



Note from the editor: We just wrapped up our [Healthy Soil Summit](#), and we had several questions about humic acids we wanted to help address. We asked Russell Taylor from [Live Earth Products](#) to help us understand more.

5 Things to Know About Humic Acids

By Russell Taylor / Sponsored

Most of us know about humic substances, and how they increase the ability of the soil to hold water and build organic matter. When we discussed humic acids at the Healthy Soil Summit, the audience wanted to know more details.

Here are five other key things to know about humic acids and soil organic matter.

1. In the top 6 inches of soil, one percent organic matter weighs about 20,000 pounds per acre. If you are applying a non-stable organic matter source like crop residue, then it would take over 200,000 lbs per acre to create 1% organic matter. This is due to the microbial decomposition of organic matter.

2. In a trial conducted by Live Earth Products in Arizona, over a 10 year period, we saw a 75% increase in water holding capacity and soil organic matter increase from 0.25% to almost 3.5%. This resulted in a reduction in water use by 46%. Since the grower used less water, they also used less nitrogen since it wasn't washed away by excess water. By saving on the cost of water and nitrogen we reduced input cost by 75%.



3. According to the USDA, by changing cultural practices, like reducing tillage, using cover crops, and adding humic substances to your program, you can achieve a 1% increase in soil organic matter in as little as 3-5 years.

4. Granulated dry humate products can be added by itself or blended with compost or other dry fertilizer. This positive interaction can help improve calcium and phosphorus availability.

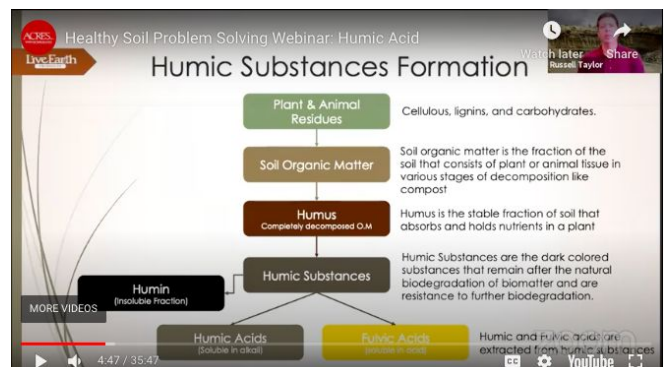
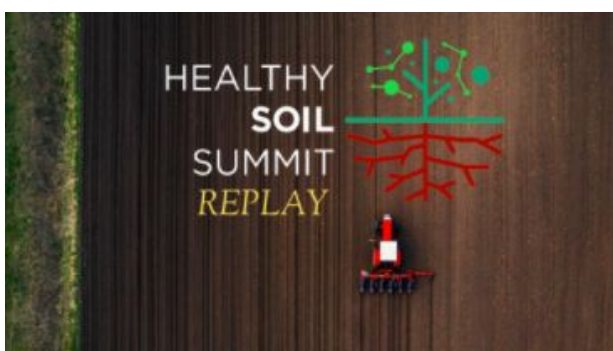
5. Humic products can help you fast-forward organic matter formation. A one percent increase in organic matter increases soil water holding capacity by 27,000 gallons per acre.

[Read more about humic acids and a field study by Live Earth Products, Inc.](#)



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Learn More About Humic Acid and Healthy Soil



Buy the 2020 Healthy Soil Summit Replay

The live event August 25-26 featured speakers like Klaas Martens, Glen Rabenberg, Mimi Casteel, Nicole Masters, Michael Phillips and more! The replay features all the educational workshops, downloadable presentations and special book deals!

[Learn More here.](#)

Healthy Soil Problem Solving Webinar – Humic Acid

Russell and Live Earth Products first tackled the issue of humic acid in this free webinar presented in the days leading up to the 2020 Healthy Soil Summit. Learn how humic acid is formed, when and why you would add it to your soil and what happens in your soil once it is incorporated.

[Watch the replay for free here.](#)