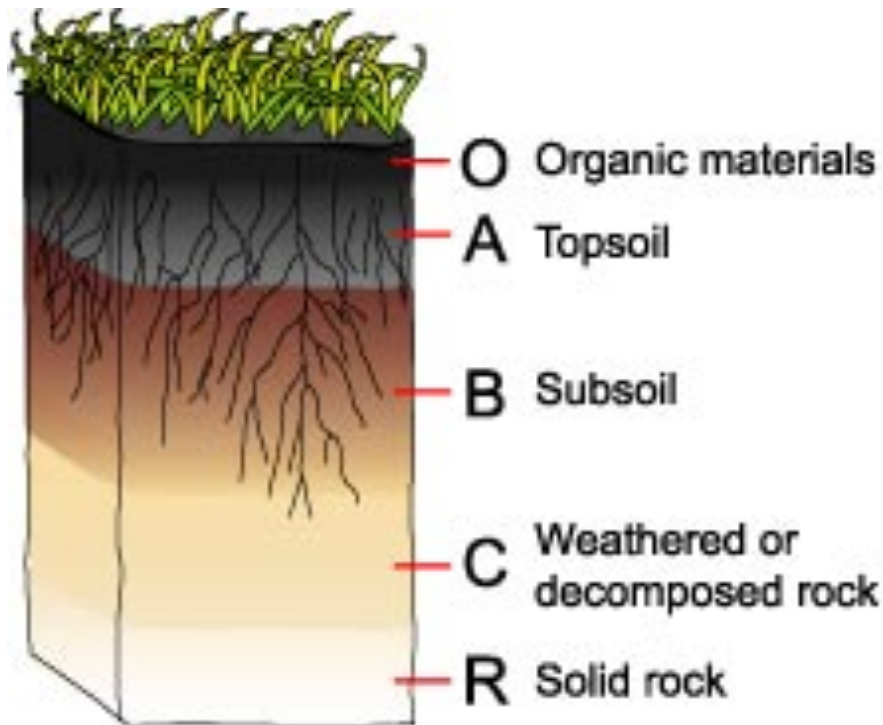


Primary Layers of Soil



Organic materials: This zone contains the surface litter such as fallen leaves, twigs, and dead grass. Bacteria, mold, and fungus will break down these materials to provide a rich soil for plants.

Topsoil: A very rich soil layer due to the decay of living materials. This soil is also called humus and is needed as a source of nutrients for healthy plants to grow. Many of the roots of plants are found in this layer.

Subsoil: This includes fine particles such as minerals, clay, and sand. These particles are broken down from the solid rock below and make their way up into the soil layer to form subsoil.

Weathered or decomposed rock: This is the parent rock material that becomes broken down to form subsoil. There is no organic material found in this layer it is all rock and mineral particles.