

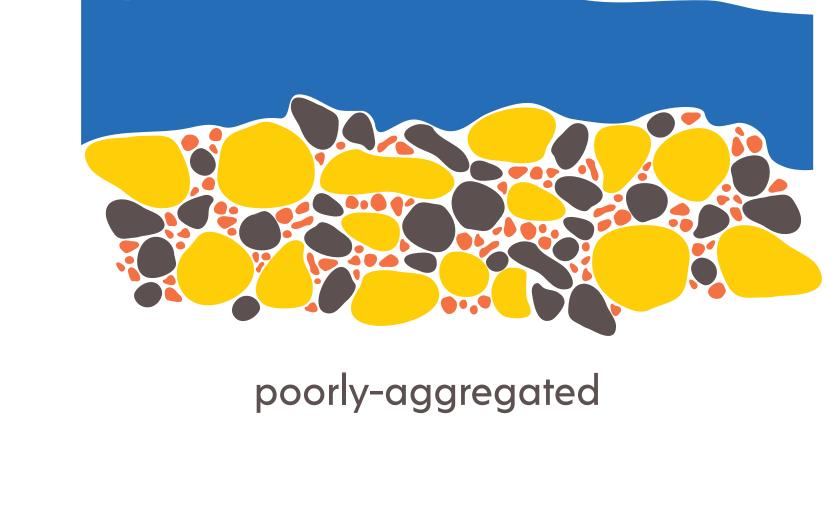
as time goes on and soils develop,

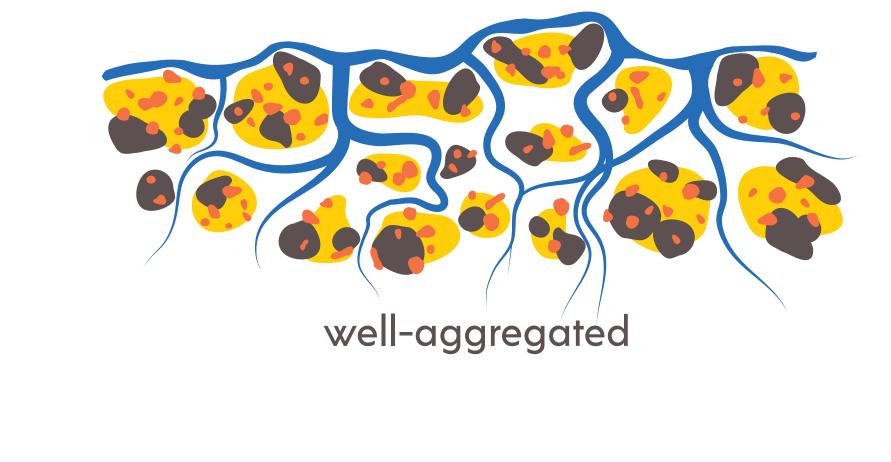
supporting plants, microbes and insect life, organic and

mineral particles piece together to form aggregates,

building structure, providing homes for microbes, and allowing

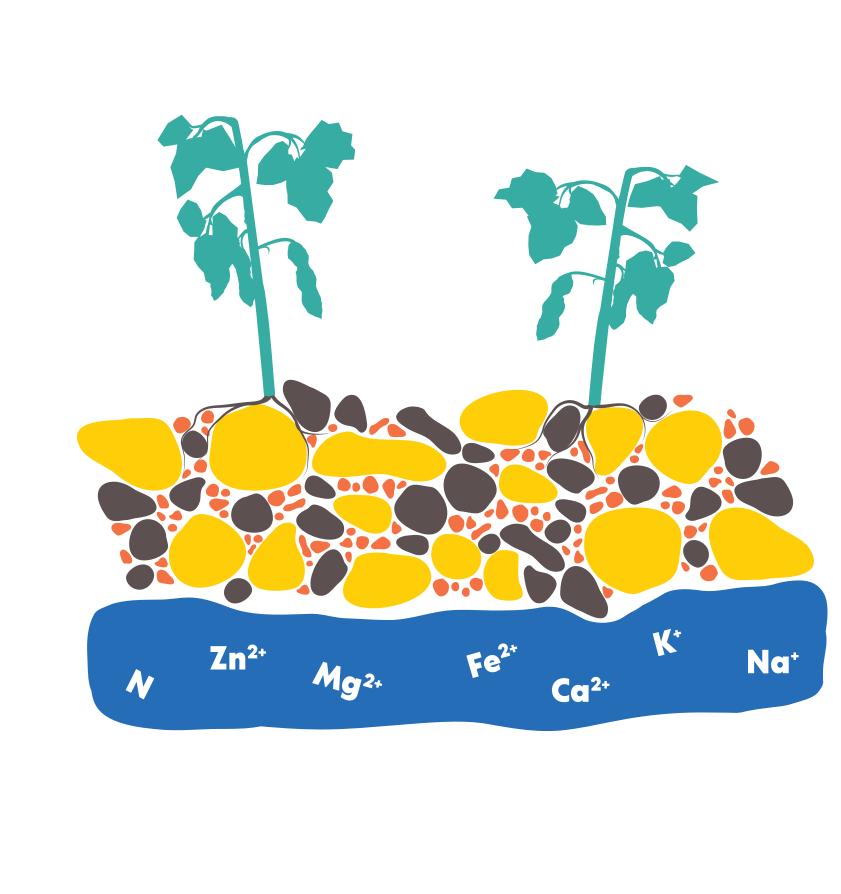
air and water to flow freely.





relieving the risk of flooding and erosion, and increasing the return of water to the aquifer.

well-aggregated soils allow water to infiltrate,

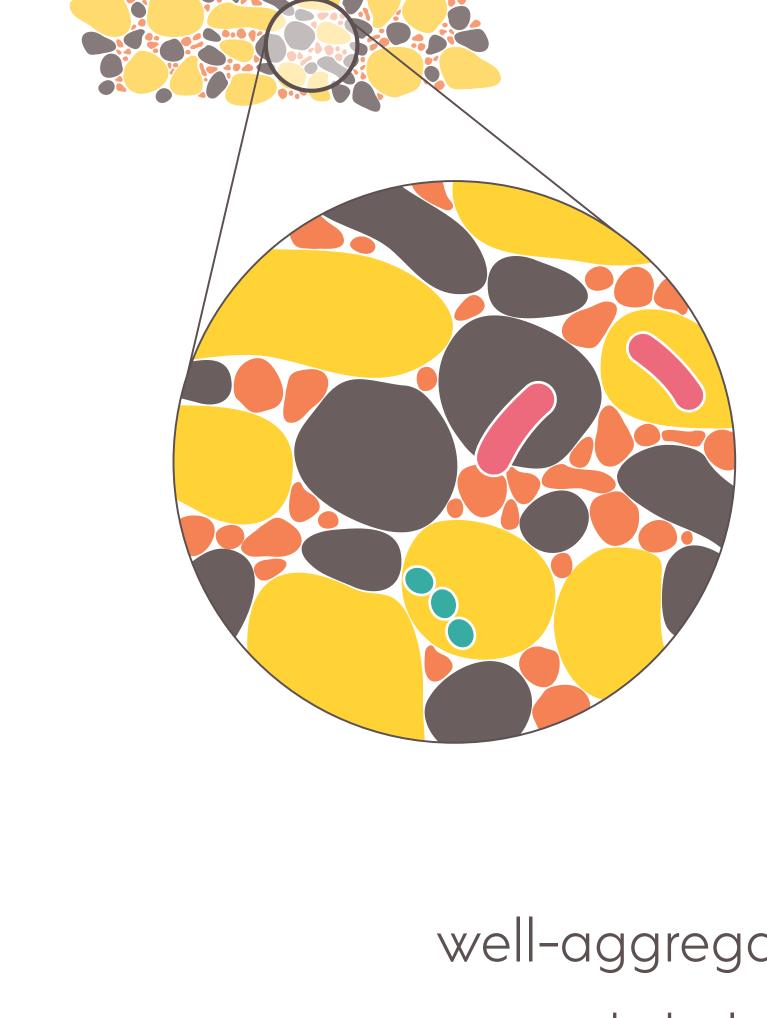




supporting healthy plant growth.

well-aggregated soils allow roots to

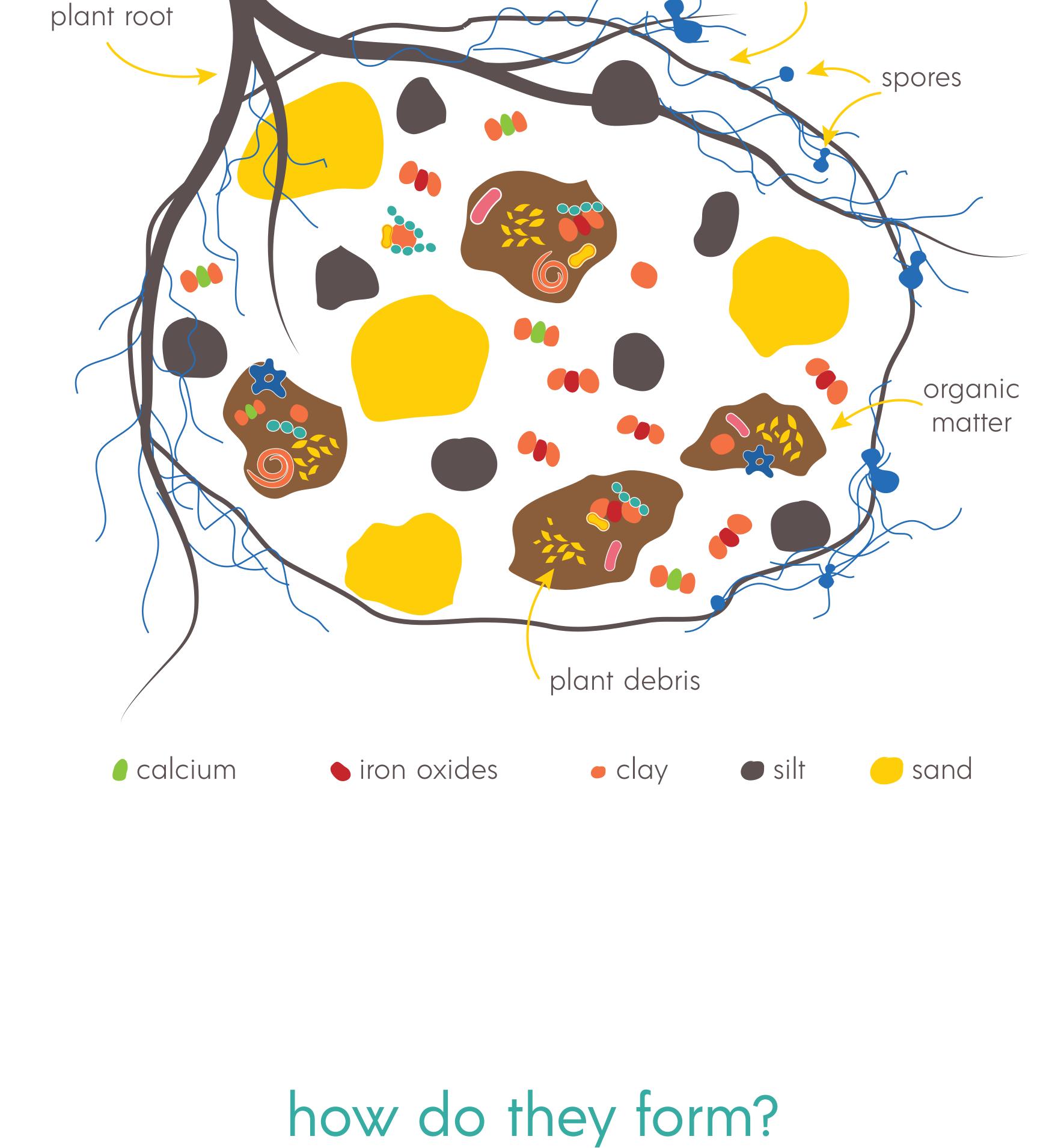
penetrate deep, accessing water and nutrients and





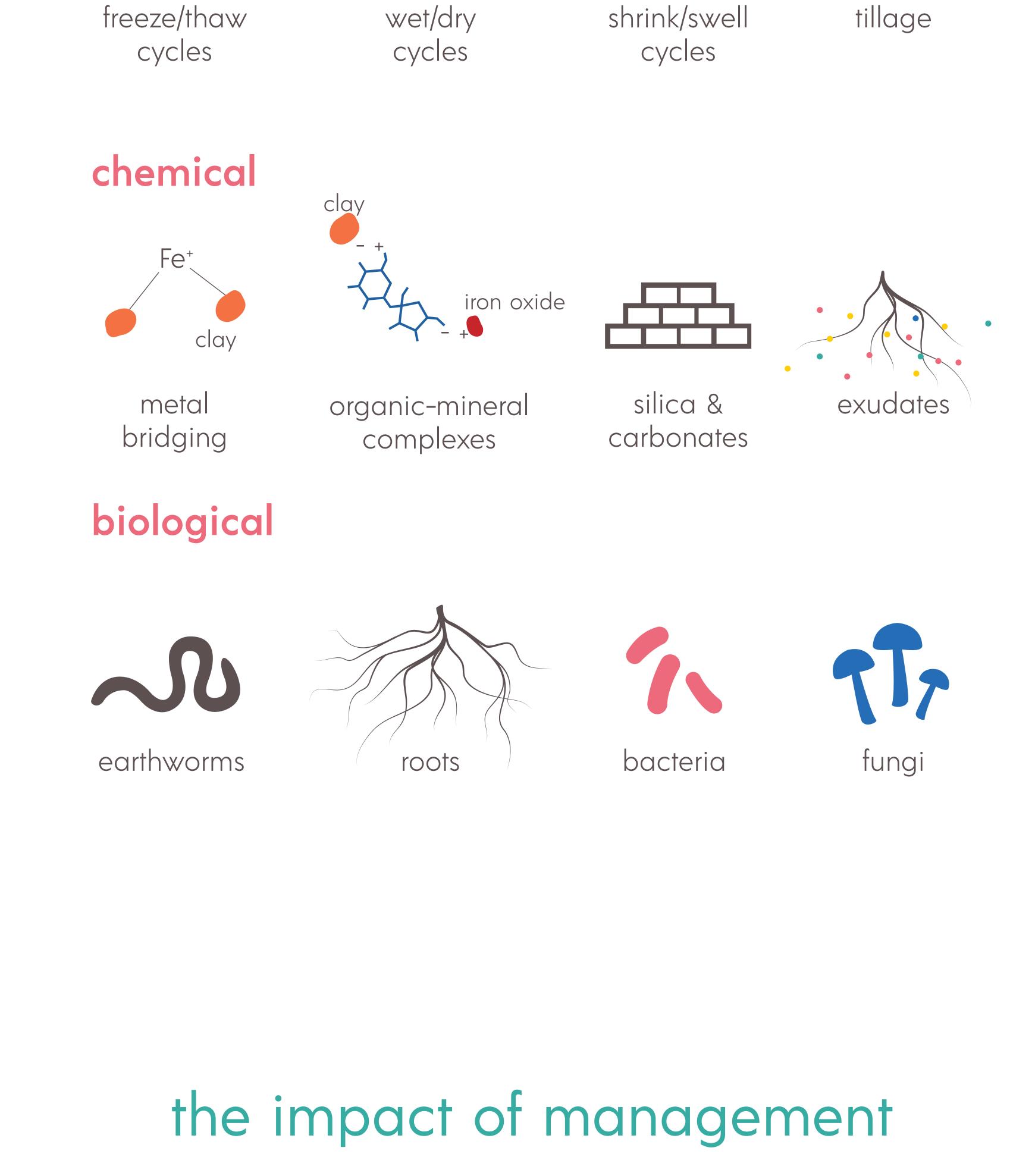
mycorrhizal fungi

what's in an aggregate?



## 

physical



· tillage breaks apart aggregates, releasing nutrients

disrupting the soil structure and breaking up fungi

and granting microbes access to SOM, but also

## heavy machinery crushes aggregates, leading to compaction

