
IMPORTANT POINTS – Humus Form Orders Videos

*While you watch the video, try to answer these questions. This will help you to identify the main points of the video.*

PART 1

- The sample that "peels back" from the mineral soil is made up of litter from what kinds of trees?

- At 1:43, yellow "threads" can be seen in the F horizon of the sample. What are these? How does that relate to the designation of this horizon as Fm?

- The litter from the deciduous trees is generally more nutrient rich, with lower C:N ratios. It is also being incorporated into the mineral soil – thus the gritty Ah horizon. How is this related to the decomposer community in this sample compared to the sample with the Fm horizon? (You may want to come back to this question later if you aren't sure yet)


PART 2

- Dr. Schmidt begins by explaining he difference between the forest floor and the humus form. Which of these can be described as synonymous with the organic horizons?

- What horizons may be included in a humus form? In the forest floor?

- What are the characteristic horizons of the mor and the mull humus forms? What are the properties of these horizons?

- Two photos of caterpillar castes appear at 3:40. What horizon are these generally associated with?

- Fungal decomposers are more likely in organic horizons with (lower/higher) pH; (lower/higher) C:N ratios; (lower/higher) nutrient contents?


PART 3

- Record any information you might have previously missed during the summary of the mor and mull during the first two minutes of this video.

- What makes an Fa horizon different from an Fm or Fz? (NOTE: a moder humus form may have either an Fa OR and Fz! We talked only about the Fa in this video)

- After watching these videos, order the three humus forms according to which you think is least to most active (of course this varies and any humus form can be either active or inactive depending on other factors).