



Carbon Farming

Good for the soil, good for
the planet



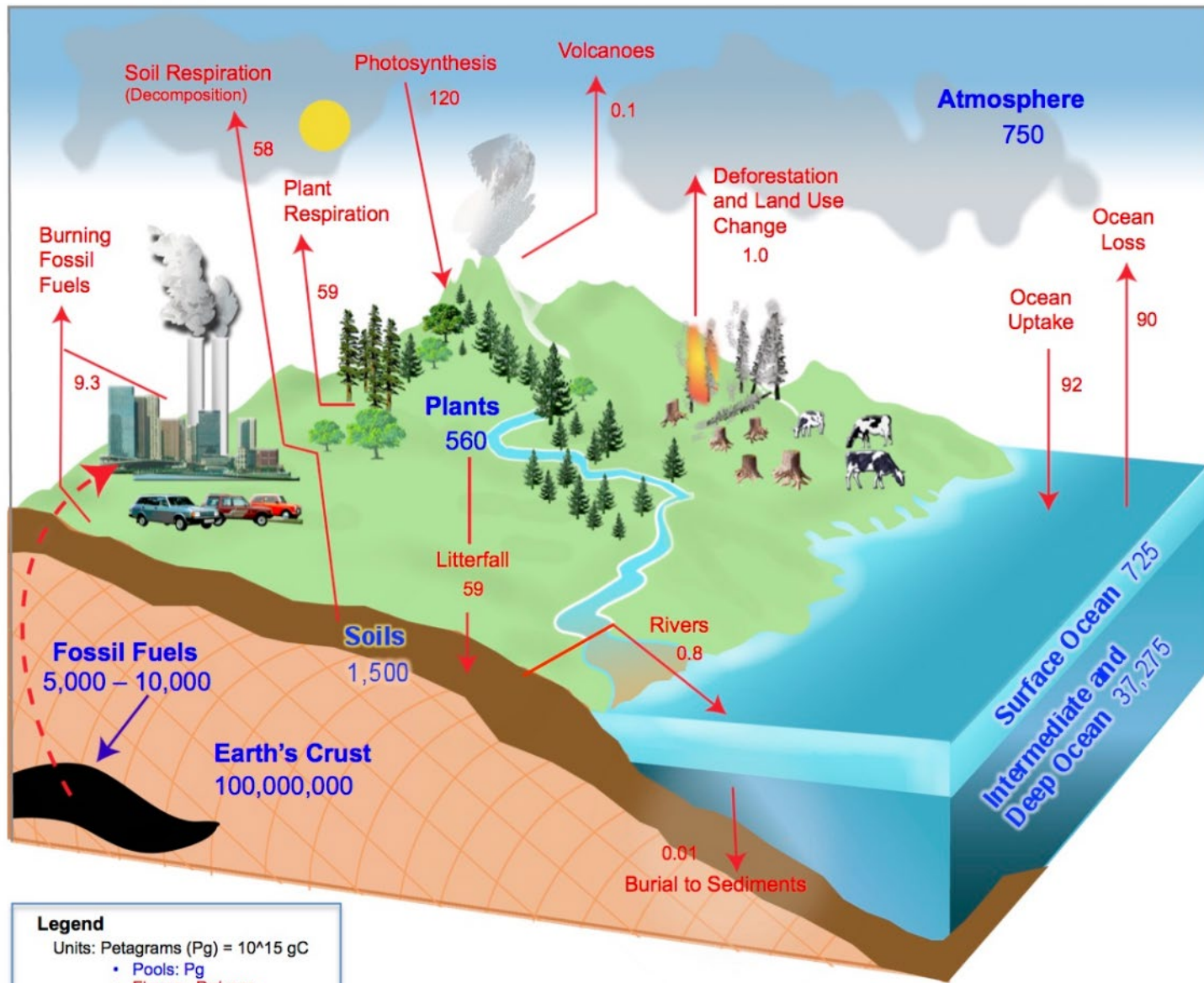
Miguel A. Garcia Ph.D, CCA

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Napa County resource Conservation District
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Benefits of carbon sequestration

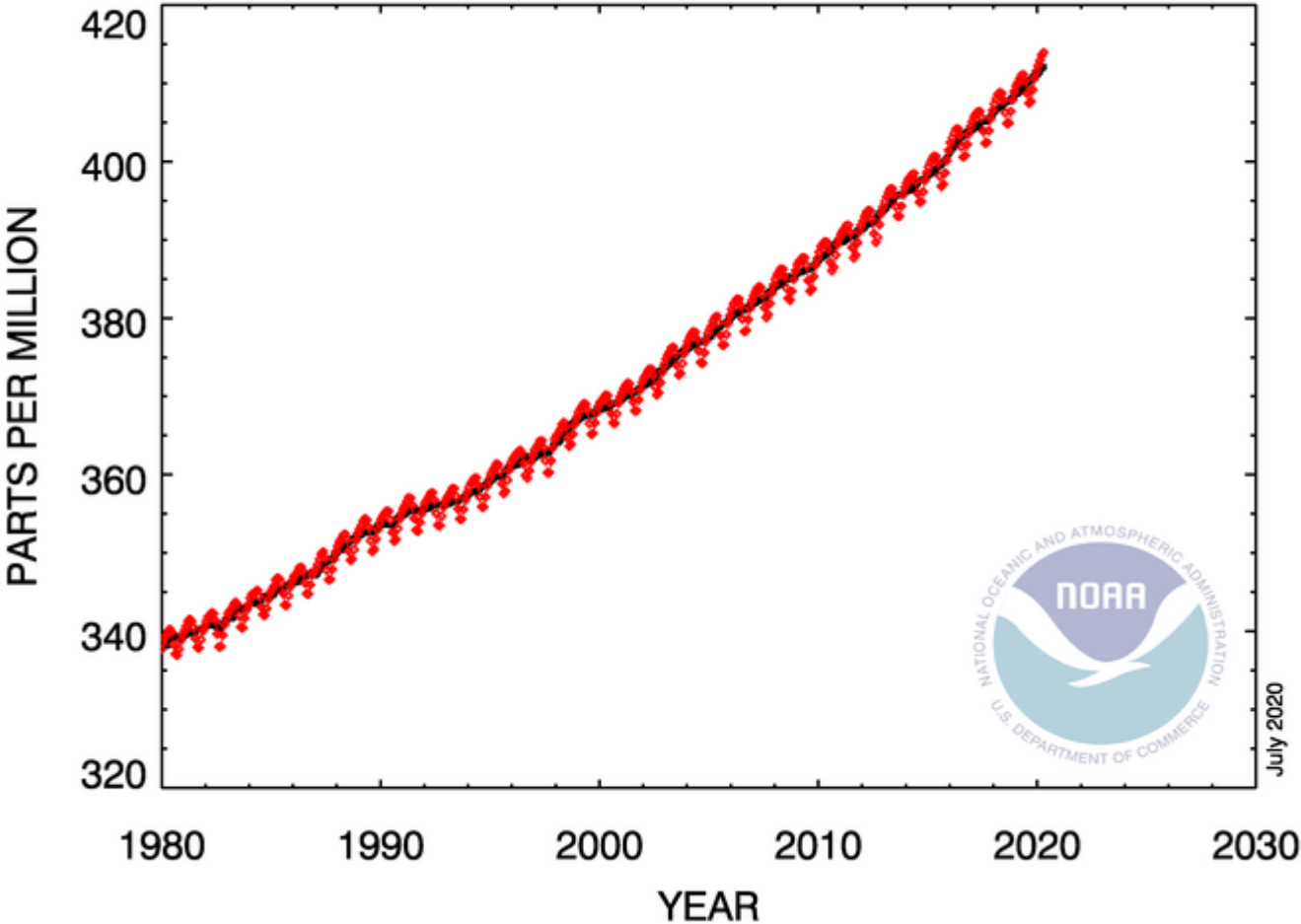


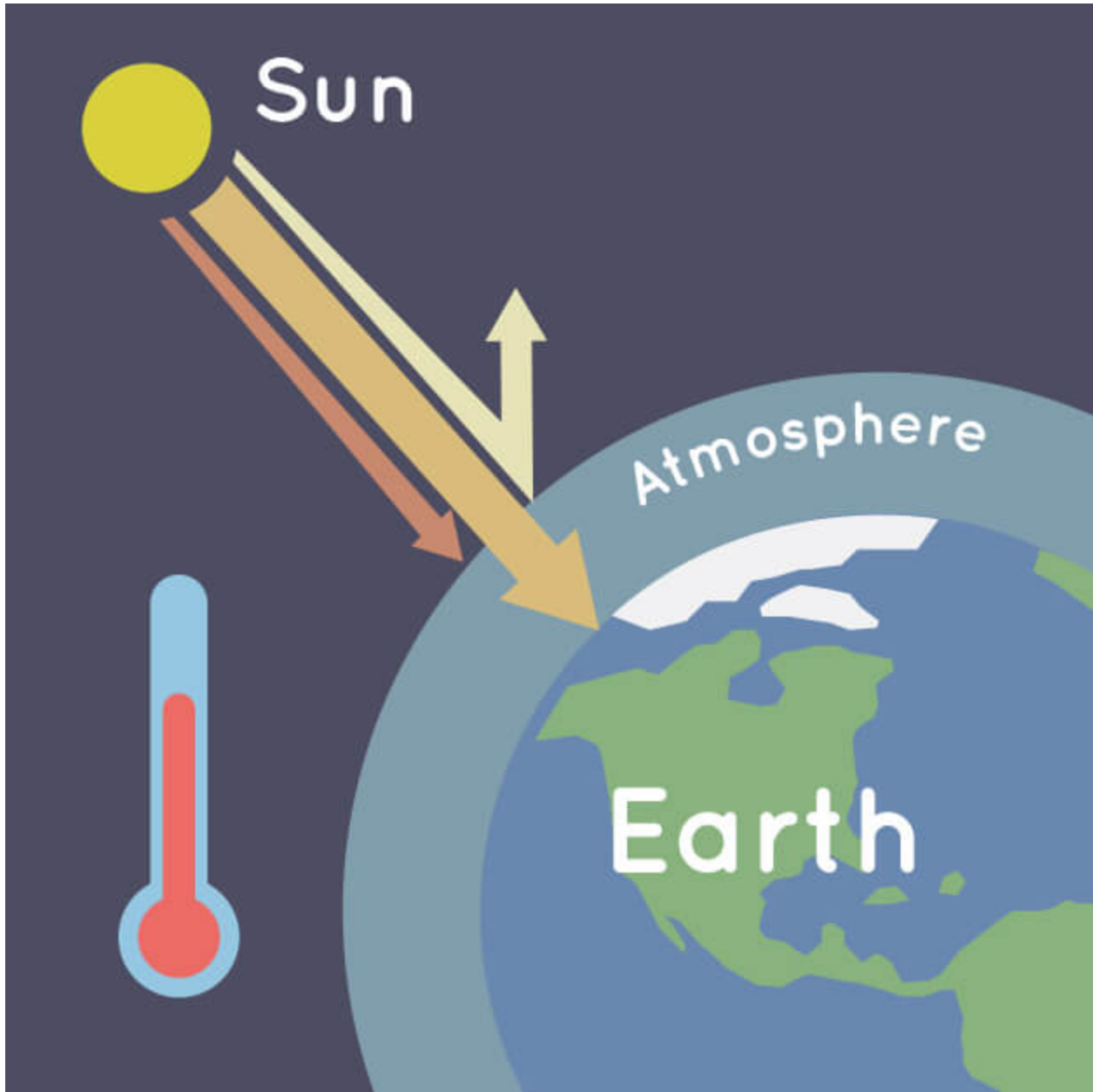


Legend
 Units: Petagrams (Pg) = 10¹⁵ gC
 • Pools: Pg
 • Fluxes: Pg/year

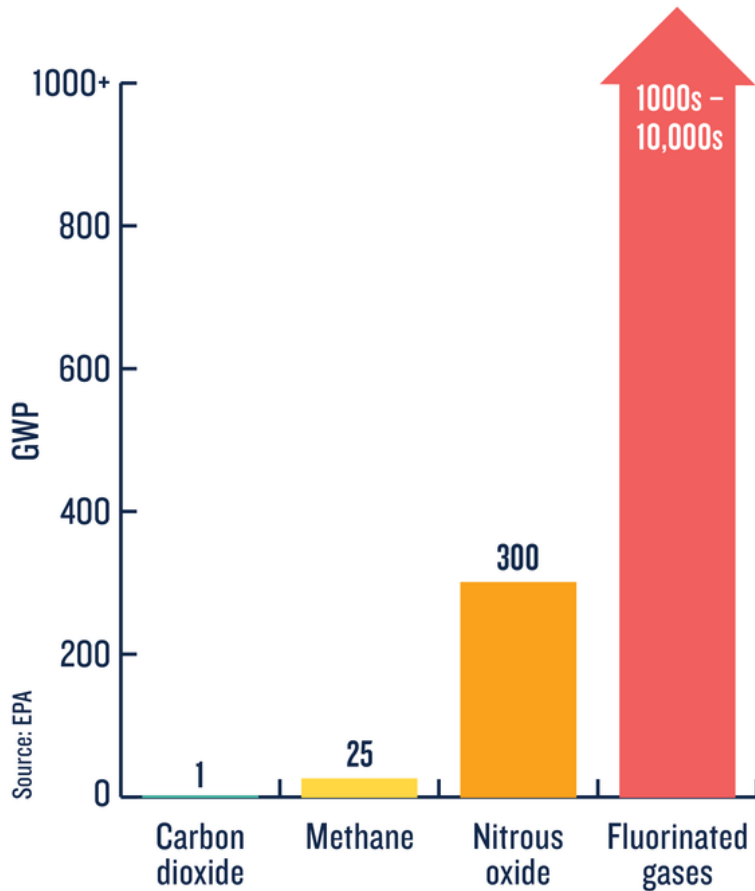


GLOBAL MONTHLY MEAN CO₂

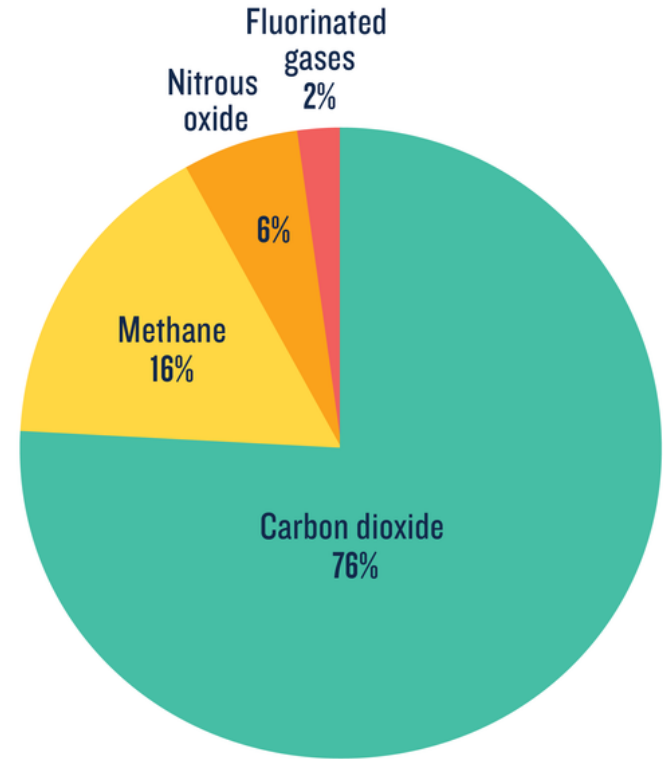




HOW GREENHOUSE GASES WARM OUR PLANET



The global warming potential (GWP) of human-generated greenhouse gases is a measure of how much heat each gas traps in the atmosphere, relative to carbon dioxide.

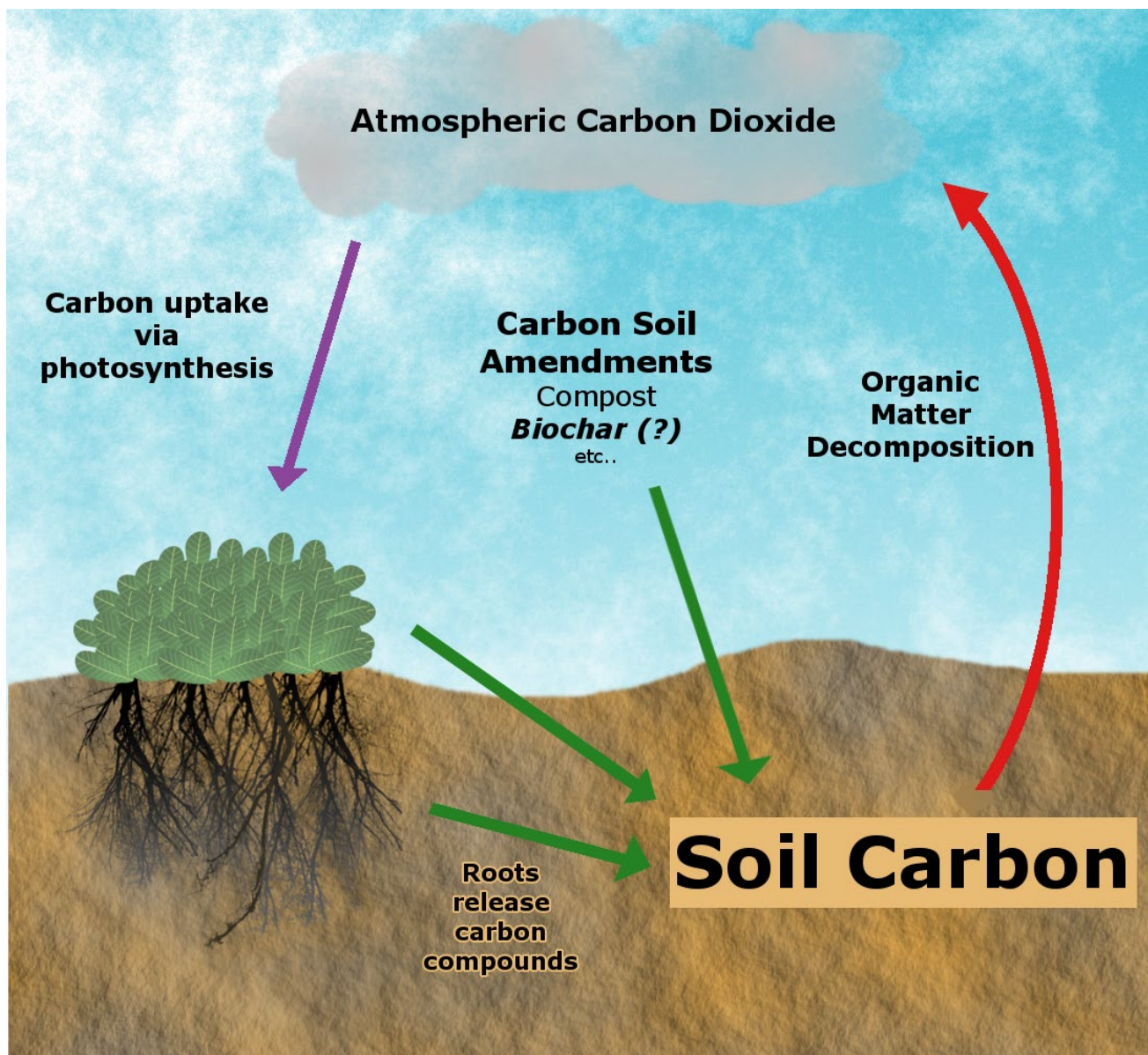


How much each human-caused greenhouse gas contributes to total emissions around the globe.

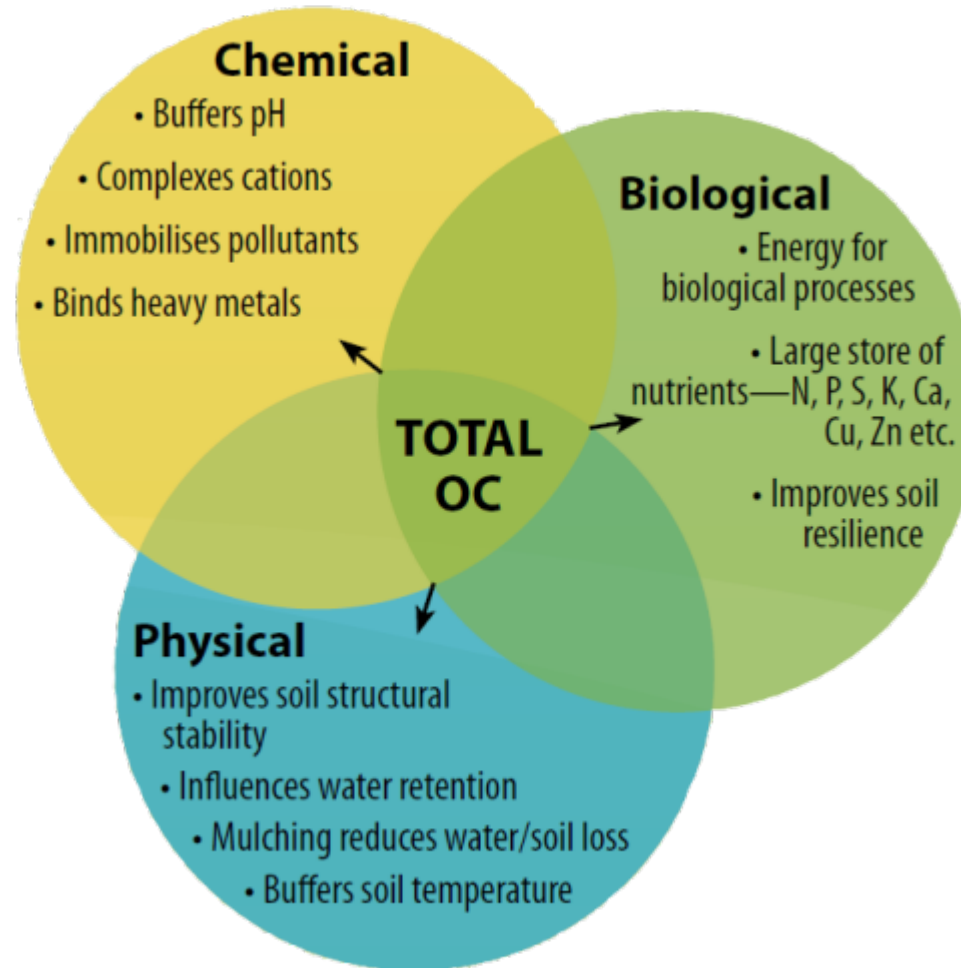


WMO Climate Risks, Extreme Events and Related Impacts





Carbon is critical to maintain proper soil health



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Healthy Soils Support Ecosystem Function

Water
Storage +
Filtration

Carbon
Capture +
Storage

Biological
Function +
Diversity

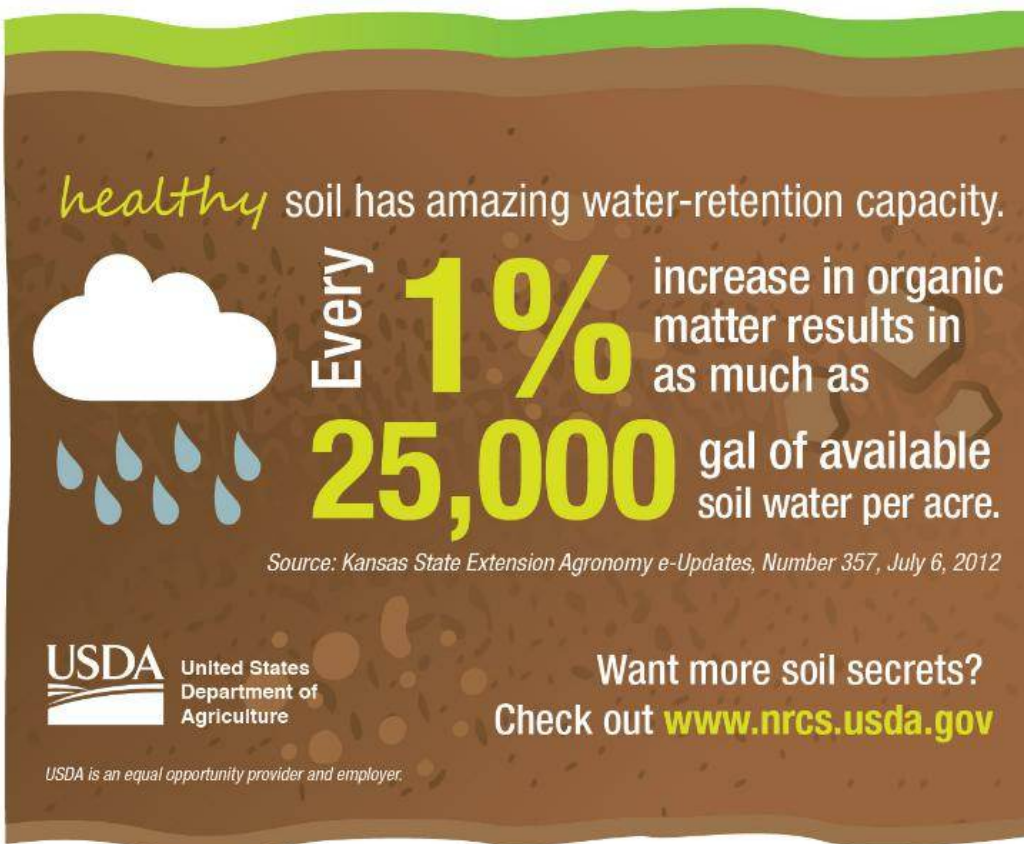
Productive
Capacity

Carbon is critical to maintain proper soil health

USDA-NRCS SOIL HEALTH INFOGRAPHIC SERIES #002



what's underneath



Want more soil secrets?
Check out www.nrcs.usda.gov

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The Five Principles Of Soil Health



1.

SOIL COVER: *Keep plant residues on the soil surface.* Look down, what percentage of your soil is protected by residue? Erosion needs to be minimized before you can start building soil health.



2.

LIMITED DISTURBANCE: *Minimize tillage as much as possible.* You will start building soil aggregates, pore spaces, soil biology, and organic matter.



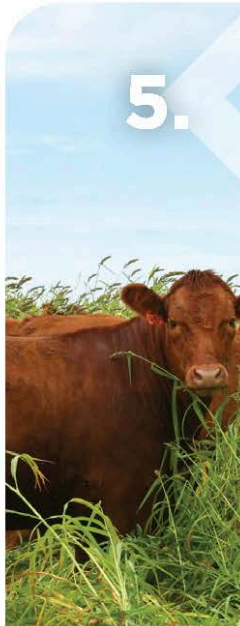
3.

LIVING ROOTS: *Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil.* Cover crops can add carbon to the soil, providing a great food source for micro-organisms. Start small to find the best fit for your operation.



4.

DIVERSITY: *Try to mimic nature.* Use cool and warm season grasses and broad leaf plants as much as possible, with three or more crops and cover crops in rotation. Grassland and cropland plant diversity increases soil and animal health.



5.

INTEGRATING LIVESTOCK: Fall/winter grazing of cover crops and crop residue increases livestock's plane of nutrition at a time when pasture forage quality can be low, increases the soil biological activity on cropland, and improves nutrient cycling. Proper grassland management improves soil health.



EVALUATE POTENTIAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS FROM ADOPTING NRCS CONSERVATION PRACTICES



CLICK TO VIEW INTRODUCTION VIDEO

NRCS Conservation Practices included in COMET-Planner are only those that have been identified as having greenhouse gas mitigation and/or carbon sequestration benefits on farms and ranches. This list of conservation practices is based on the qualitative greenhouse benefits ranking of practices prepared by NRCS.

Step 1

Begin by naming your project and selecting your state and county

Project Name:

State:

County:

Step 2

Select the class of conservation practices that best describes the practice you would like to evaluate



Cropland Management



Grazing Lands



Woody Plantings



Cropland To Herbaceous Cover



Restoration Of Disturbed Lands

Step 3

Select a NRCS Conservation Practice Standard and a Practice Implementation that best describes your system. You may add multiple practices. If you would like to add a practice under a different class of practices, return to Step 2.

Conservation Practice Standard (CPS)



Combustion System Improvement (CPS 372)



Conservation Crop Rotation (CPS 328)



Cover Crop (CPS 340)



Mulching (CPS 484)



Conservation Practice Implementation

Approximate Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions¹ (tonnes CO₂ equivalent per year)

	Enter Acreage	Carbon Dioxide	Nitrous Oxide	Methane	Total CO ₂ -Equivalent
NRCS Conservation Practices (Click Practice Name for Documentation)					
Cover Crop (CPS 340) - Add Legume Seasonal Cover Crop to Irrigated Cropland [delete]	100 ac	88	-36	0	52
Residue and Tillage Management - No-Till (CPS 329) - Intensive Till to No Till or Strip Till on Irrigated Cropland [delete]	100 ac	24	2	0	26
Mulching (CPS 484) - Add Mulch to Croplands [delete]	100 ac	32	0	0	32
Total		144.00	-34.00	0.00	110.00

¹Negative values indicate a loss of carbon or increased emissions of greenhouse gases

²Values were not estimated due to limited data on reductions of greenhouse gas emissions from this practice

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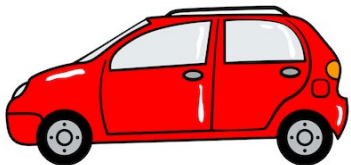
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1 typical vehicle = 5 tonnes of CO₂/year

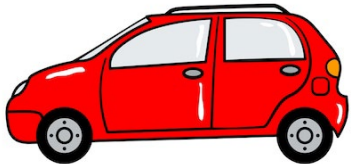
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1 typical vehicle = 5 tonnes of CO₂/year

110 tonnes of CO₂ = 22 vehicles

Limitations to carbon sequestration

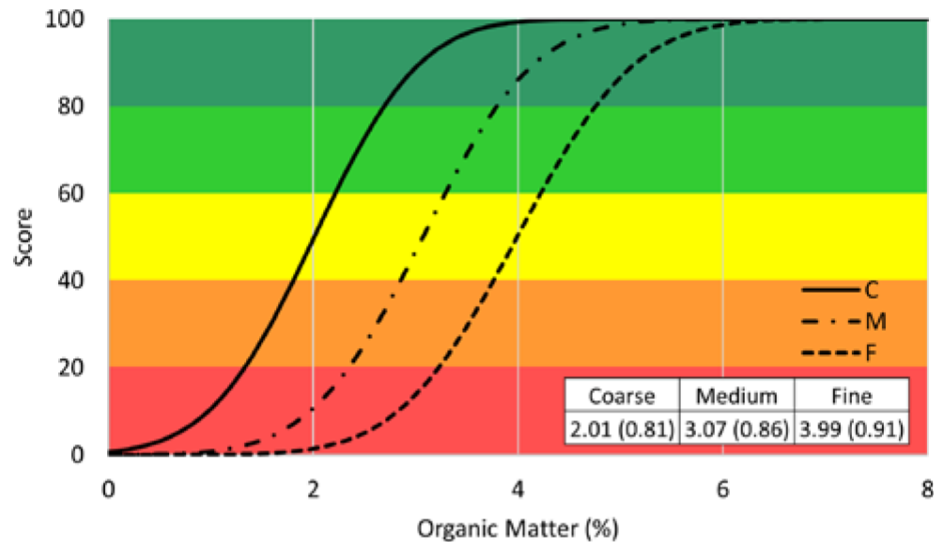


Figure 1. Soil Organic Matter (OM) scoring functions and upper value limits for Coarse (C), Medium (M) and Fine (F) textural classes. Mean and standard deviation (in parenthesis) for each class are provided. Soils with higher OM scores generally require lower inputs of nutrients and are more resilient to drought and extreme rainfall. (Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health – The Cornell Framework Manual, 2016)

Limitations to carbon sequestration

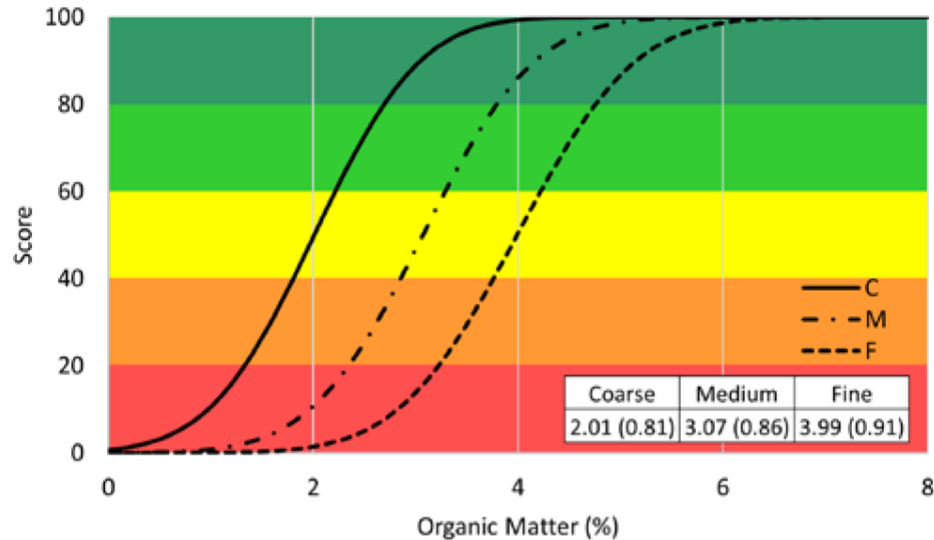


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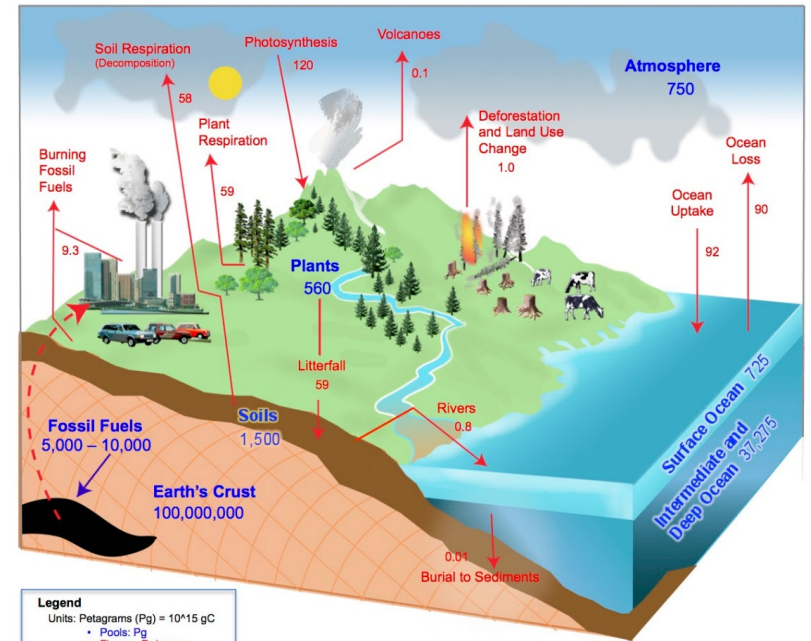
Average organic matter % in Napa soils = 4%

Limitations to carbon sequestration

Carbon sequestration slow,
be patient.



Best way to assess progress
is by conducting regular soil
testing.



GLOBE@2017

Global Carbon Cycle Diagram





Biosphere

Data Sources: Adapted from Houghton, R.A. Balancing the Global Carbon Budget. Annu. Rev. Earth Planet. Sci. 007:35:313-347, updated emissions values are from the Global Carbon Project: Carbon Budget 2017. Diagram created by a collaboration between UNH, Charles University and the GLOBE Program.

Napa County RCD - Carbon Farm Plan Huichica Creek Sustainable Demonstration Vineyard



Current Practices

-  Blocks A-E: Alternate Row Till
-  Block F & G - No Till
-  5 Foot Contour
-  Huichica Creek

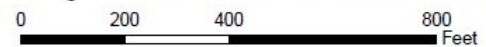
Planned Conservation Practices

Compost Application in all vineyard blocks

-  327, Conservation Cover
-  380, Tree and Shrub Planting
-  390, Riparian Restoration
-  422, Hedgerow
-  657, Wetland Restoration
-  Alternate-Row Tillage to No-Till
-  Multistory Cropping

Carbon Farm Practices (NRCS Practice)

1. Riparian Restoration (390)
2. Hedgerow Planting (422)
3. Conventional Tillage to No Tillage (329)
4. Compost Application Mulching (484)
5. Cover Crop Establishment (340)
6. Multistory Cropping (379)
7. Windbreak Establishment (380)
8. Wetland Restoration (657)





Napa County RCD - Carbon Farm Plan
Huichica Creek Sustainable Demonstration Vineyard

Current Practices

-  Blocks A-E: Alternate Row Till
-  Block F & G - No Till
-  5 Foot Contour

Since 2018, the Napa RCD has developed carbon farm plans for 39 vineyards:

- 2,717 acres.
- 14,160 metric tons CO₂/yr.
- Equivalent to removing 3013 cars from the roads.

Expect to develop 20 carbon farm plans/yr.

Will expand work into rangeland.

A photograph of a vineyard with rows of grapevines. The vines are supported by wooden stakes and have green leaves. Small red flowers are scattered in the grass between the rows. A wooden sign is placed in the foreground on the left side.

Thank you!

**Do not disturb!
Soil at work**