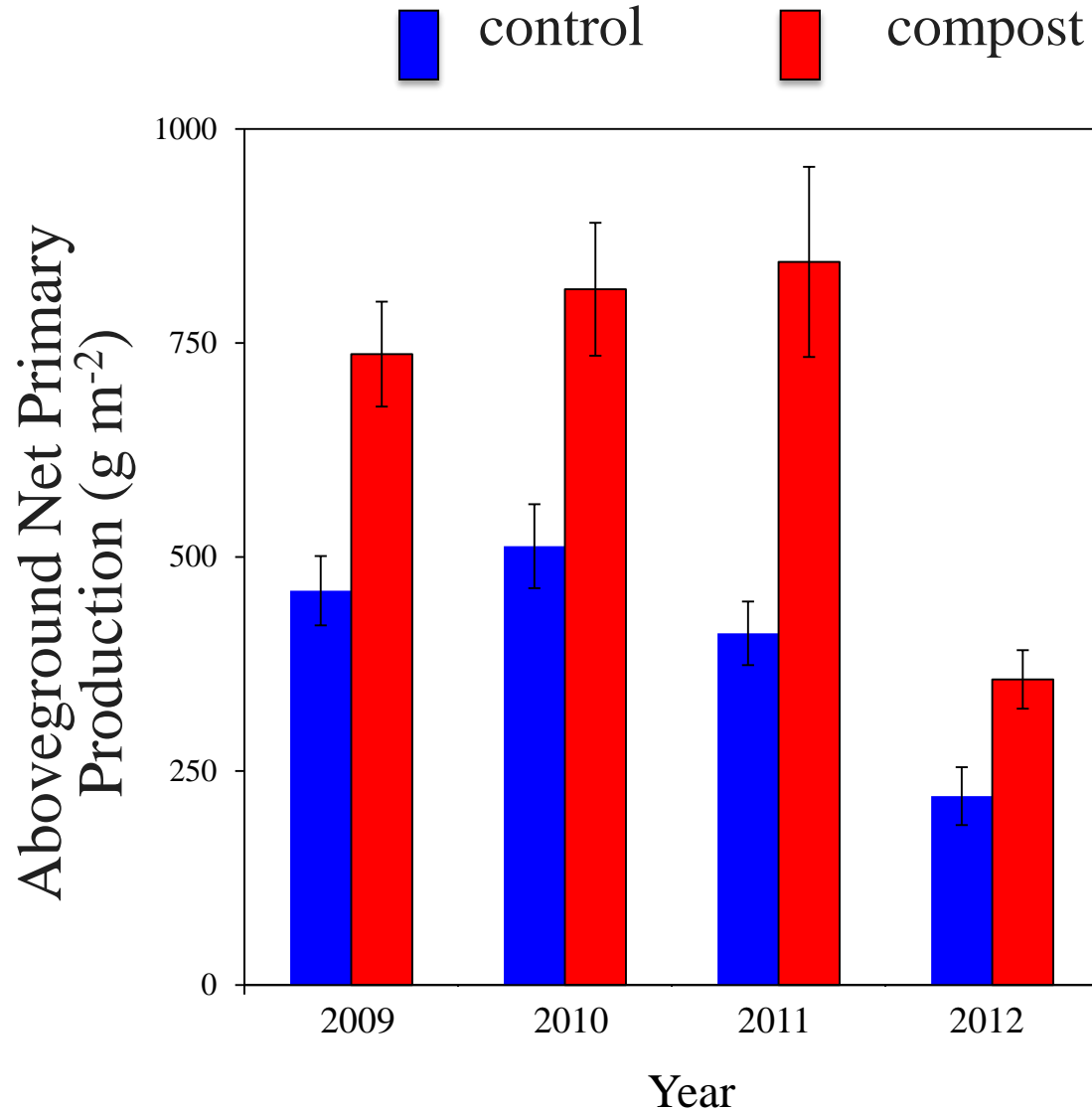
Composting buffered daily soil temperature extremes



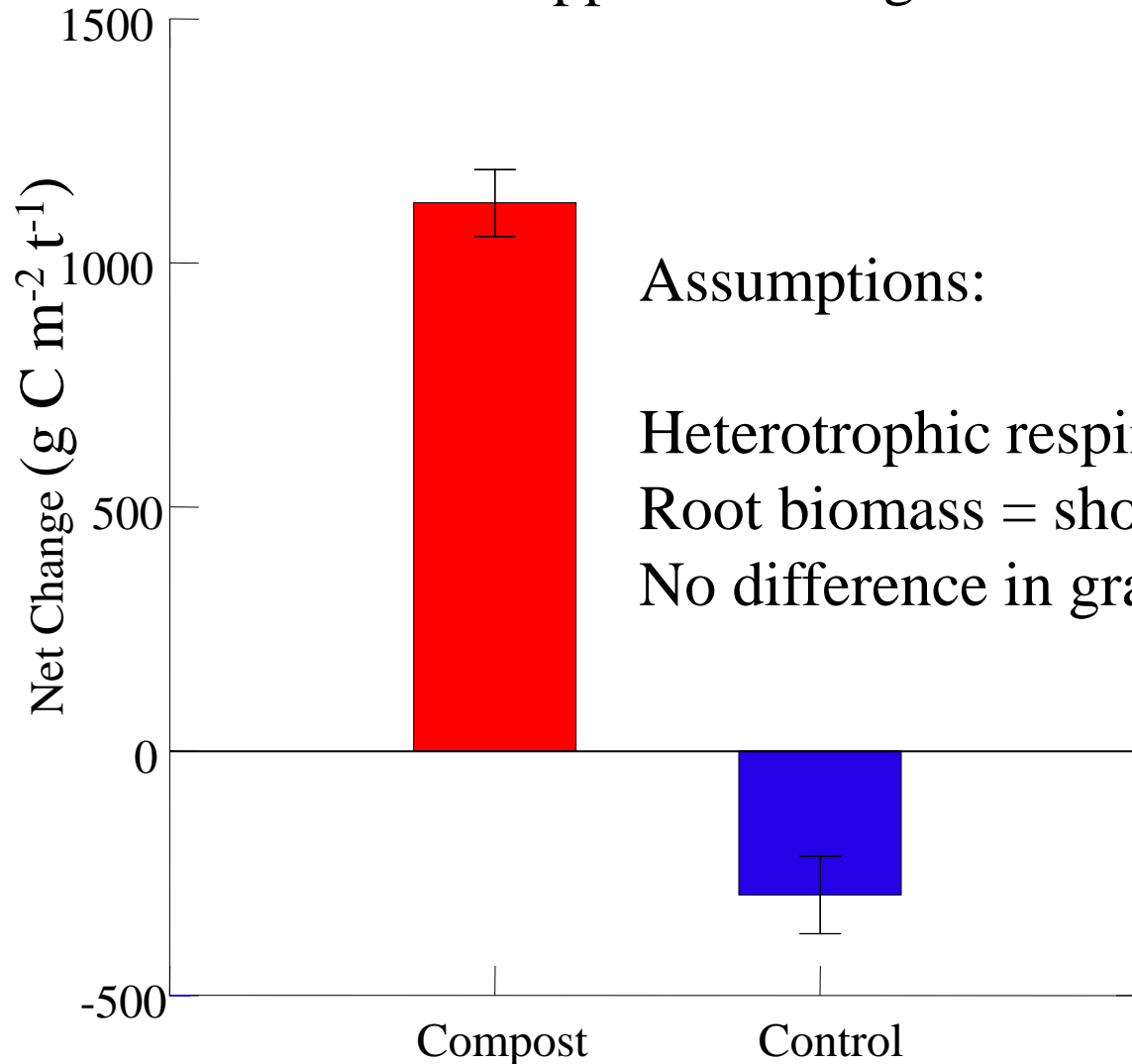
Compost also increased soil moisture....



Results: Above-ground production (forage) has exceeded controls by about 50% *every year* following the single ½” compost application in 2008



Organic amendments increased system carbon by over 14.8 Mg C/ha in year 1; net gain, beyond compost additions was approx. 0.8 Mg C/ha.



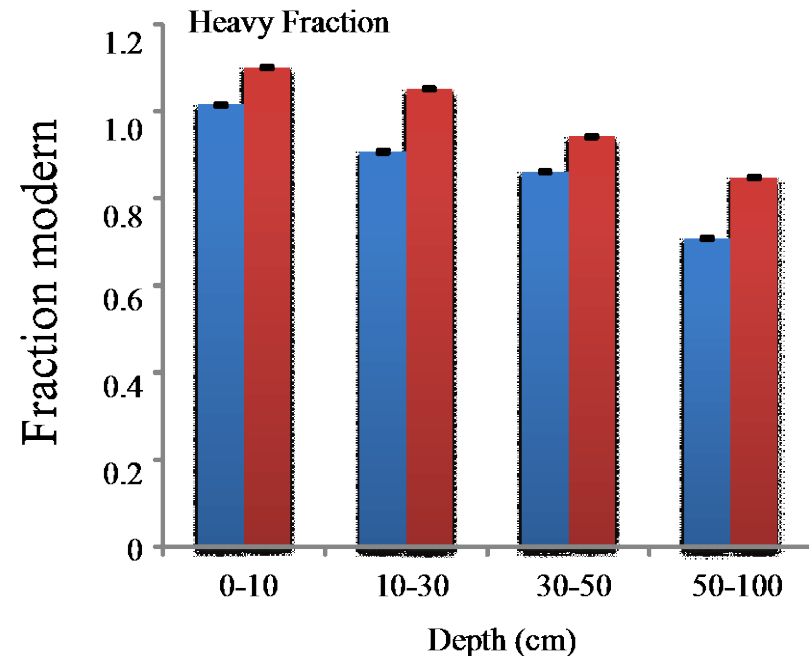
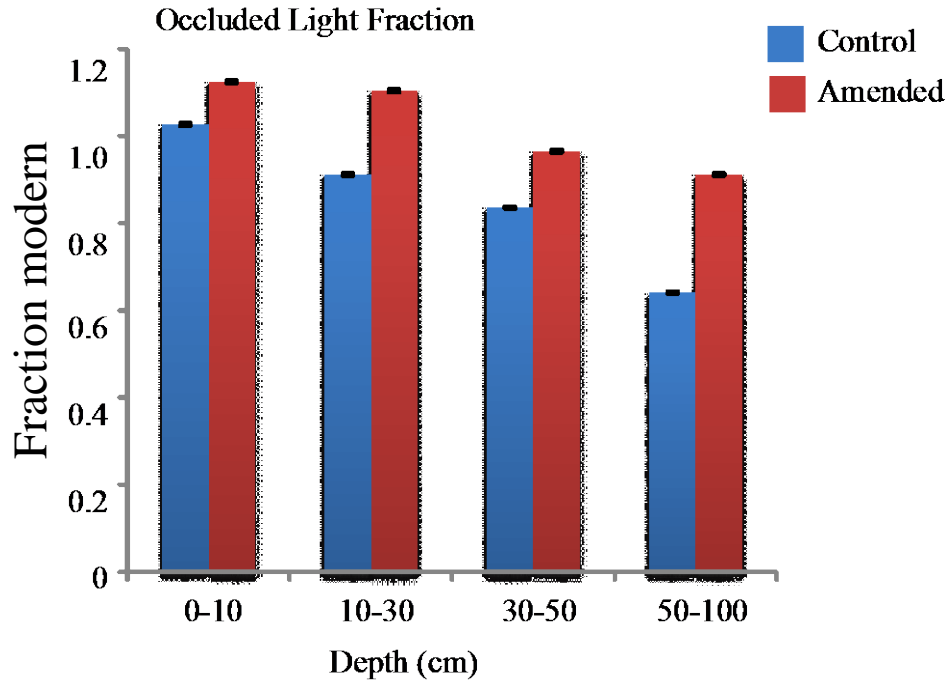
Assumptions:

Heterotrophic respiration = 50% of total

Root biomass = shoot biomass

No difference in grazed biomass

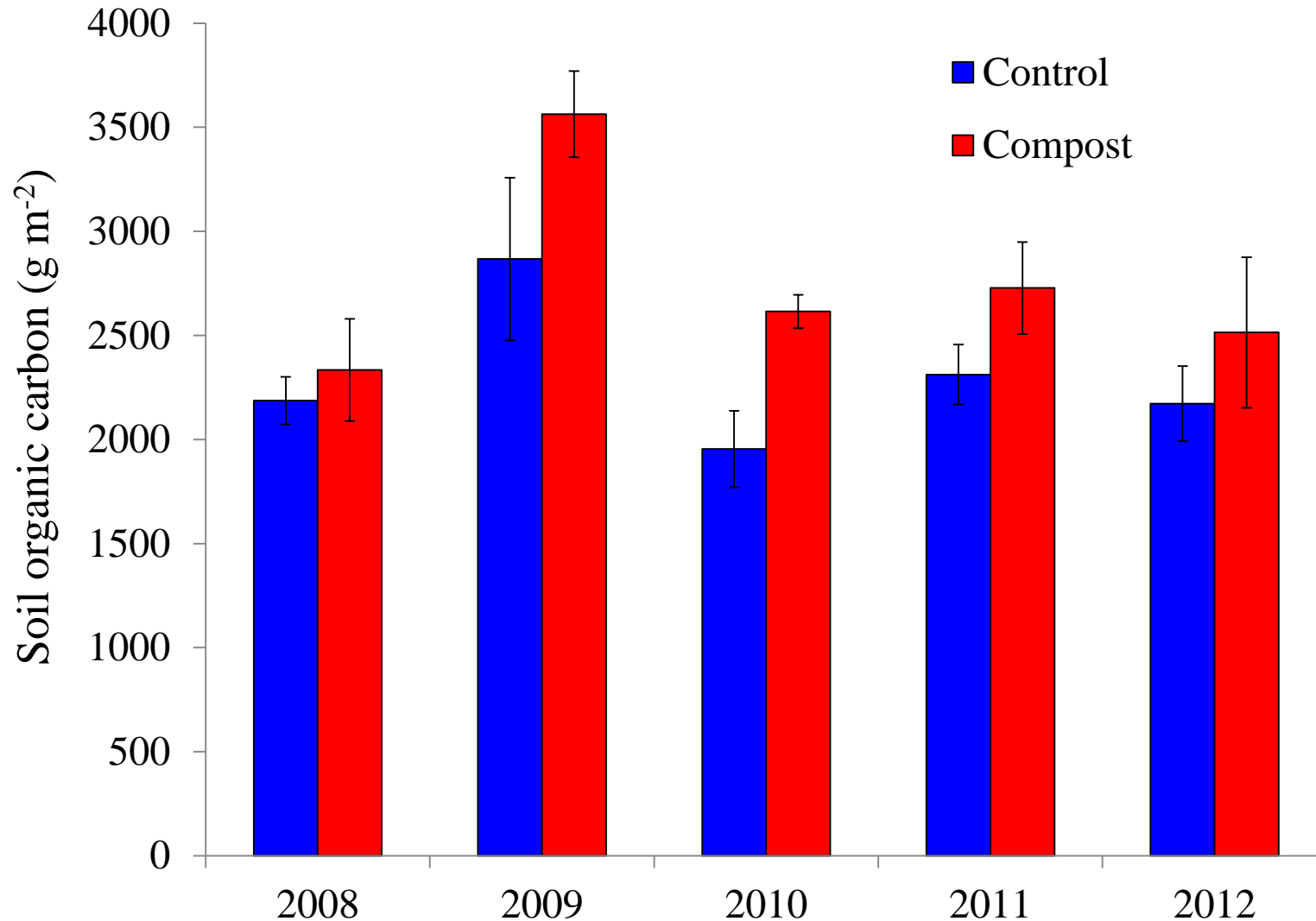
Soil C from amendments can be stored in soil C pools with long turnover times



OLF: decades to centuries

HF: centuries to millennia

Organic matter amendments increased soil C pools



Effects of Organic Matter Amendments on Net Primary Productivity and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Annual Grasslands

Rebecca Ryals AND Whendee L. Silver

Ecological Applications, 23(1), 2013, pp. 46–59, 2013

This paper showed that compost increased plant production, water holding capacity, and ecosystem C storage in rangelands in two bioclimatic zones in California.

Impacts of Organic Matter Amendments on Carbon and Nitrogen Dynamics in Grassland Soils

Rebecca Ryals , Whendee L. Silver, Michael Kaiser, Margaret S. Torn, Asmeret
Asefaw Berhe

Soil Biology & Biochemistry 68 (2014) 52e61

This paper showed that compost applications led to an increase in bulk soil C stocks and that over 3 years we detected an increase in the free light and occluded light C fractions.

Grassland Compost Amendments Increase Plant Production Without Changing Plant Communities

Rebecca Ryals,^{1,3,†} Valerie T. Eviner,² Claudia Stein,^{1,4}

Katharine N. Suding,^{1,5} and Whendee L. Silver¹

Ecosphere March 2016 v Volume 7(3)

This paper showed that there were
no losses in biodiversity in
composted-amended sites
and that we did not see an increase
in invasive weed species.

Moderating Climate Change with Soil Carbon Management

CARBON CYCLE INSTITUTE MARIN CARBON PROJECT



INTRODUCTION

- Climate change is ongoing with changes in weather patterns and increases in extreme events, such as the current California drought.
- Biosequestration removes carbon from the atmosphere and stores it in plants and soil, increases soil water holding capacity, increases net primary productivity, and enhances other ecosystem services.
- Marin Carbon Project (MCP) research showed increases in soil water holding capacity (WHC) associated with topical applications of compost.
- The 25% WHC increase modeled here is based on first year increases in soil carbon on MCP treatment plots (Ryals, R and W. Silver, 2013, Ecological Applications, 23(1), pp. 46–59).
- Composting is a particularly powerful biosequestration strategy due to both the avoidance of methane production by diversion of organic materials away from anaerobic decomposition in landfills and manure lagoons, and through enhanced NPP resulting from soil quality improvement following compost application. (DeLonge et al, 2013, Ecosystems 16: 962–976).

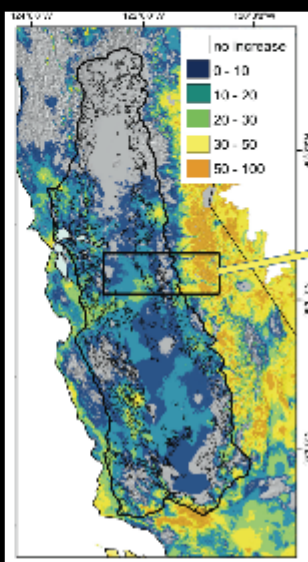
CLIMATE CHANGE AND HYDROLOGY

- The hydrologic impacts of climate change include changes in water availability and increases in demand for water.
- This translates into environmental stress that relates to wildfire, forest die-off, desertification, and loss of riparian zones and groundwater.
- Climatic water deficit is a key indicator of landscape stress.

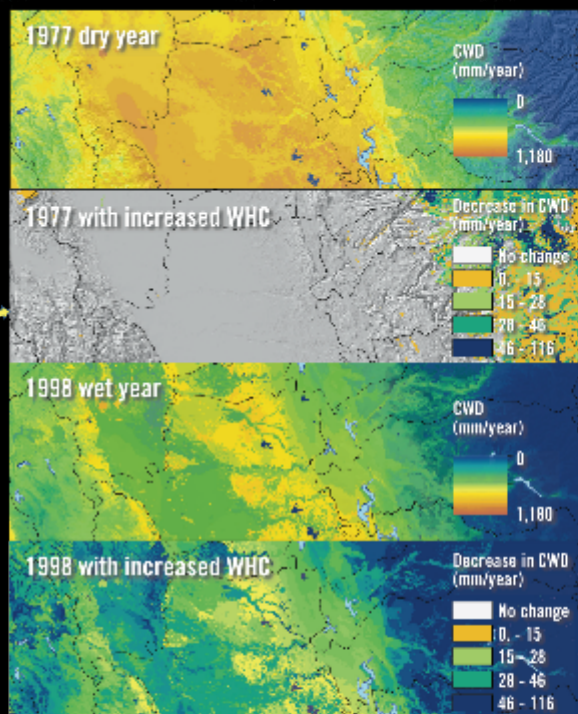
CLIMATIC WATER DEFICIT (CWD)

- Annual evaporative demand that exceeds available water
- $CWD = potential - actual\ evapotranspiration$
- Defines the level of hydroclimatic stress on the landscape
- Integrates climate, energy loading, drainage, and available soil moisture storage and addresses irrigation demand

Projected Increase in CWD by 2085 (mm/year)



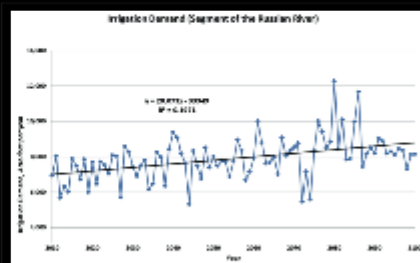
Increases in California rangelands are projected to be approximately 20-30 mm/year, 200-300 mm/year in the Central Valley, and the entire state by 2085 (DeLonge et al, 2013, Ecosystems 16: 962–976).



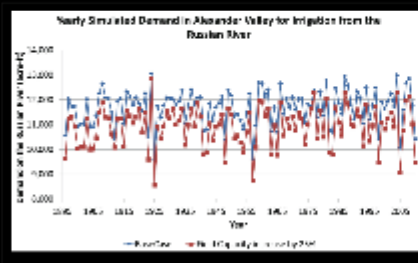
Climatic water deficit is shown for a wet year, 1998, and dry year, 1977, for a slice across the Central Valley and up into the Tulelake River basin. Also shown is the change in CWD when soil water holding capacity is increased by 25%. Increases in a dry year compost only contributes to reducing CWD in relatively shallow soils (because there isn't enough precipitation to fill the increased WHC in deeper soils), in wetter years all soils see a big decrease in CWD due to filling of soils including the increased WHC. Thus, all else being equal, benefits of increased WHC accrue primarily in shallower, non-irrigated soils in drier years. In addition, when rainfall occurs in less frequent, more intense events, the effects of increased soil organic matter, including increased rates of infiltration, increased pore space, and increased hydraulic conductivity, result in the capacity to absorb and hold more rainfall, and sustain the landscape through the season.

IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- Climate change is likely to reduce the extent and productivity of both rangelands and arable lands due to increases in climatic water deficit.
- Increases in evaporative demand and irrigation demand will reduce groundwater and surface water availability.
- Increases in soil water holding capacity and infiltration rate can increase ecosystem resilience by reducing the climatic water deficit, increasing productivity and available water, and helping to compensate for changing climatic conditions, including drought, increased rainfall intensity, and decreased rainfall predictability.
- Amendments of compost to rangelands can sequester carbon in soils, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and increase soil water holding capacity and infiltration rate.
- Sensitivity analyses can help identify soil types that may benefit the most from strategic soil management and addition of compost.
- Local experimentation is needed to provide confidence in the mapping of climatic water deficit and changes due to compost amendments.
- These quantification and mapping methods can be applied to regions, river basins, or continents.



CWD has been shown to correlate to irrigation demand in the Russian River (DeLonge et al, 2013, Ecosystems 16: 962–976). The graph illustrates a substantial increase in demand for water (CWD) over the 50-year time period.



If we increase water holding capacity in the soil by 25%, we reduce CWD and associated water demand from the Russian River by approximately 200 mm/year (25% less).

Welcome to Century Homepage!

CENTURY 4



The **CENTURY** model is a general model of plant-soil nutrient cycling which is being used to simulate carbon and nutrient dynamics for different types of ecosystems including grasslands, agricultural lands, forests and savannas.

The **CENTURY** is composed of a soil organic matter/ decomposition submodel, a water budget model, a grassland/crop submodel, a forest production submodel, and management and events scheduling functions.

It computes the flow of carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulfur through the model's compartments. The minimum configuration of elements is C and N for all the model compartments. The organic matter structure for carbon(C), nitrogen(N), phosphorus(P) and sulfur(S) are identical; the inorganic components are computed for the specific inorganic compound.

On behalf of the entire CENTURY group, thank you again for your interest in the model. If you have any question about the Century, please contact our **webmaster**.

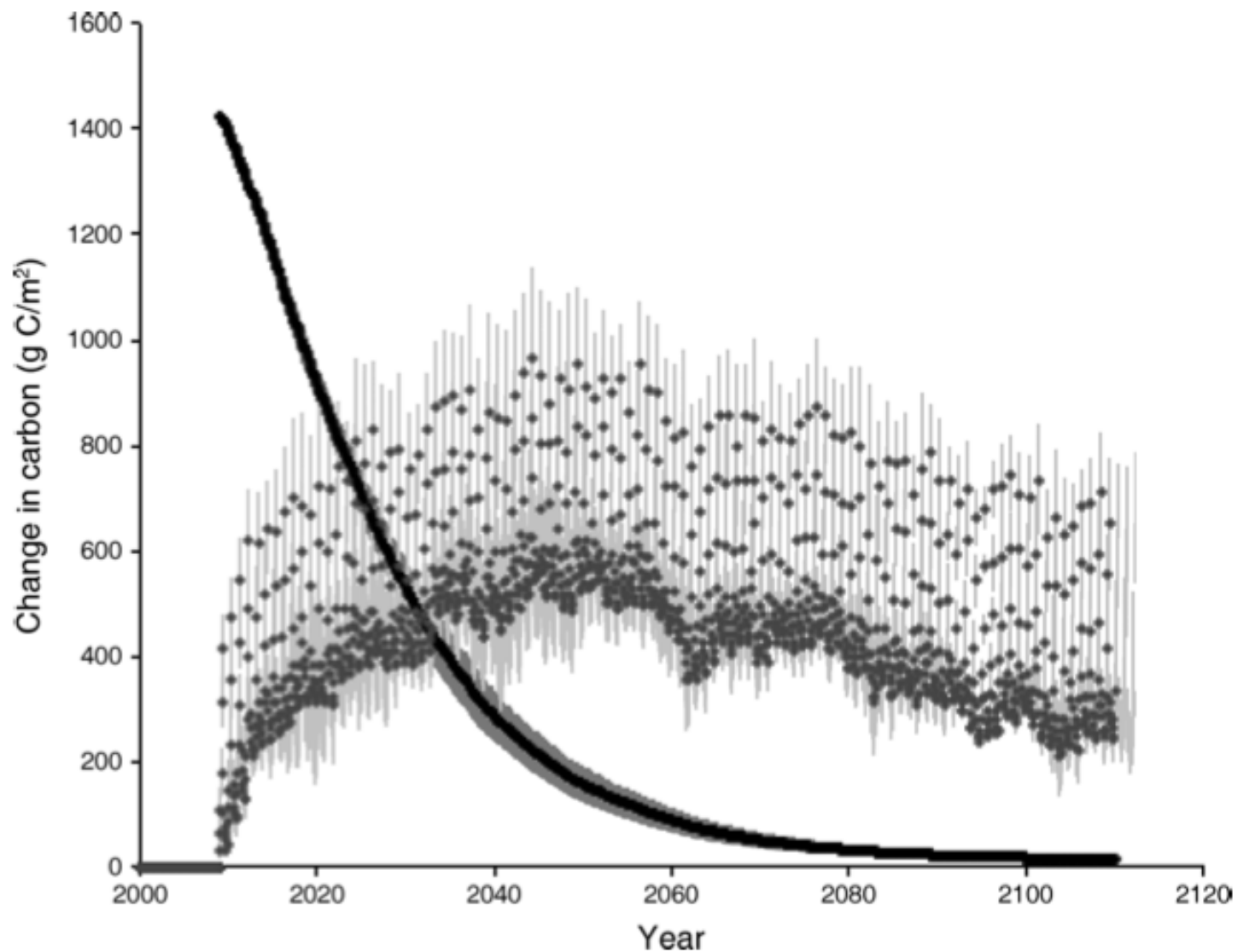


FIG. 3. The black line shows simulated decomposition of the compost following application to grassland soils. Gray circles show the monthly change in total ecosystem carbon, not including compost carbon. Values are averages across site characterizations, with standard error bars in light gray. Ryals et al, 2015. *Ecological Applications*, 25(2): 531–545.

Results indicated that
Carbon storage
would persist
for 30 to 100 years,

and that compost application
resulted in a long-term increase
in C capture and associated
nutrient cycling.

Few differences were seen
when applying
small amounts
for multiple years,
versus
a single
one-time application.

Compost with lower C:N ratios
led to greater sequestration,
but higher N₂O emissions.

A SINGLE APPLICATION OF
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " COMPOST WILL RESULT IN
30 – 100 YEARS OF ONGOING
SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION!

AND PERHAPS $\frac{1}{4}$ " WOULD
PRODUCE THE SAME RESULTS.



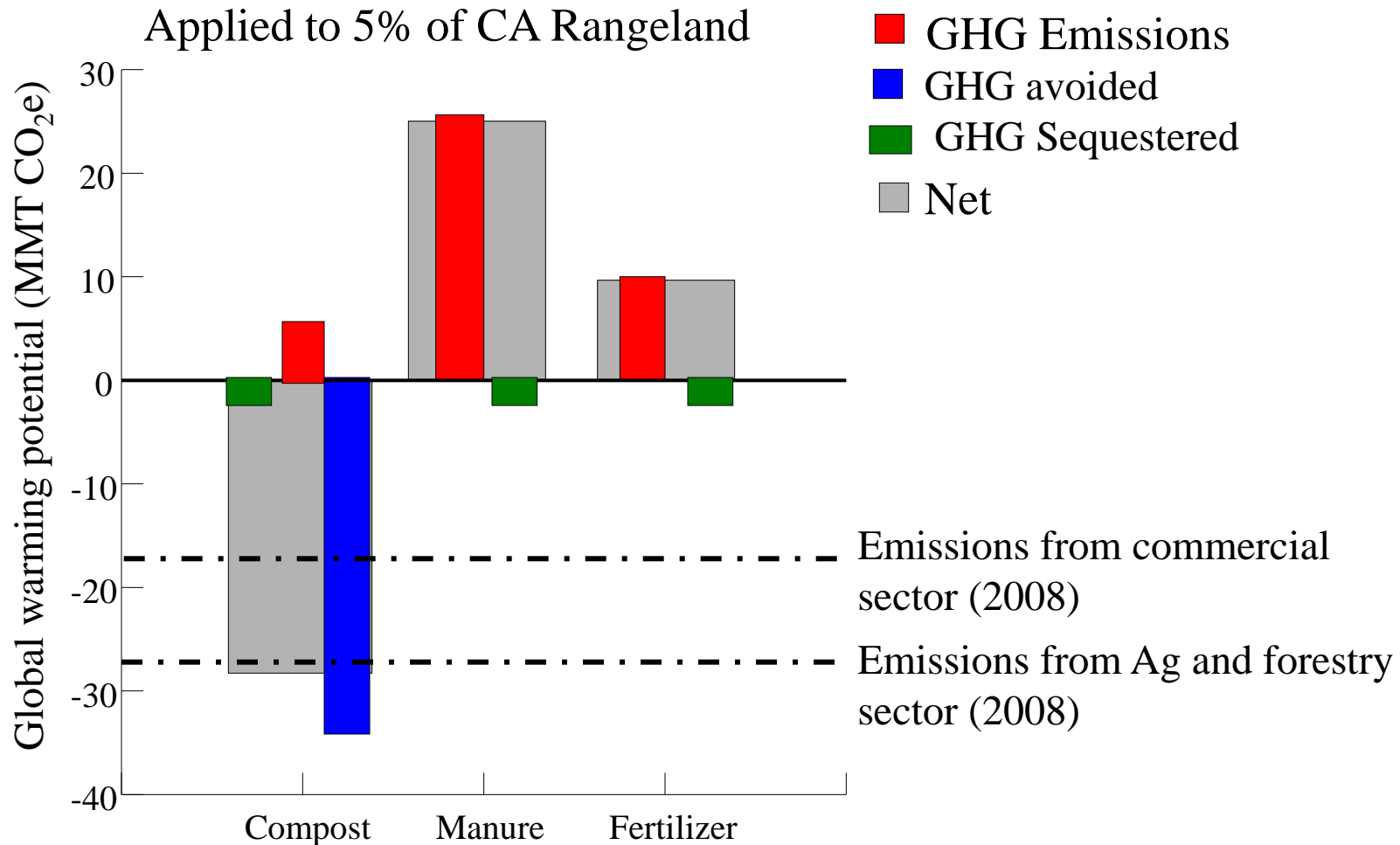




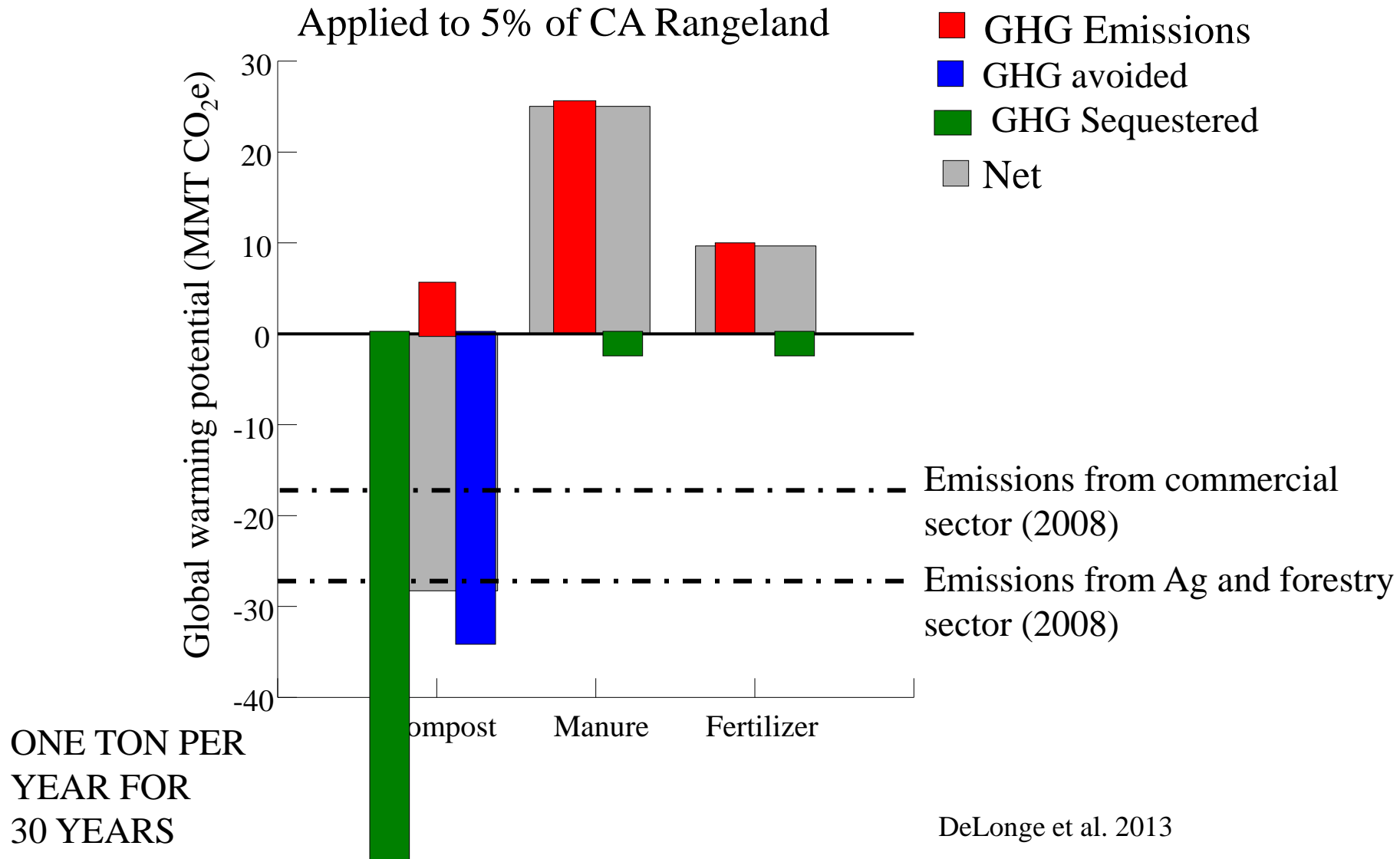




Life Cycle Assessment suggests significant GHG mitigation potential statewide



Life Cycle Assessment suggests significant GHG mitigation potential statewide



A Lifecycle Model to Evaluate Carbon Sequestration Potential and Greenhouse Gas Dynamics of Managed Grasslands

Marcia S. DeLonge, Rebecca Ryals, and Whendee L. Silver
Ecosystems (2013) 16: 962–979

We used a lifecycle assessment approach to explore the integrated impacts of compost amendments. Results showed that waste diversion represented a large offset in emissions; which increased when coupled with compost applications.

BUT DOES IT WORK
ON “REAL” RANCHES?









EXPANDED FEEDSTOCKS























REOTEMP

°F

REOTEMP INST. CORP.
SAN DIEGO CALIF. U.S.A.





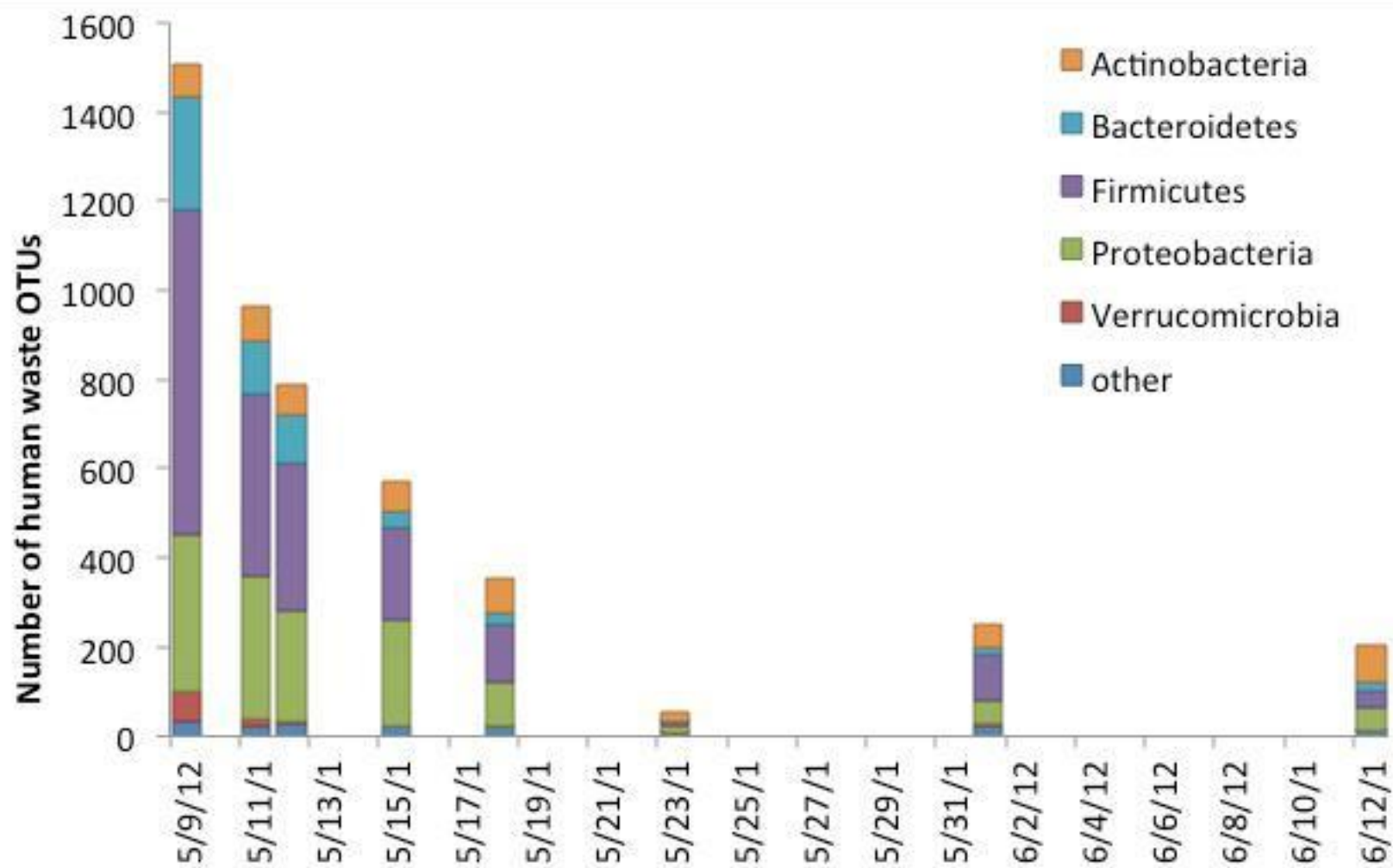
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GeneChip®
phylochip

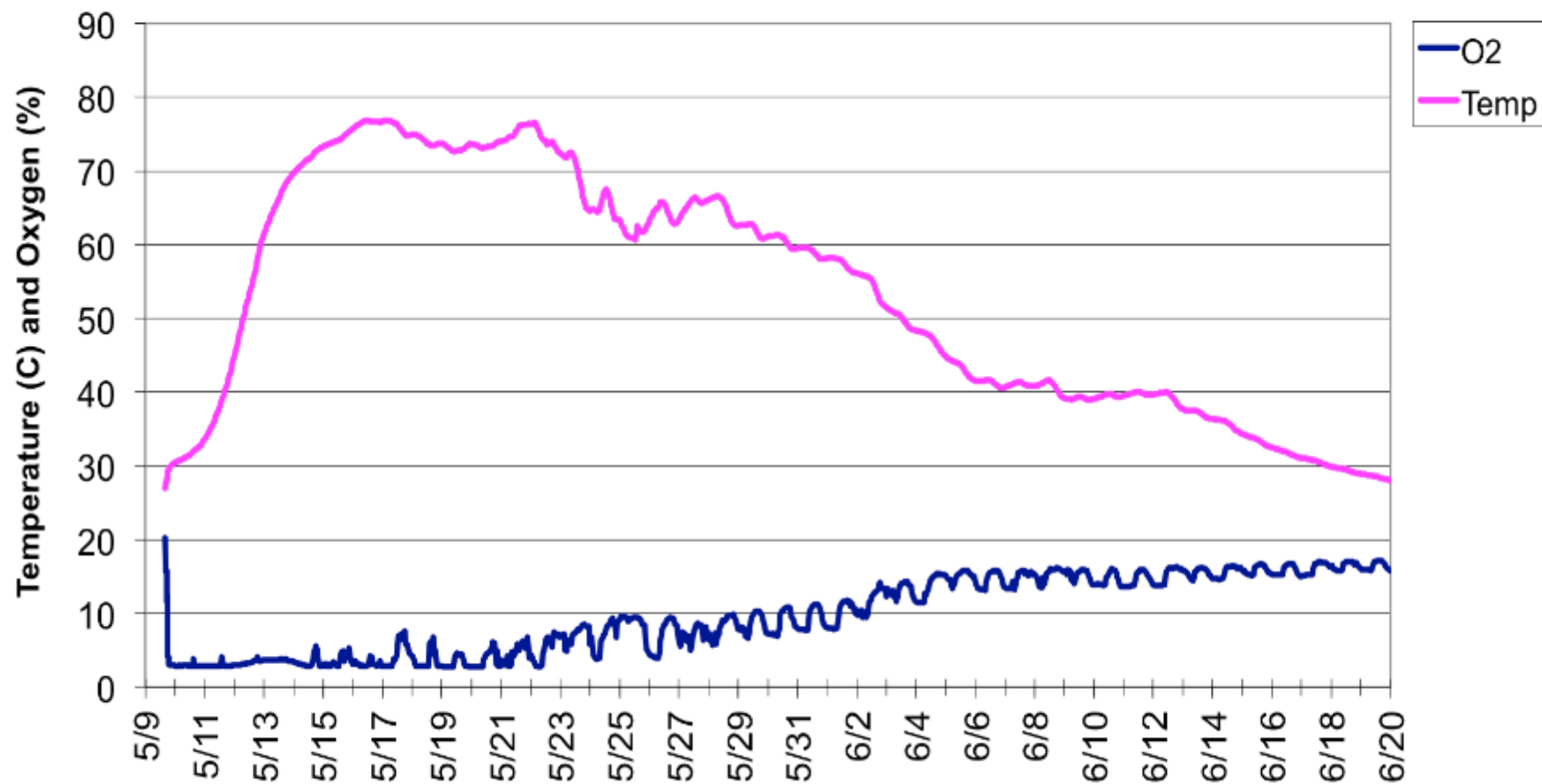


P/N: 510706
Lot #: 4027020
Exp. Date: 04/29/07
For Research Use Only





Humanure temperature and oxygen





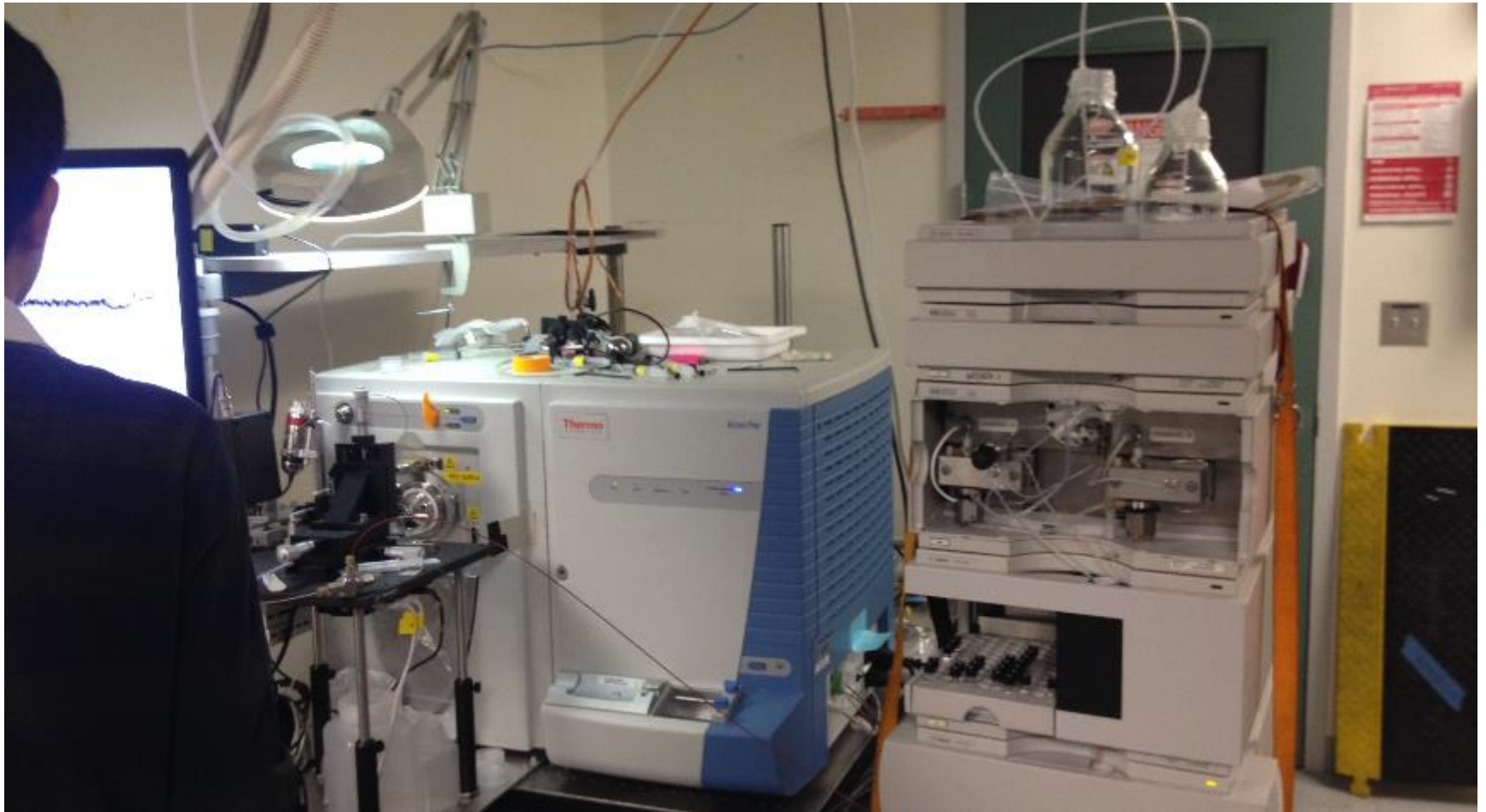




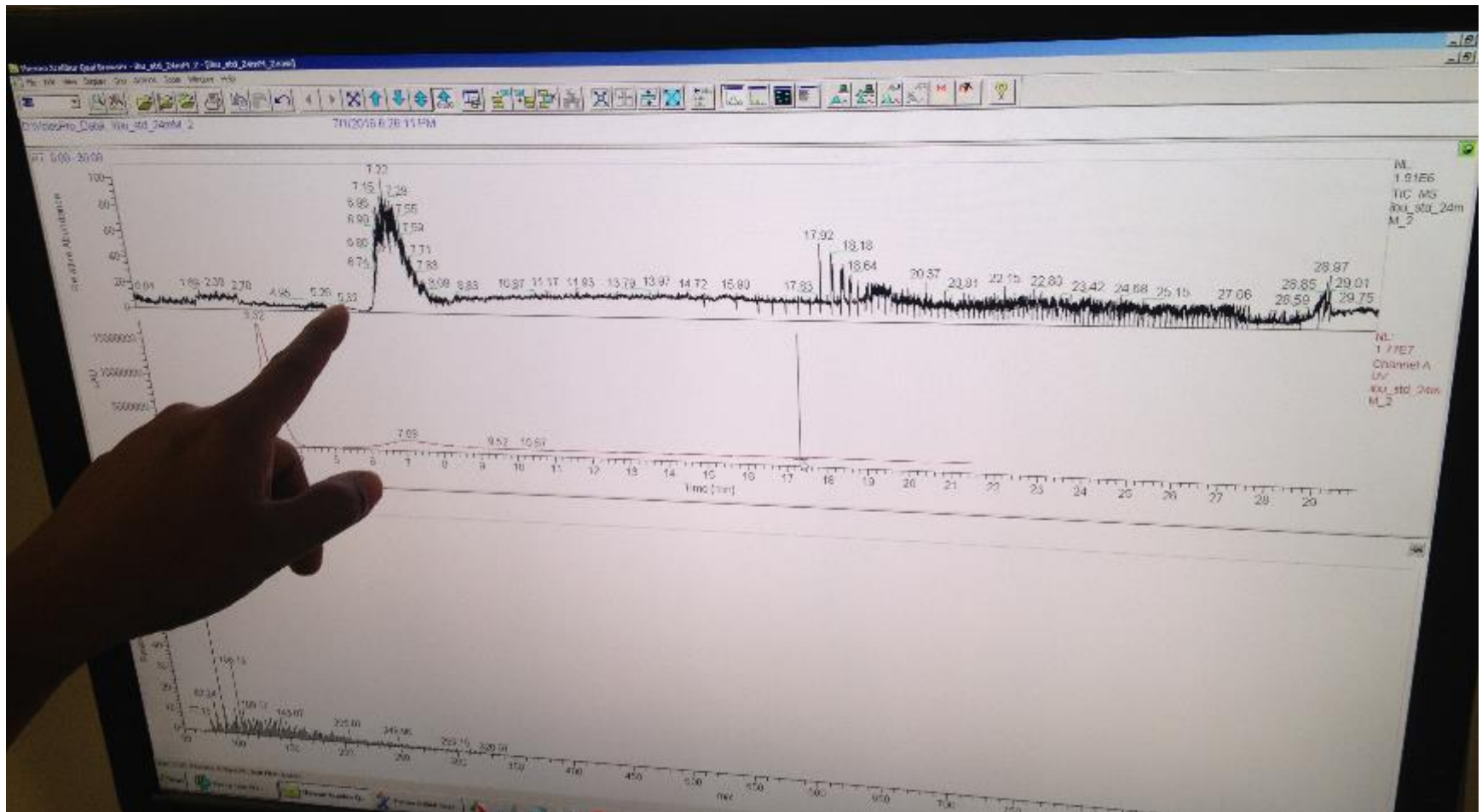
HPLC UNIT AT LBNL



Nano-Electro Spray ionization (nano-ESI) mass spectrometer.



Combined, we are able to separate a sample into thousands of different samples, each containing a fraction of the original number of compounds and then accurately identifying the exact mass of each compound to back-calculate the molecular structure.



WWW.THERMOPILEPROJECT.ORG















FIRST PRINCIPLES OF THERMOPHILIC COMPOSTING









The American Carbon Registry™

***Methodology for
Compost Additions to Grazed Grasslands***

Version 1.0

October 2014





You are here: [Home](#) » [Carbon Accounting](#) » [Standards & Methodologies](#) » [Compost Additions to Grazed Grasslands](#)

Compost Additions to Grazed Grasslands

The American Carbon Registry (ACR), a non-profit enterprise of Winrock International, has approved a voluntary methodology for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions from Compost Additions to Grazed Grasslands. This methodology accounts for the carbon sequestration and avoided greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to compost additions to grazed grasslands. The methodology was developed by Terra Global Capital with support from the Environmental Defense Fund, Silver Lab at the University of California Berkeley, and the Marin Carbon Project.

Adding compost to grazed grasslands has been demonstrated to be an effective way to increase soil carbon sequestration and avoid emissions related to the anaerobic decomposition of organic waste material in landfills. Grazed grasslands represent a large portion of agricultural working lands, and a number of recent studies have highlighted that globally grasslands are in a state of degradation.

The methodology provides a quantification framework for emissions reductions from a number of activities including avoiding anaerobic decomposition of organic material used in compost production, directly increasing soil organic carbon (SOC) content by applying compost to grazed fields, and indirectly increasing SOC sequestration through enhanced plant growth in amended fields. Apart from the economic benefit of increased forage production, applying compost to grazed grasslands also has many environmental co-benefits such as improved soil quality, decreased risk of water and wind erosion by increasing soil aggregation, and increased nutrient and water availability for vegetation.

Current approved version

- [Compost Additions to Grazed Grasslands v1.0](#)

Process documentation

- [Public comment draft](#)
- [Public comments and responses](#)
- [Peer review comments and responses](#)

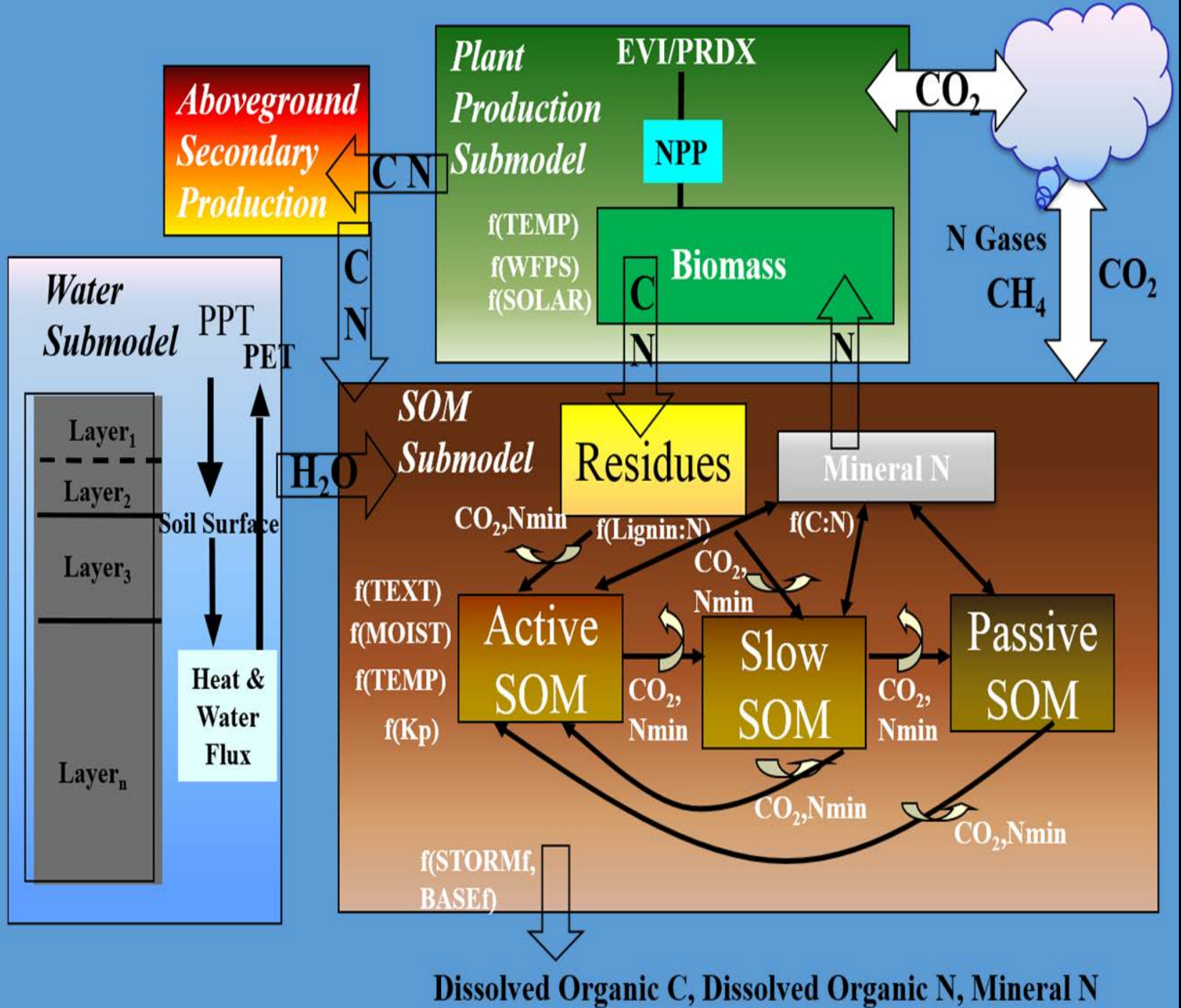
Sectoral Scope

14. Agriculture, Forestry, Land Use

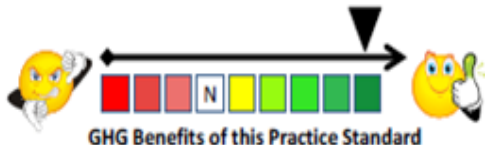
Filed under: [Land Use](#) [Approved](#)




WE HAVE A
PROTOCOL.



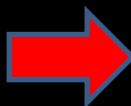
NRCS Practice Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction and Carbon Sequestration

Qualitative Ranking N=Neutral	Practice Code	Practice Standard and Associated Information Sheet	Beneficial Attributes
 <p>GHG Benefits of this Practice Standard</p>	327	Conservation Cover (Information Sheet)	Establishing perennial vegetation on land retired from agriculture production increases soil carbon and increases biomass carbon stocks.
	329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (Information Sheet)	Limiting soil-disturbing activities improves soil carbon retention and minimizes carbon emissions from soils.
	366	Anaerobic Digester (Information Sheet)	Biogas capture reduces CH ₄ emissions to the atmosphere and provides a viable gas stream that is used for electricity generation or as a natural gas energy stream.
	367	Roofs and Covers	Capture of biogas from waste management facilities reduces CH ₄ emissions to the atmosphere and captures biogas for energy production. CH ₄ management reduces direct greenhouse gas emissions.
	372	Combustion System Improvement	Energy efficiency improvements reduce on-farm fossil fuel consumption and directly reduce CO ₂ emissions.
	379	Multi-Story Cropping	Establishing trees and shrubs that are managed as an overstory to crops increases net carbon storage in woody biomass and soils. Harvested biomass can serve as a renewable fuel and feedstock.
	380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Information Sheet)	Establishing linear plantings of woody plants increases biomass carbon stocks and enhances soil carbon.
	381	Silvopasture Establishment	Establishment of trees, shrubs, and compatible forages on the same acreage increases biomass carbon stocks and enhances soil carbon.
	512	Forage and Biomass Planting (Information Sheet)	Deep-rooted perennial biomass sequesters carbon and may have slight soil carbon benefits. Harvested biomass can serve as a renewable fuel and feedstock.

NRCS Practice Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction and Carbon Sequestration

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	366	Anaerobic Digester (Information Sheet)	Biogas capture reduces CH ₄ emissions to the atmosphere and provides a viable gas stream that is used for electricity generation or as a natural gas energy stream.
	367	Roots and Covers	Capture of biogas from waste management facilities reduces CH ₄ emissions to the atmosphere and captures biogas for energy production. CH ₄ management reduces direct greenhouse gas emissions.
	372	Combustion System Improvement	Energy efficiency improvements reduce on-farm fossil fuel consumption and directly reduce CO ₂ emissions.
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+



COMET-PLANNER NRCS USDA Colorado State Carbon and greenhouse gas evaluation for NRCS conservation practice planning

This tool was developed with the generous support of the Rathmann Family Foundation and the Marin Carbon Project.

Evaluate potential carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reductions from adopting NRCS conservation practices

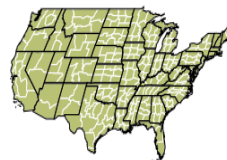
[Click to View Introduction Video](#)

NRCS Conservation Practices included in COMET-Planner are only those that have been identified as having greenhouse gas mitigation and/or carbon sequestration benefits on farms and ranches. This list of conservation practices is based on the qualitative greenhouse benefits ranking of practices prepared by NRCS.

Project Name:

State:

County:



NRCS Conservation Practices - Select Your Practice(s)

Name CPS (Conservation Practice Standard Number)

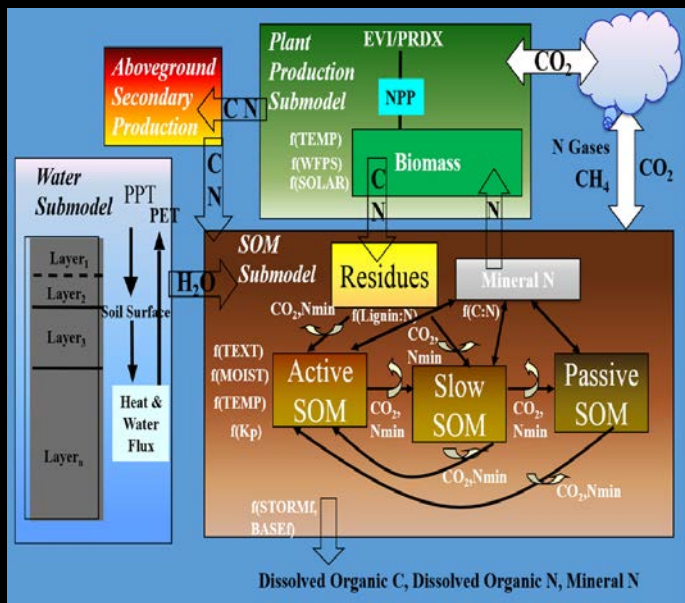
+ Cropland Management (9 Items)

+ Cropland to Herbaceous Cover (10 Items)

+ Cropland to Woody Cover (7 Items)

+ Grazing Lands (3 Items)

+ Restoration of Disturbed Lands (5 Items)





Evaluate potential carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reductions from adopting NRCS conservation practices

NRCS Conservation Practices included in COMET-Planner are only those that have been identified as having greenhouse gas mitigation and/or carbon sequestration benefits on farms and ranches. This list of conservation practices is based on the qualitative greenhouse benefits ranking of practices prepared by NRCS.

PROJECT NAME:

State:

County:



NRCS Conservation Practices - Select Your Practice(s)

Name CPS (Conservation Practice Standard Number)

- Cropland Management (8 Items)

- Cropland to Herbaceous Cover (10 Items)

- Cropland to Woody Cover (7 Items)

- Grazing Lands (4 Items)

- Restoration of Disturbed Lands (5 Items)

Approximate Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions¹ (tonnes CO₂ equivalent per year)

NRCS Conservation Practices
(Click Practice Name for Documentation)

Enter Acreage

Carbon
Dioxide
(CO₂)

Nitrous Oxide
(N₂O)

Methane
(CH₄)

Total CO₂-
Equivalent

Total

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

¹Negative values indicate a loss of carbon or increased emissions of greenhouse gases.

²Values were not estimated due to limited data on reductions of greenhouse gas emissions from this practice.

[Download and Print COMET-Planner Results](#)

How are your carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reduction estimates calculated?

Emission reduction coefficients were derived from recent meta-analyses and reviews. Coefficients were generalized at the national-scale and differentiated by dry and humid climate zones. More information on quantification methods can be found in the [COMET-Planner Report](#).

Each emission reduction is calculated using the following equation:

$$\text{Emission reduction} = \text{Area (acres)} \times \text{Emission Reduction Coefficient (ERC)}$$

Emission Reduction Coefficients (ERC)
(tonnes CO₂ equivalent per acre per year)

Greenhouse Gases

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) Methane (CH₄)

NRCS Conservation Practices

Recommended use of COMET-Planner

This evaluation tool is designed to provide generalized estimates of the greenhouse gas impacts of conservation practices and is intended for initial planning purposes. Site-specific conditions (not evaluated in this tool) are required for more detailed assessments of greenhouse gas dynamics on your farm. Please visit [COMET-Farm](#) if you would like to conduct a more detailed analysis.

Please contact Amy Swan (Amy.Swan@colostate.edu) for more information

IMPLEMENTATION

Carbon Farm Plans

CARBON FARM PLANNING in Marin

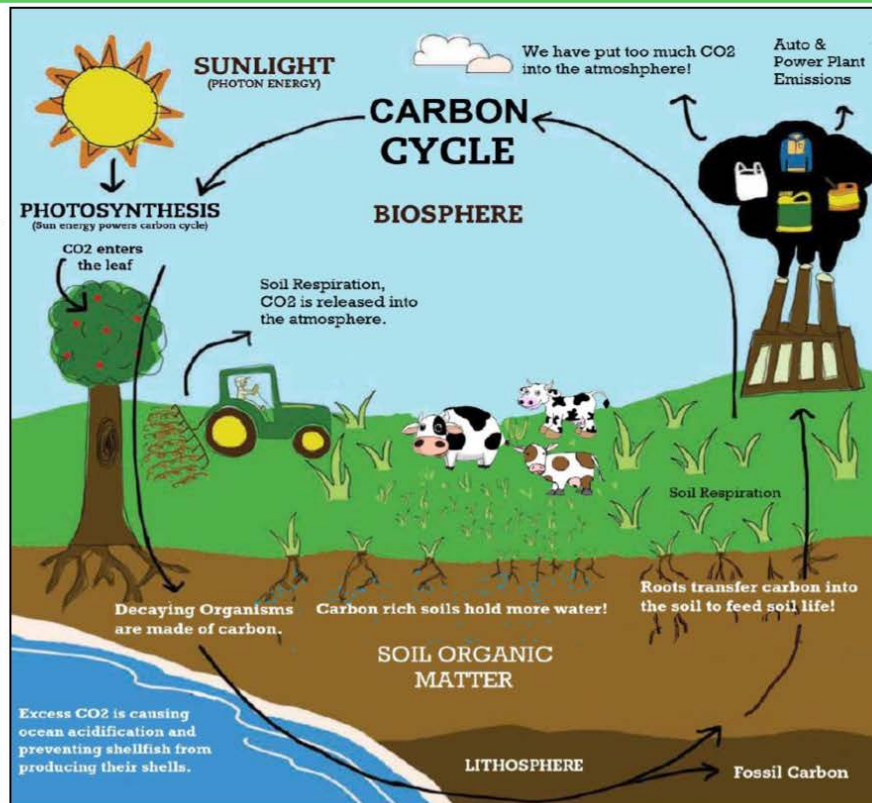
Assistance is available for farmers and ranchers!

Plan for carbon sequestration and climate adaptation conservation practices with Marin RCD!

Potential List of Conservation Practice(s)* in a Carbon Farm Plan:

- Compost Application • Anaerobic Digester
- Silvopasture/ Shrub & Tree Establishment
 - Windbreak/ Shelterbelt/ Hedgerow
 - Riparian and Wetland Restoration
 - Filter Strips • Grassed Waterways
 - Forage & Biomass Planting
 - Rangeland Management
- Prescribed Grazing and Range Planting
 - Nutrient Management
- Residue & Tillage Management, No-Till
 - Cover Crops

*NRCS Standard Conservation Practices



We will complete 20 Carbon Farm Plans in the next 3 years, thanks to RCPP!

CONCEPTUAL C-PLAN

Legend

Parcel Boundary

Corda Ranch: 856 acres

Ranch Infrastructure

Fencing, Existing

Water Developments, Existing

Completed Practices

Compost Application/ Mulching

Planned Practices

Silvopasture: 6 acres

Field/Riparian Forest Buffer: 20 acres

Stream Crossing Repairs: 4

Stream Restoration and/or Planting: 6.7 miles

Riparian Buffer Planting: 34 acres

Hedgerow/Windbreak: 7205 linear ft

Fencing/Access Control: 6500 linear ft/ 1.2 miles

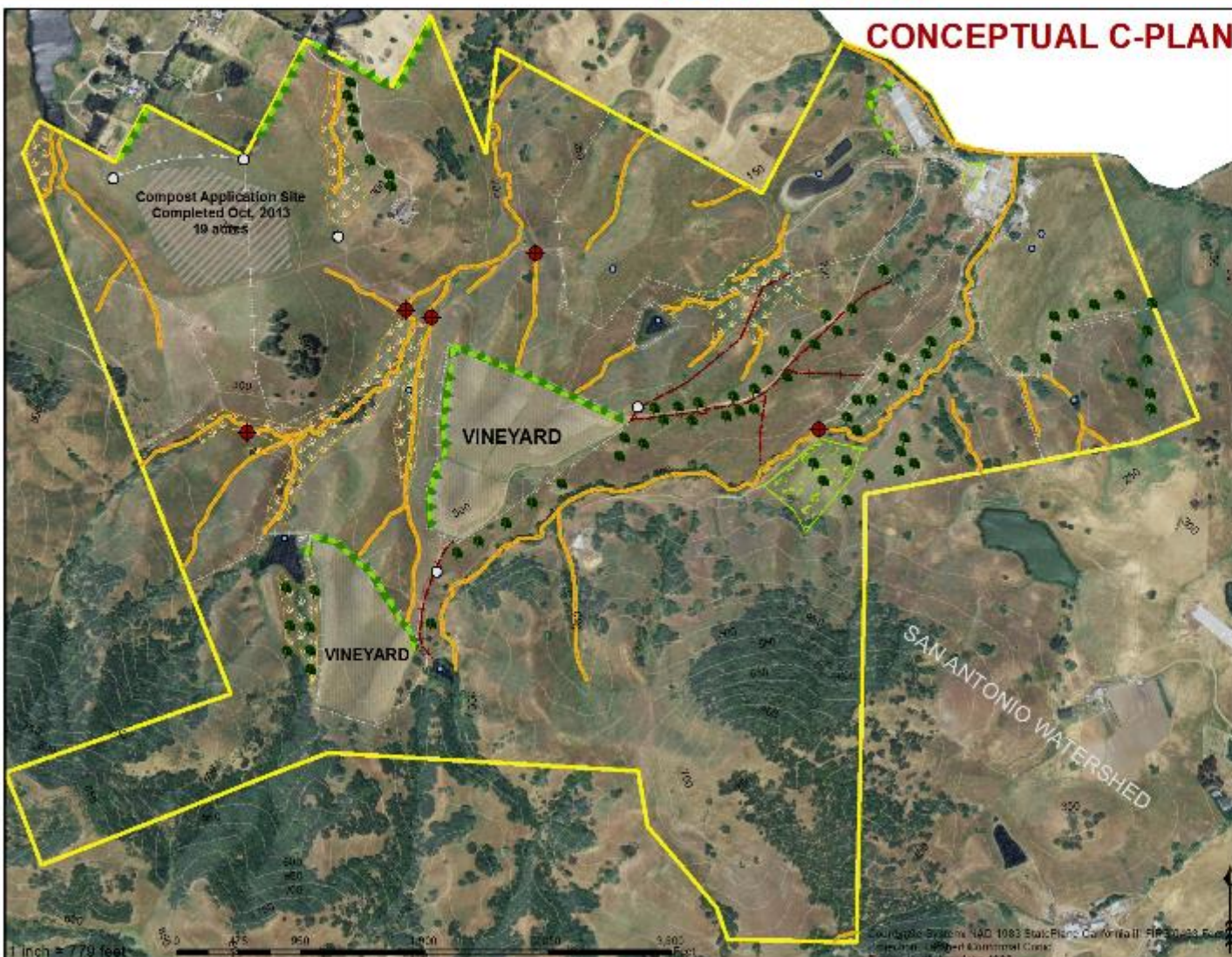
Water Development

Pipeline: 1730 linear ft

Troughs: 4

Proposed Conservation Practices (NRCS Practice #)

1. Compost Application/ Mulching (484) (initiated, fall 2013)
2. Critical Area Planting/Riparian Herbaceous Cover (342/390)
3. Fencing/Access Control (382/472)
4. Field Border (388)
5. Range Management Plan/ Prescribed Grazing (110/528)
6. Hedgerow Planting/ Windbreak/Shelterbelt (422/380/501)
7. Livestock Pipeline/ Water Facility (516/514)
8. Nutrient Management (590)
9. Pasture Planting (512)
10. Range Planting (550)
11. Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
12. Silvopasture: Establish Trees & Native Grasses (381/612)
13. Structure for Water Control (587)
14. Wetland Restoration (857)





Scaling Up:

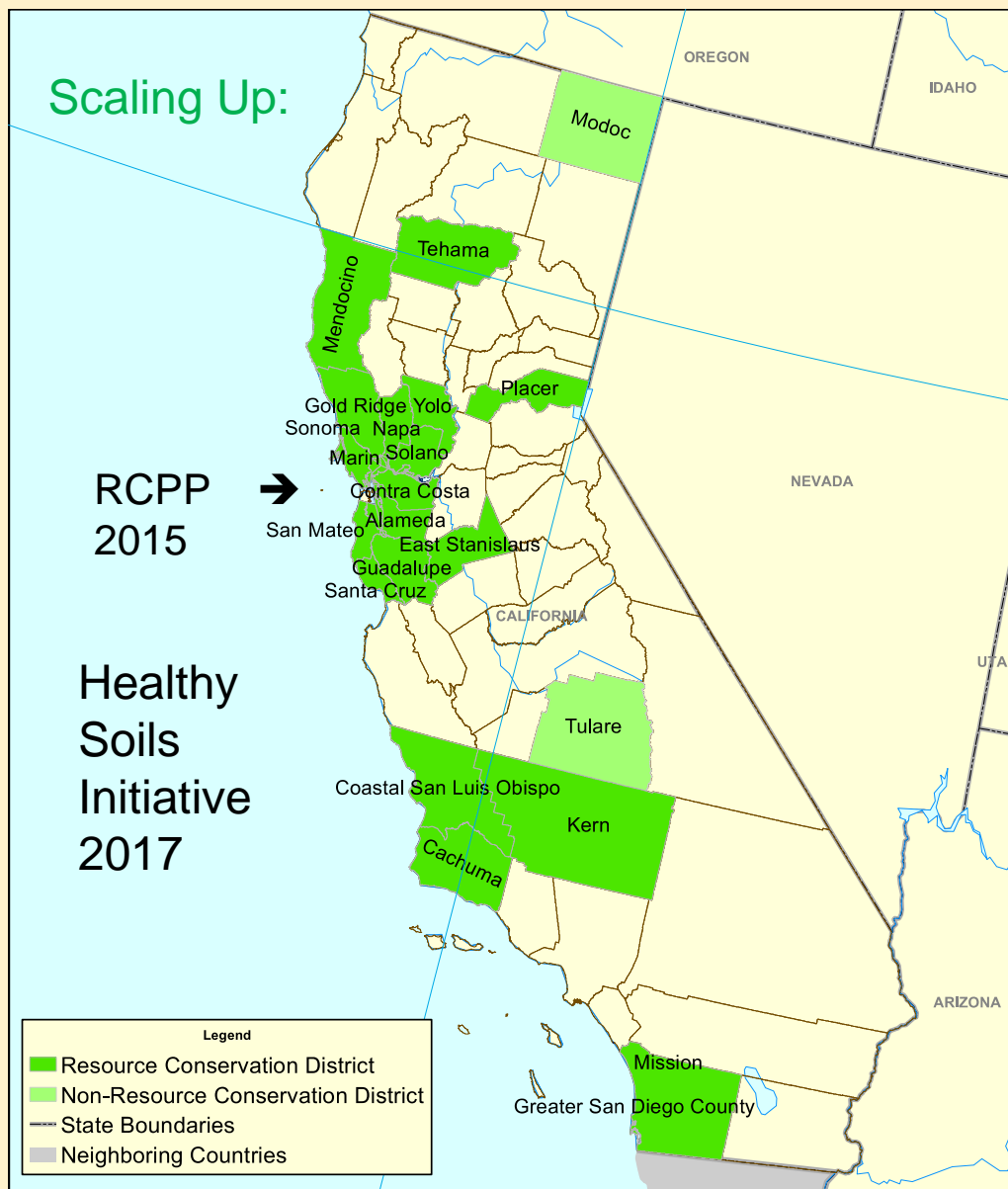
RCPP
2015



Healthy
Soils
Initiative
2017



Resource Conservation Districts
with
Carbon Farming Potential Demonstration Projects
04/01/2016

























CALIFORNIA CLIMATE STRATEGY

An Integrated Plan for Addressing Climate Change



VISION

**Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions
to 40% Below 1990 Levels by 2030**

GOALS

**50%
reduction
in petroleum
use in vehicles**



**50%
renewable
electricity**



**Double energy
efficiency savings
at existing buildings**

**Carbon
sequestration
in the land base**



**Reduce
short-lived
climate pollutants**

**Safeguard
California**





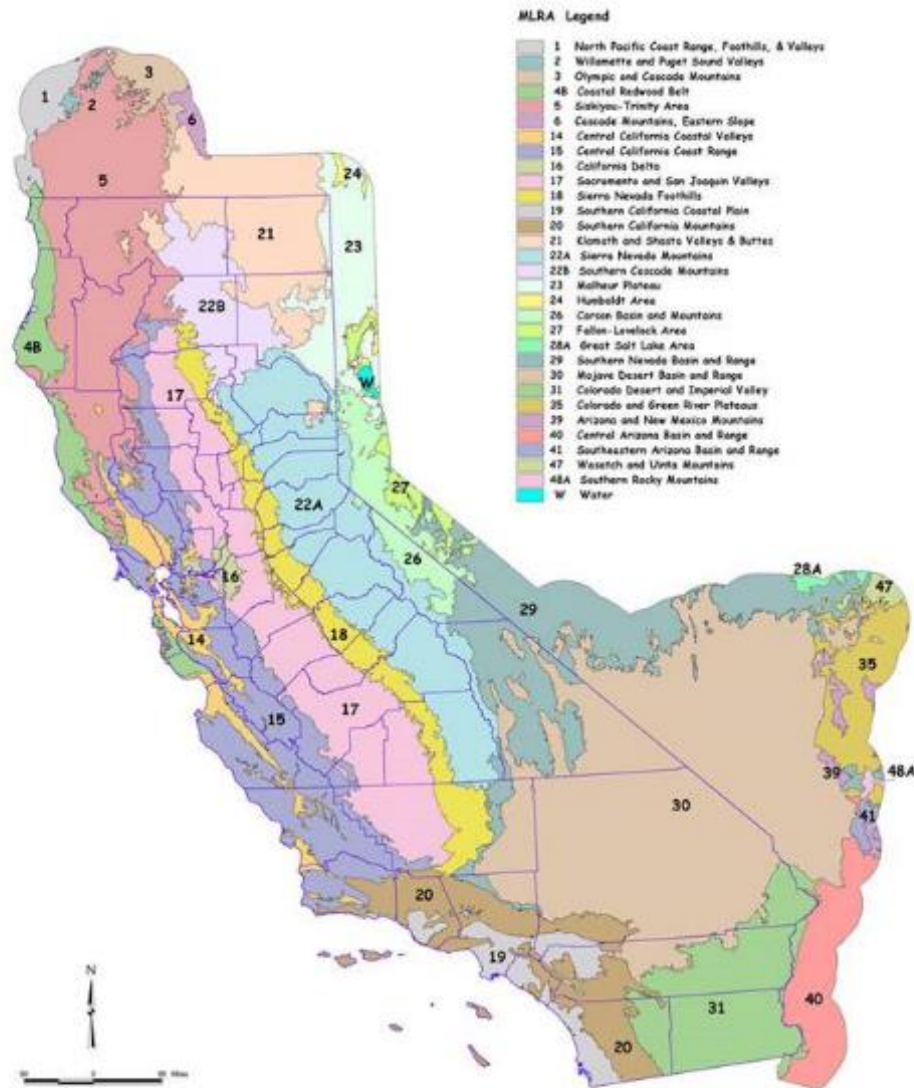






Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs)

Pacific SW MLRA Office, Region 2 - Revised May, 2003



Source of Data:
USDA NRCS, et al., for Taylor, State Soil Data Quality System

Map prepared using ArcView 3.2a
No Tolerances (NRCS, Davis, CA)
Map ID: mwa_2003_050000

MLRA 4B: *Coastal Redwood Belt*;

sites in Marin (compost already spread; data collection only) and San Mateo

MLRA 5: *Siskiyou-Trinity Area*; site in Mendocino

MLRA 15: *Central California Coast Range*; sites in Alameda, Sonoma, and Yolo

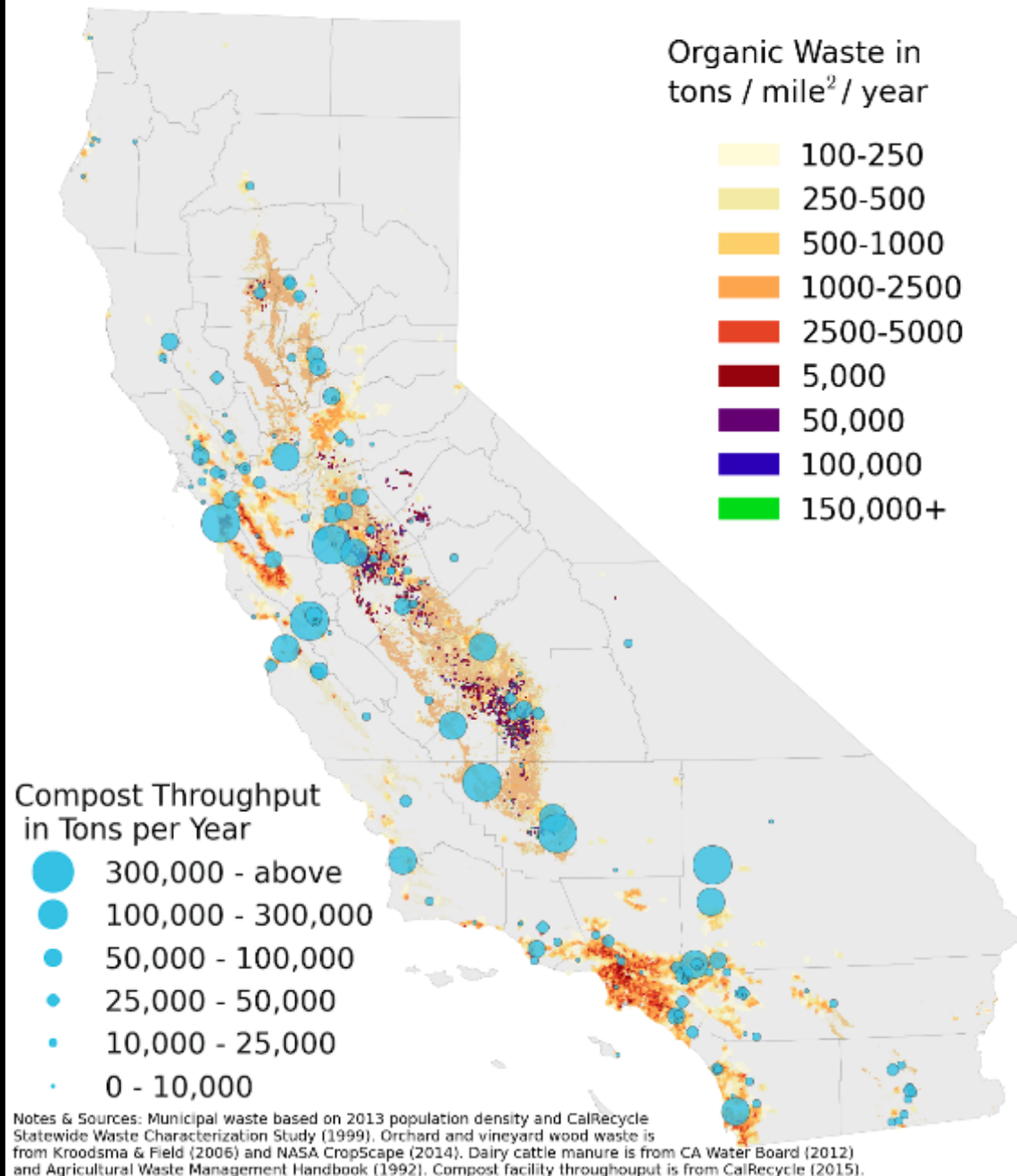
MLRA 16: *California Delta*; sites in Contra Costa & Solano

MLRA 17: *Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys*; sites in Kettleman City, San Joaquin (NRCS Plant Materials Center, ungrazed), Stanislaus, Tulare, and Yolo

MLRA 18: *Sierra Nevada Foothills*; sites in Fresno & Yuba
(compost already spread; data collection only)

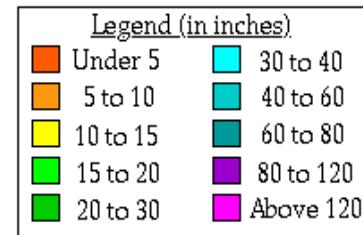
MLRA 20: *Southern California Mountains*; sites in San Diego & Santa Barbara

Throughput of Compost Facilities and Organic Waste from Cities, Perennial Crops, and Dairies



Average Annual Precipitation California

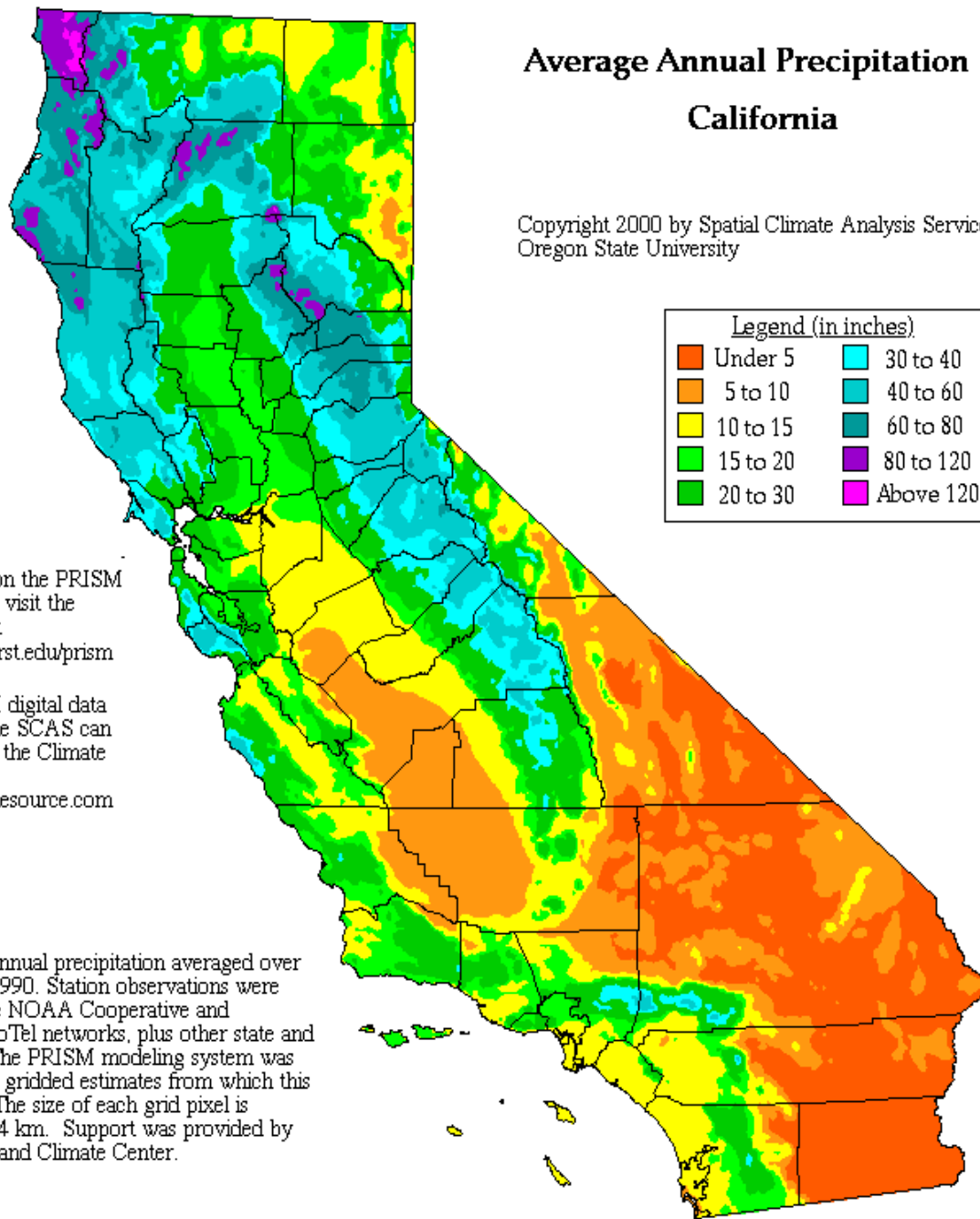
Copyright 2000 by Spatial Climate Analysis Service,
Oregon State University

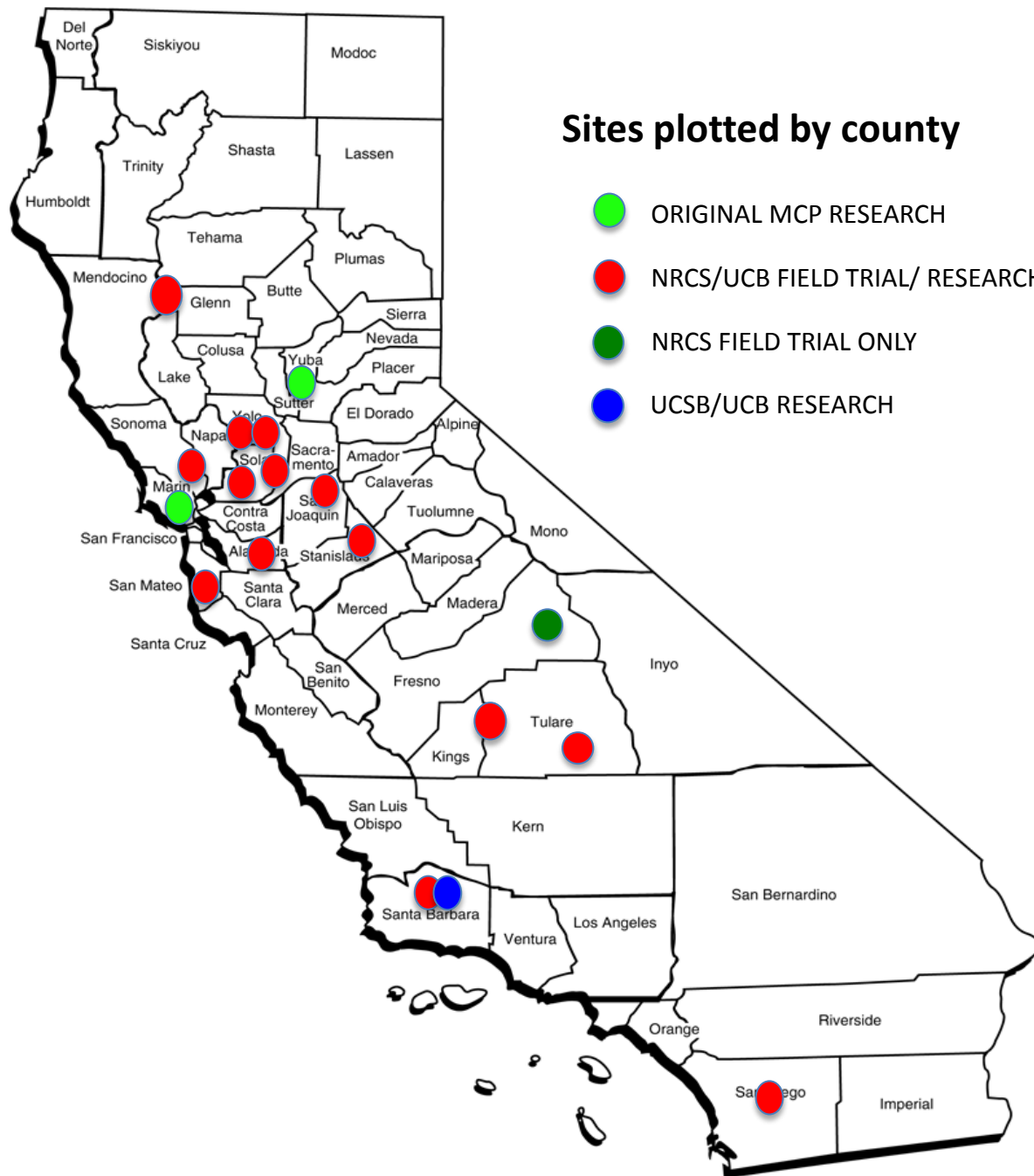


For information on the PRISM
modeling system, visit the
SCAS web site at
<http://www.ocs.orst.edu/prism>

The latest PRISM digital data
sets created by the SCAS can
be obtained from the Climate
Source at
<http://www.climate-source.com>

This is a map of annual precipitation averaged over
the period 1961-1990. Station observations were
collected from the NOAA Cooperative and
USDA-NRCS Snotel networks, plus other state and
local networks. The PRISM modeling system was
used to create the gridded estimates from which this
map was made. The size of each grid pixel is
approximately 4x4 km. Support was provided by
the NRCS Water and Climate Center.

















Comparative Research

Organic Sources:

Processes:

Fates:

Food Waste

Landfill

Soil Systems

Dairy Manure

Mulching

Emissions

Woody Biomass

Composting

Water

Bio Digestion

Energy

Reactive Processes

Autoclaving

Pyrolysis

Incineration

THE CALIFORNIA CARBON PROJECT

AN INVITATION TO SCALE UP

- 1) NRCS FIELD TRIALS/
UC B-UC SB RESEARCH
- 2) CARBON FARMS ACROSS CA.
- 3) CONNECTING COUNTIES TO
AGRICULTURE TO CLIMATE

4) BUILD OUT INFRASTRUCTURE
TO SUPPORT MANAGEMENT
AND PRODUCTION OF
FLOWS OF MATERIALS
IN OUR SOCIETY.

HUMAN SOCIETY
AS WE DESIRE
CAN **ONLY** EXIST
WITH RELIABLE
AGRICULTURE.

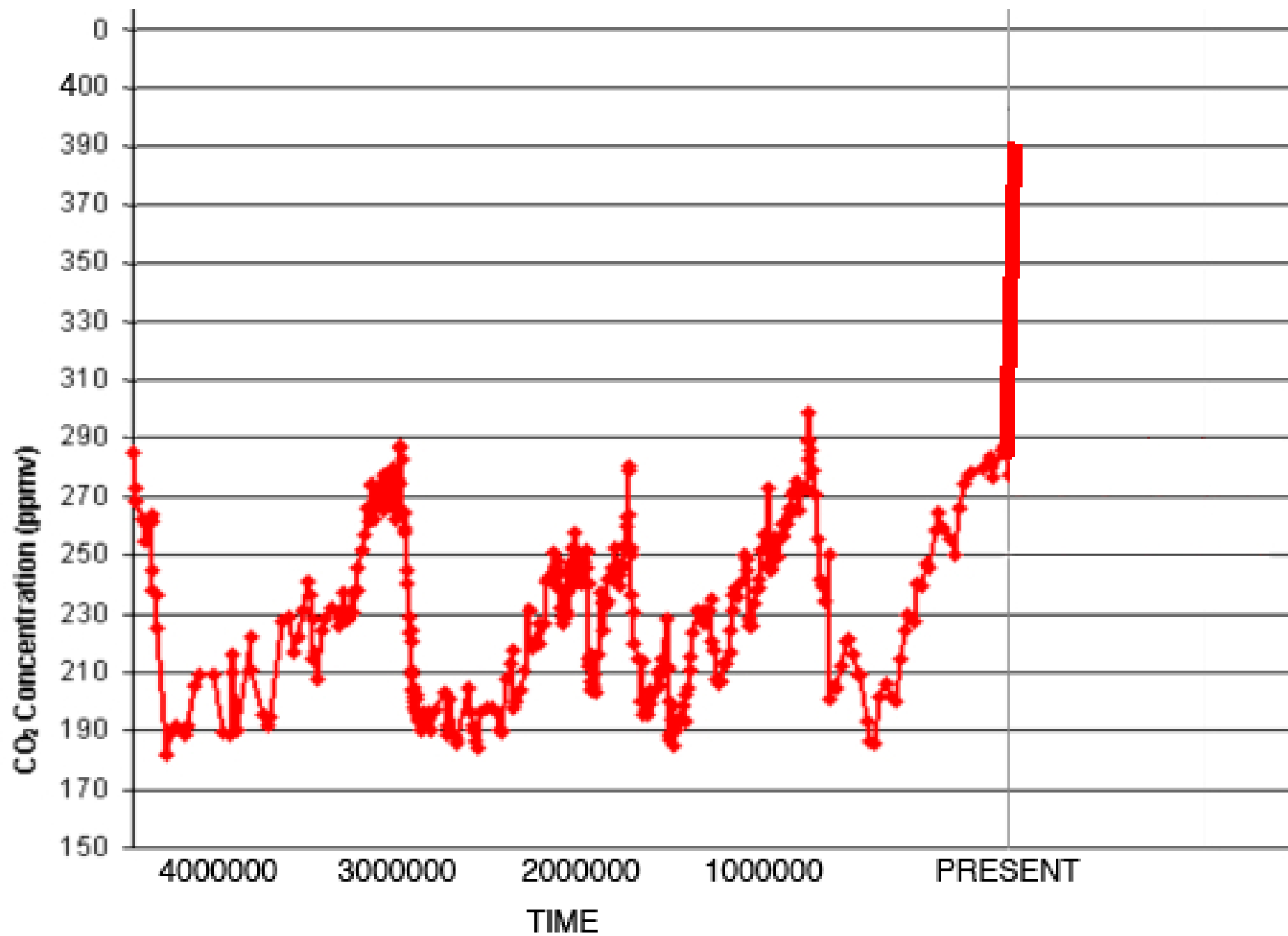
RELIABLE
AGRICULTURE
REQUIRES A
STABLE CLIMATE.

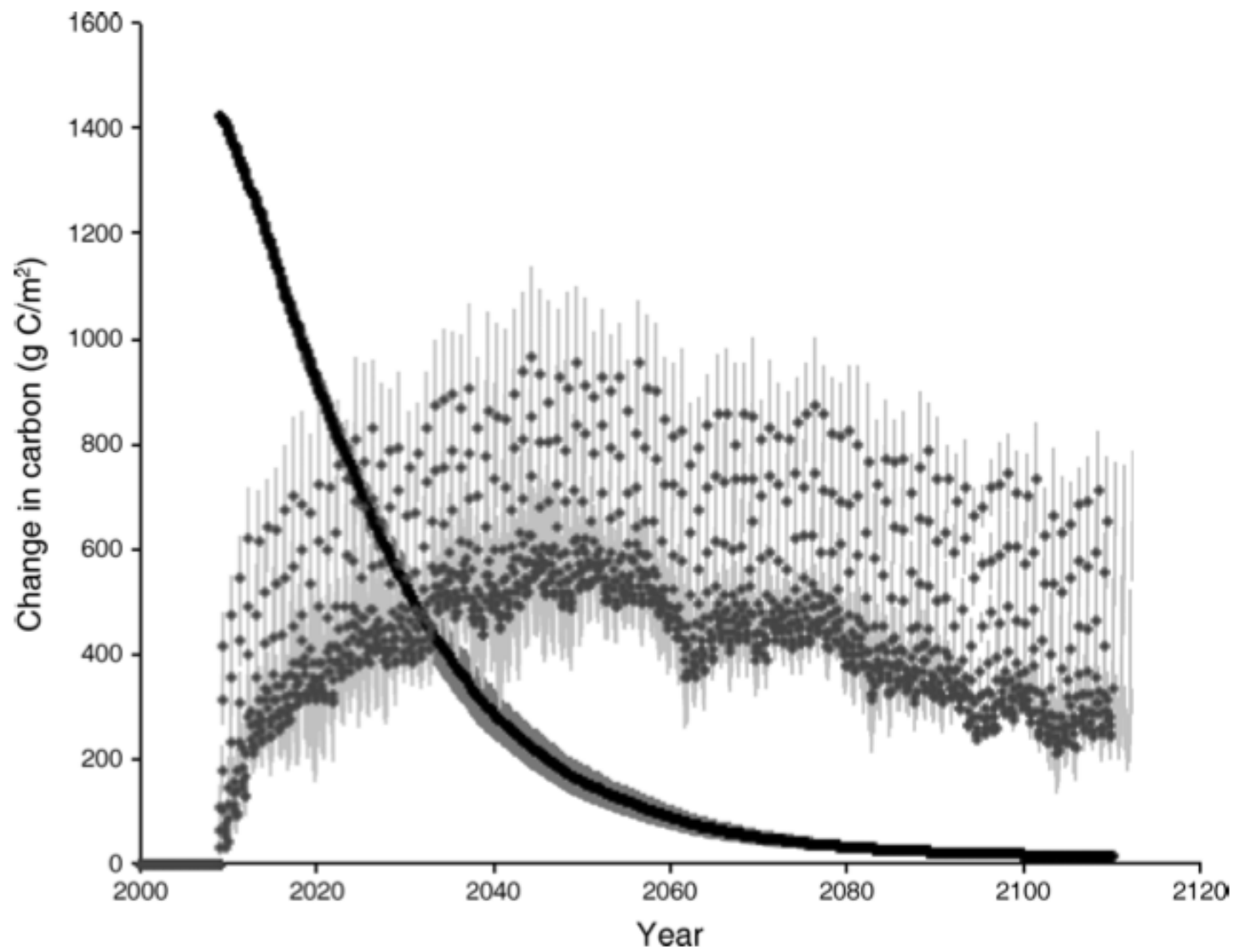
AS CURRENTLY
PRACTICED,
AGRICULTURE IS
DESTABILIZING
OUR CLIMATE.

A LARGE FRACTION OF
ANTHROPOGENIC
CLIMATE CHANGE
RESULTING FROM
CO² EMISSIONS
IS IRREVERSIBLE
ON A MULTI-CENTURY
TO MILENNIAL SCALE.

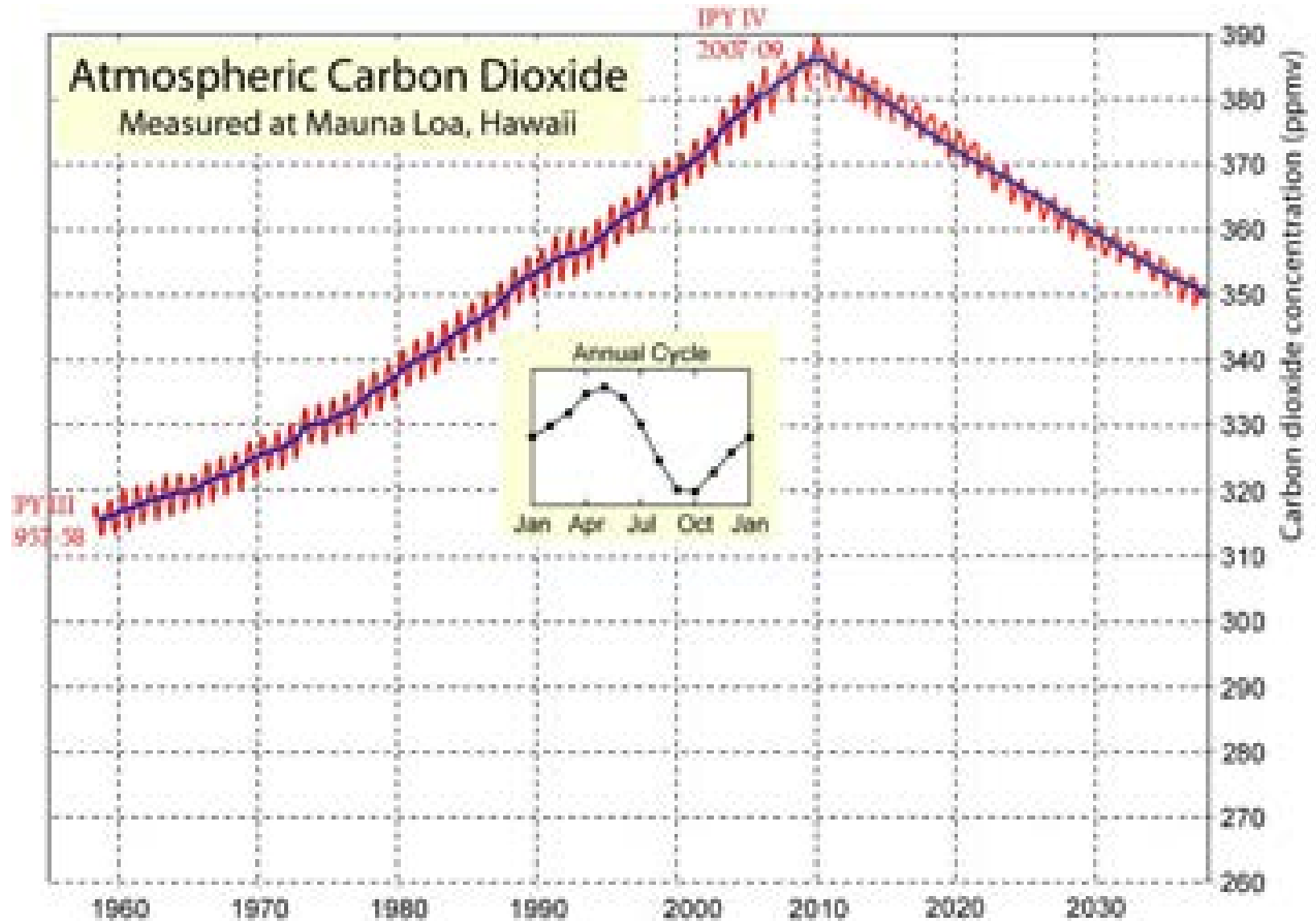
EXCEPT
IN THE CASE OF A LARGE
NET REMOVAL OF CO²
FROM THE ATMOSPHERE
OVER A SUSTAINED
PERIOD.

AND THAT IS WHAT
WE HAVE DISCOVERED.
A **NEW** VERSION
OF AGRICULTURE
THAT CAN STABILIZE
OUR CLIMATE.





Reversing the Keeling Curve



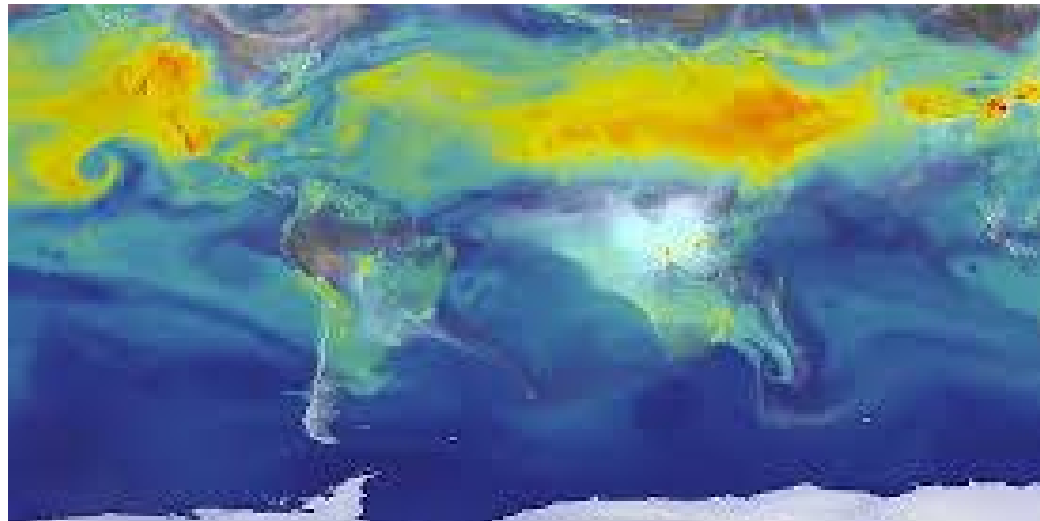
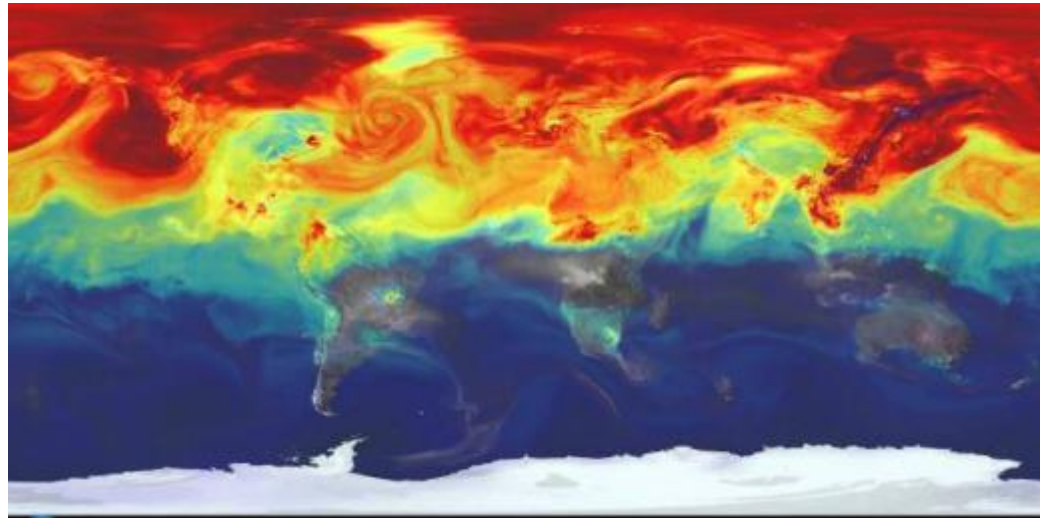
THERE IS A FINITE
AMOUNT OF CARBON
ON EARTH.

THAT CARBON IS IN
ONE OF FIVE POOLS
AT ANY TIME, AND
IS TRANSFORMED
AS IT MOVES BETWEEN
THESE FIVE POOLS.

WHERE CARBON RESIDES
IS IMPORTANT,
AND **IS** UNDER OUR
INFLUENCE.

- ATMOSPHERE CO_2
- BIOSPHERE $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$
- PEDOSPHERE C
- LITHOSPHERE C
- HYDROSPHERE H_2CO_3

Plant growth reduces Atmospheric Carbon Emissions



WE CAN
LOWER EARTH'S
TEMPERATURE.

AND,
WE CAN DO THIS
THROUGH
THE **INCREASED**
PRODUCTION OF...

**HEALTHY FOOD,
SAFE FIBER,
RENEWABLE FUEL,
and VERY INTERESTING
FLORA.**

ESPECIALLY
IF EVERYTHING
THAT WE TOUCH IS
**INFINITELY
RECYCLABLE,**

AND
THE POWER THAT
WE ENJOY IS FROM
**RENEWABLE
ENERGY.**



