Composition of Soil

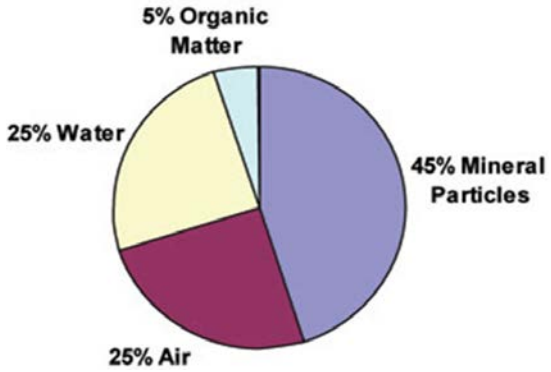
Introduction

Soil is an important natural resource. Plants need soil to grow. Microscopic organisms such as bacteria, fungi, microscopic algae and protozoa live in the soil. Soil beetles, soilmites, earthworms, nematodes, millipedes, centipedes, ants and termites also live in the soil. Major functions of the soil are:

- It supports plant growth by holding the roots firmly and supplying water and nutrients to the plants.
- It acts as a natural habitat for many organisms like an earthworm, fungi, bacteria, ants, etc.
- It is also essential for agriculture which provides us with food, clothing and shelter for all.
- It supplies water and nutrients to plants. Therefore, we can say that soil is an inseparable part of our life.

Composition of Soil

- The soil is a storehouse for all the elements that plants need to grow. It also provides support for plant roots .Soil nourish the plants.
- The soil contains some elements which make it able to feed plants. The soil is made up of components i.e. minerals material, organic matter, water and air.



Composition of Soil

(a) Minerals material: There are 45% of minerals material is present in soil. It is the very important substitute which is present in soil. Most common minerals found in soil i.e. iron, potassium, calcium, sulphur, etc. The high amount of minerals containing soil is good for agriculture.

(b) Organic matter: There are 5% of organic matter present in the soil. The main organic matter is humus which is made up of plant residue and animal remain. The organic matter is rich in nitrogen, sulphur and phosphorus. For gardening the organic matter rich is preferable.

(c) Air: There are 25% of air present in the soil. The soil pores are filled with air. The soil contain gases like nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide. The air present in the soil help plants in respiration.

(d) Water: There is 25% of water present in the soil. The pores of soil contain water. The water present in soil is absorbed by plants to live. It is the main component of soil and on the size of the soil particle depends the water holding capacity.