The use of multispecies swards to improve the soil microbiome

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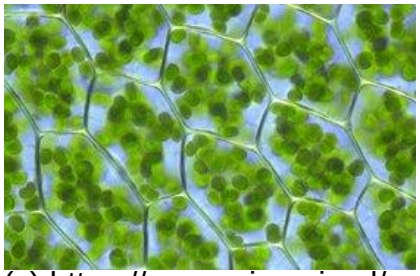
The soil microbiome

- Plants and microbes
  - Have evolved together over millions of years
  - Symbioses improve plant health, growth, and allow plants to better deal with stress
- Soil microbes drive nutrient and carbon cycling
- The functioning of the soil microbiome is central to sward functioning



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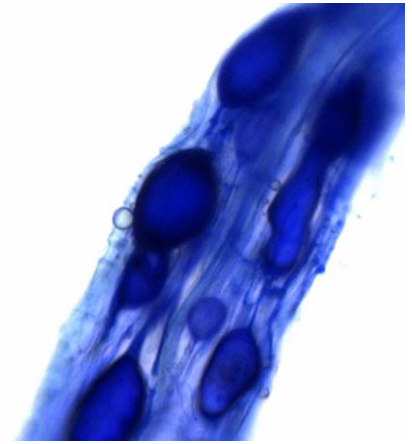

(c) Michael Künig

Managing the microbiome with multi-species swards

- A full Irish breakfast or dry toast?
-  +
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(c) John Finn

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ts diversity

nicrobiome is

ved sward functioning

ommunity in multi-species

s plant-feeding nematodes and more that can control pests. Less yield losses to pests such as leatherjackets.

Can we drought-proof our swards?

Multi-species swards could mitigate negative **drought effects**

By including multiple **stress-coping strategies**

Which could increase sward **resilience**

By fostering a diverse **soil microbiome**

Take-home messages

- Plants are intimately connected to the soil microbiome – one can not thrive without the other.
- Multi-species swards foster a diverse soil microbiome that can better provide the functions that support sward growth and resilience.