

# North Coast Soil Health Hub

A network for wine grape growers  
[soilhub.org](http://soilhub.org)

*The goal of the network is to help wine grape growers apply the principles of soil health to their own unique circumstances.*

## About the Hub

North Coast Soil Health Hub is a network of wine grape growers, wine industry representatives, scientists, and agricultural professionals working together to help improve soil health in the vineyards of Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino Counties. Practices such as reduced tillage, no-till, cover crops, and compost application can improve soil health by increasing organic matter and encouraging soil organism activity. Soil health practices can lead to significant improvements in nutrient cycling, water holding capacity, soil structure, infiltration, erosion control, and carbon sequestration, which is why soil health is a key topic in agriculture today.



*Enhance marketability, profitability, farm resiliency, and ecosystem services and further promote the North Coast as a world class viticulture region!*

## Custom Approach

Best practices for soil management vary from site to site. The Hub facilitates information sharing among growers and resource professionals about the successes and challenges of farming for soil health in the North Coast and in varying vineyard scenarios.

## Hub Objectives

- Share tips and resources through the website, workshops, and field days
- Develop a network of demonstration farms
- Conduct field trials of soil health practices
- Provide soil health assessments
- Help growers develop custom Carbon Farm Plans
- Provide technical and financial assistance

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Carbon Cycle Institute



# What is Soil Health?



*“the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living system, within ecosystem and land-use boundaries, to sustain biological productivity, promote the quality of air and water, and maintain plant, animal, and human health”*

-USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Principles of Soil Health

- Keep soil covered as much as possible.
- Use plant diversity to increase diversity in the soil.
- Keep living roots in the soil as long as possible.
- Disturb the soil as little as possible.

## Vineyard Soil Health Assessments

Resource Conservation Districts in the North Coast offer fee-for-service **Soil Health Assessments** to grape growers in Mendocino, Sonoma, and Napa Counties to evaluate soil properties such as:

- Chemical – pH, EC, and macronutrients
- Biological – including organic carbon, microbial activity, and nitrogen mineralization
- Physical – water holding capacity, compaction, infiltration, and aggregate stability

North Coast RCD’s qualified staff and partners design a sampling strategy in your vineyard, conduct field work, and assist you with interpreting soil analyses results to make sound soil management decisions. For a full list of lab and field tests, see <http://soilhub.org/soil-health-assessment-testtable-1/>

We partner with Oregon State University to conduct lab analyses. OSU is one of just a few labs in the country that provides tests based on nationally adopted soil health metrics. <https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/central-analytical-laboratory/soil-health-initiative>



### Learn More:

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