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## **ORGANIC SOIL SOLUTIONS FACT SHEET**

### **FOR A GREENER, HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT.**

Urban soils often lack a diverse and abundant soil food web. Compaction, tillage, chemicals, temperature extremes, importing fill and/or scraping away top soil are all activities that kill soil life. Without nutrient cycling done by soil microbes, the quick and easy solution is to apply fertilizer to help trees grow. But this is a band-aid solution. The real solution is to restore soil life so soils can perform their natural, effective functions. Healthy soils hold more water, decompose toxins, and produce more healthy and nutritious plants.

After we perform a soil microbiology analysis and consult, we can add the missing soil microbes that are appropriate for the type of plants in your area. We do this by extracting microbes from biodiverse compost in to a liquid medium packed with plant foods called **compost tea**, which we can then spray or inject around your lawn/trees of interest. We can do this in addition to, or in replacement of, a regular fertilization routine. In many cases compost tea is the preferred treatment as it results in long-term benefits for not only the tree but the whole ecosystem.

### **THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT.**

In a natural ecosystem, plant nutrients are added to the soil through the decomposition of organic matter. The work is done by decomposers, including ones you can see (earth worms, insects) and ones that are microscopic (bacteria, fungi, protists, nematodes, and more). The microscopic ones, called **soil microbes**, are actually the foundation of the **soil food web**. They form symbiotic relationships with plant roots, so nutrient cycling occurs exactly where the plant needs it. They also bind soil in to micro- and macroaggregates, which helps retain water and aerate plant roots.

### **WHY SHOULD YOU CONSIDER THIS FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE?**

If you are interested in a completely natural, non-toxic solution to strong and vibrant plants, consider our **organic soil solutions** (compost tea) program. It may take longer to achieve noticeable results, but effects are long-lasting and better for the environment.

**CALL SHADY LANE EXPERT TREE CARE TO ARRANGE A CONSULTATION**

