



# Addressing Soil Health & Water Management from the Root Cause

Importance of a 5% Organic Matter Protocol

## Organic Matter in soil serves many critical roles:

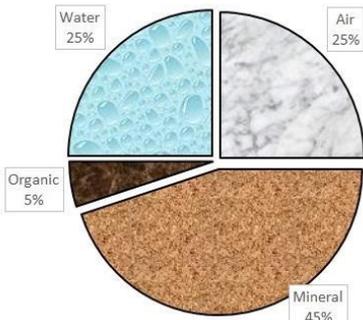
Attracts, binds and retains nutrients needed for plant life, balances pH levels, and holds carbon in the soil.

Supports microbial life that breaks down nutrients for plants and naturally fends off disease and pests.

Retains water – each 1 lb. of organic matter holds 20 lbs. of water – needed for plant growth & drought survival.

## 5% Organic Matter is ideal for healthy soil & water

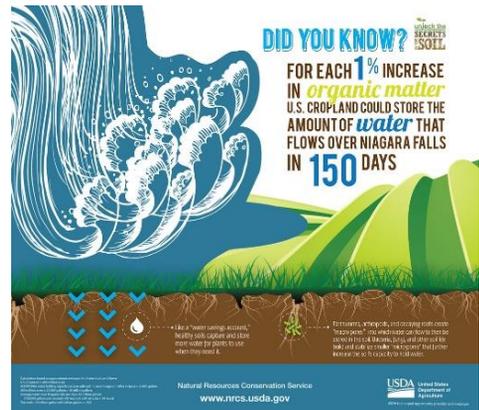
Increasing Organic Matter is key to improving soil and plant health and increasing water storage capacity. 5% Organic Matter content by volume is considered ideal. (USDA)



Organic Matter and minerals (sand, loam or clay) comprise 50% of soil. Air and water the balance.

### 5% Organic Matter can achieve:

- 30% less water use and higher plant survival in droughts
- 30% to 70% less chemical pesticide and herbicide usage to resist disease and pests
- 30% to 50% less chemical/nutrient leaching and run-off
- Healthier, sustainable planet



## 5% Organic Matter can be attained with good management practices including use of compost and other natural inputs

**5% For Life™** represents a soil health and water conservation management protocol of amending soil with compost prior to planting and then utilizing organic nutrients – plant-based extracts, humus, humite, top dressing and mulch -- to replace synthetic chemical fertilizers year-round.

Unlike synthetic chemical fertilizers, a 5% Organic Matter protocol creates a natural cumulative effect – building soil health, increasing root strength and density, and boosting plants’ ability to survive drought and pest stress, including harmful fungi and nematodes.



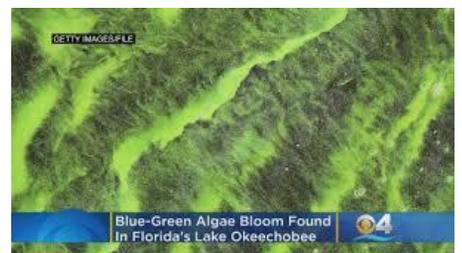
**ABS** is a natural plant growth nutrition formulation made with a proprietary blend of seaweed extract and humate. ABS enhances the nutrient value of compost and mulch, and provides an organic maintenance alternative to chemical fertilizers.

### Florida's soil problem

Florida soil is generally sandy and low in Organic Matter – less than 2%.

Over-fertilization and over-watering is often used to correct soil deficiencies.

Nutrient runoff and leaching is the result, leading to grave environmental issues.



5% For Life should be part of a water management program in Florida