



Macroorganisms and Microorganisms

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Last week we discussed various nutrients plants need to thrive. This week, we continue the discussion with other essential organisms:

- **Macroorganisms:** Living organisms in the soil which are large enough to be seen with the naked eye. Includes mite, millipede centipede, snail, slug, spider, ant, beetle, cut worm, earthworm, and rodent.
- **Microorganisms:** Invisible to the naked eye, these microscopic plants and animals work diligently to break down organic matter into forms both the soil and plants can utilize. They exist in the soil for the purpose of breaking down organic matter into basic mineral elements. Microorganisms include bacteria, fungi, actinomycetes, algae, protozoa, yeast, and nematodes.
- **Bacteria:** Bacteria are living, one-celled microorganisms found in all living things. They aid in fermentation and decomposition, and in the human body, they assist with digestion.
- **Fungi:** A group of simple organisms that lack a photosynthetic pigment.

- **Actinomycetes:** A group of microorganisms that usually produce a characteristic branched mycelium. These organisms are responsible for the earthy smell.
- **Nematodes:** Unsegmented worms that regulate the population of other soil organisms, mineralize nutrients into plant-available forms, provide a food source for other soil organisms that influence soil structure, and consume disease causing organisms.

Need help putting microorganisms to work in your soil? Your **AgriEnergy Resources** rep would love to help! Call us today. **815.872.1190.**