

Denny Wildman

From: Denny Wildman
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Denny Wildman
Subject: ROOTS, SHOOTS & FRUIT: # 9-B "The Earth ... and SP-1"

From: Denny Wildman
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▶ **Roots, Shoots, and Fruit**

Agronomic Tips from Denny Wildman



The Earth – and "SP-1"

At the risk of sounding like a commercial, I've decided to devote this issue to **SP-1**. I do this with confidence because the consistently positive feedback from growers and crop advisors make it obvious that SP-1 is no ordinary biological.

Yes, I'm well aware that as a grower or crop consultant, this is not the first time you've been introduced to the newest "wonder" product. So if you like, jump to the video links below from those with first-hand experience with SP-1. They tell the story better than I ever could.

The results of using SP-1 are most visible when used in conjunction with fertility programs. And, when this combination works with plant root exudates, an environment favorable to earthworm seems to occur - as highlighted in this [Penn State earthworm article](#). You may recall from the **last issue**, that worms are an indicator of soil health, just like a canary in a coal mine indicates air quality.

Using SP-1 to increase biological activity in your soil is like **lighting a fire** underneath the

soil surface. You could think it is as the “yeast” necessary for baking bread. It’s like SP-1 is the conductor for the biological symphony being played out in your field. SP-1 works with your fertility program to keep the nutrients available to the plant’s roots by keeping them in the rhizosphere – that region where the soil interacts with the root tips.

But here’s the rub. Something has been changing in our soils over time, so slowly that we’ve not really noticed. You may have heard the frog story...



“Throw a frog in hot water and he jumps out immediately. But if you put him in cool water, and slowly turn up the heat, he gets warm, complacent, and **COOKED**”.

Progressive growers, of course, have been aware of these changes in soil over time and understand that the soil is our legacy. It’s the base line for growing plants, supplying the grocery store, and passing value on to others.



Frequently, on farm visits, growers talk about the ever constant challenge of creating an effective seed bed. Platey soils with chunks and clods are a problem. It has been most encouraging the past several years to see how the integration of SP-1 into traditional fertility programs has in most cases produced a granular, darker soil.

To call it humus would be a stretch, but the soil has definitely improved along with the ability to improve germination due to a favorable seed bed.

Another concern to growers is that their tried and proven fertility programs just don’t seem to have the punch of prior years. This often leads to increased nitrogen usage which is not a sustainable solution. We’ve reduced our tillage, have expanded our use of cover crops but still struggle to hit our marks. And then there’s the weed control issue.

Here's an [article by Cornell University](#) that makes the link between weed control practices and its detrimental effect on soil biology.

I like to think of SP-1 as a small Christmas gift that keeps on giving. It's an affordable solution that offers those in transition to biological farming a **CUMULATIVE** value over time. That value is best illustrated by growers and crop advisors with first-hand experience – available by clicking the video links below.



SOIL STRUCTURE and WATER RETENTION



To your eye, the most obvious benefit of SP-1 will be improved soil tilth. Most often, you'll see the difference the same season you apply it. Soil structure that is becoming less platy, or chunky and becoming more granular is a key to reducing soil erosion.



As one grower put it, "SP-1 with exudates from plant roots builds cushion in the soil". And a crop advisor in Ohio stated that SP-1 treated soil is "like coffee grounds" - and much different than his treatment with other biologicals.

There's a strong relationship between soil health and soil structure, and it's been impressive to see how SP-1 improves many soil types, especially those with high clay content.

In addition, SP-1 treatments have often resulted in greater nutrient values expressed and positive changes in CEC values. Tate McPherson, from Maine, who I've worked with for many years, told me that "**SP-1 effected soil structure more positively than any other biological he had worked with**".

Keeping water in place where it fell is part of the solution. Soil with more "cushion" can maintain more moisture without acting wet. This has been observed in fields with drip application as well as in row crop fields.

Others Tell the Story



[Dean Collamer](#), with Growmark FS, compares the soil structure of several fertility programs and points out the difference with the soil that included an SP-1 treatment. [Click here for LONG](#)

[version](#)



[Kevin Osborn](#) is in his second year of using SP-1, and has benefited from the consistent reduction of clods and better soil conditions overall for the growth of potatoes.. [Click here for LONG version.](#)



[Carl Long](#), a potato farmer new to the product, confirms the differences in the soil texture treated with SP-1.



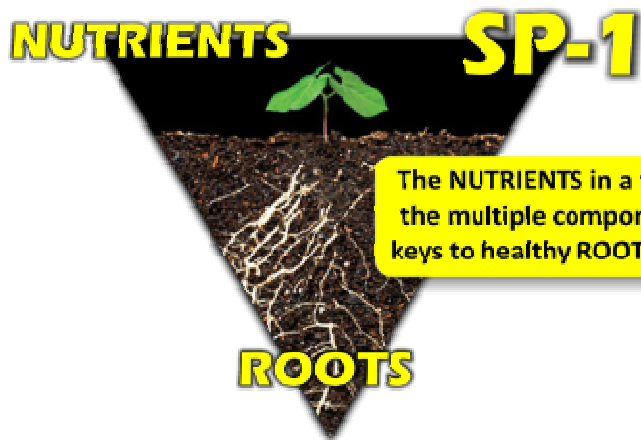
[Ben Kratzer](#), with Growmark FS, highlights the benefit of additional water retention in this tomato field as a result of SP-1 applications.



[Mark Troyer](#) was initially unsure why he was experiencing different tillage conditions in his field - then realized it was due to a test application of SP-1.

ENHANCED SOIL BIOLOGY

SP-1 seems to work best when blended with a fertility program. I have observed real value in a Tandem application of SP-1 with Stoller's Energy Power. Just like "Yeast" is important for making bread, you may want to think of SP-1 as the "catalyst" that activates biological activity.



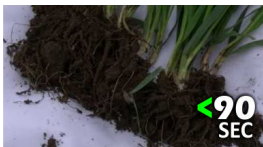
No, it's not a silver bullet, but in my 30+ years of helping growers achieve more from their plants, I have not seen a product that performs as consistently as SP-1.

Increasing biological activity on the farm is not a new endeavor. Over the years, I've observed many farms that have tried many materials – mostly Humic Acid, Fulvic Acid and Algae. These are good materials but they do not perform with the power of SP-1.

Others Tell the Story



[Scott Barnett](#), with BARNETT Agronomy takes us into the green house to look at the soil cling on the roots of tomato plants treated with SP-1. [Click here for LONG version.](#)



[Dean Craine](#), with Agri-Energy and Dr. Orzolek, with Penn State University, talk about the incredible amount of soil clinging to the roots, the darker soil color, and the benefit of increased nutrient exchange.

LEAVING A LEGACY - Biological Farming



As mentioned before, **SP-1** is like a Christmas present that keeps on giving.

Why? Because the one thing very unique about making a commitment to biological farming is that the benefit over time is **CUMULATIVE**.

In other words, the benefit of SP-1 applications in year 1 carries over to benefit year 2 crops. Continue the process and the value of your soil increases. Like many growers already in the process, you will likely get a better return from your fertility program inputs.

It's a **WIN, WIN**. You get the benefit year 1... and the decision you make today to become a biological grower will benefit you and your family for generations to come.

SP-1 is manufactured by Agri-Energy Resources and is a diverse mix of beneficial components known to build soil biology. The formulation supplies bacteria, fungi, and algae to the soil and includes carbon substrates, vitamins and minerals to support the growth of microbial life.



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