

NO DIRT

**Missourians
Doing Impact
Research Together**

*Did you
know that
soil is alive?*



2015
International
Year of Soils

**Questions? Contact:
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MISSOURI
EPSCOR

THE LIVING SOIL



Microorganisms, animals, fungi, and plant roots live in the soil, and help keep it healthy

HOW?

Bacteria and fungi decompose organic matter that will turn into soil



Plant roots absorb nutrients and water from the soil to grow



Mycorrhizal fungi provide nutrients for roots, and in return roots provide sugars to the fungi



Earthworms aerate the soil by making tunnels, and contribute to soil formation through their castings



Predators help control the numbers of soil organisms

