Rays Soil Minute:

20230321 RSM2.odt

Under our feet within our garden soil there are millions of livestock that make up the “Soil Food Web”. Ranging from larger easily seen animals and insects down to micro organisms such as bacteria and fungi. They all have important roles to play in the health and fertility of our soil and consequently the health and well being of the plants that grow in that soil and the animals and humans that feed on those plants.

This soil microbiology and how it influences healthy plant growth and performance is only recently becoming more understood with modern technology and the essential role that these organisms play in plant health, growth and yield. This of course carries through to animals and our health as humans as we consume the food from these sources.

Many of these animals and microorganisms are essential to the breaking down and recycling of nutrients from animal and plant material – once living matter – back into nutrients in a form that the next generation of plants and animals can utilize or reuse in their growth-- recycling commonly referred to as composting in our garden environment.

This is just one of many of the recycling events that we see in Nature. Most involve the activity of these specialist microorganisms, whether it be the carbon cycle, the Phosphorus cycle and even the water cycle--- it has been recently discovered that microorganisms can be the core around which raindrops condense and form in the atmosphere.

We will explore how these microorganisms play an essential role in feeding the plant cells and how we can enhance this in future “Soil Minutes”.