



Frequently Asked Questions

Where does your soil come from?

Our healthy soil comes from the Animas Valley at the confluence of Falls Creek and the Animas River. The result is topsoil that is an ideal mix of silt, sand, and clay.

Why do you have topsoil?

We are creating wetlands, we are building sinuous streams and lowering the soil a few inches to accommodate the variety of wetland plants.

What were you doing in the field before you started the restoration to wetlands?

The Zink family has farmed this land since 1917. (102 years) Most recently we have raised hay including weed-free hay. The ranch has always produced premium quality potatoes, corn, barley, alfalfa, grass hay, and vegetable gardens.

Help me understand the percentage of organics.

The higher the number of organics the better. Animas River Top Soil has 3-4% organic because of the years of growing crops and composting them into the soil along with some animal manure.

Why does your soil feel better than another topsoil in southwest Colorado?

The soil texture is an ideal mixture with silt that is usually more fertile than other types of soil meaning it is good for growing crops. Clay holds the water in the soil. Air fills in all of the gaps in the soil and allow plants roots to breath. Organic matter releases slowly as it's improved the quality of the crop as well as water retention.

If I want to use amendments what should I use?

Organic matter-manure, (aged)*leaf mold, grass clipping, wood chips, and compost. Bone Meal is a mixture of finely and coarsely grounded animal bones and slaughterhouse waste products. It is used as an organic fertilizer for plants. Bone meal is primarily used as a source of phosphorus and protein. Organic matter holds 10 times its weight in water. We also recommend compost tea which has been created by Bart Eller with Paino Soil. Here is a link to the compost tea.

More often than not, it is nitrogen that limits plant size and vigor. Nitrogen requirements vary with the crop, crop maturity and quantity of the organic matter in the soil.

Help me understand the pH?

pH is a little high in southwest Colorado. This is because of the weathered limestone. The pH a little over 7 is not a problem for native plants. Most plants will adapt to the pH. They have to in southwest Colorado to survive.

How can I lower the pH?

The addition of humus acid, sulfates and other sources of organic material.

More questions:

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