

9.SOIL

:-The uppermost layer of the earth which consists of tiny rock particles and organic matters. Soil is the abiotic component of our ecosystem which helps in the survival of living beings.

COMPOSITION OF SOIL

- I) Rock particles
- II) Humus
- III) Air
- IV) Water

I) Rock particles:-

Rock particles are the major components of soil. It is obtained by the process of weathering. In weathering rocks are broken down into smaller particles with of help of agents like wind,water and sunlight. Rock particles having various sizes are :Gravel, Sand, Silt & Clay.

How soil is formed

:Soil is formed by the process of weathering in which rocks are broken down into smaller particles and then it mixes with air,water and organic matters.

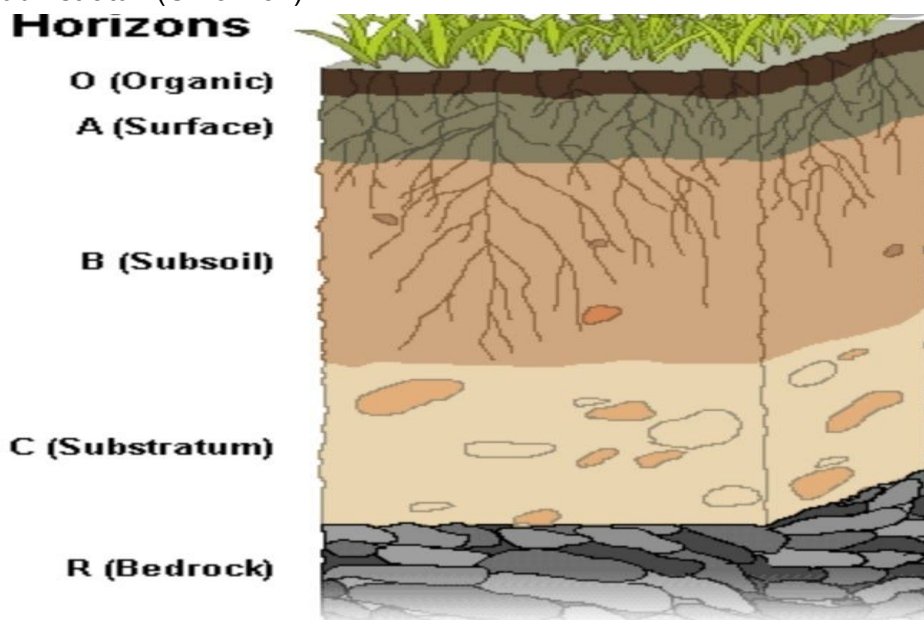
HUMUS:-

The rotting organic matter is called Humus. Humus contains nutrients which is helpful for the growth of plants.

SOIL PROFILE:-

The vertical section of soil which shows its different layers is called soil profile. Three different layers of soil are:-

- I) Top soil(A-horizon)
- II) Sub soil(B-horizon)
- III) Sub - stratum(C-horizon)



I) Top soil(A-horizon) :-

The uppermost layer of soil profile is called top soil. It is also called A-horizon. It is the most fertile layer because it is full of humus or nutrients.

II) Sub Soil(B-horizon) :-

The layer of soil profile which is just below the top soil is called sub soil. It is also called B-horizon. This layer is less fertile than the top soil.

III) Sub-stratum(C-horizon) :-

The layer of soil which is just below the B-horizon is called sub - stratum or C-horizon. It is the least fertile layer.

PROPERTIES OF SOIL

- I) Soil contains air
- II) Soil contains water
- III) Soil absorbs water
- IV) Soil allows water to percolate.