Healthy Soil Healthy Food Webs - David Burke, Holden Forests and Gardens

1) Soil formation and development
   a. We tend toward a chemical approach – fertilizer, some compost
   b. Many soils are degraded or removed – especially in residential areas
   c. Soil can be grown – much development since end of last glacial period
   d. What do soils look like – solutions for poor soil

2) Soil food webs – alternative approach
   a. The soil food web. Soil is alive! Not just dirt
   b. Microbiome or soil and roots
   c. Mycorrhizal fungi – plant partners
      i. What are they?
      ii. What do they do?
      iii. Benefits
      iv. Vegetables and crops
      v. Trees
   d. Fungi as decomposers
   e. Helpful bacteria – nitrogen fixers

3) Plant roots as a habitat for critters.
   a. Carbon flow into soil significant
   b. Root turnover and death.
   c. Mycorrhizal transfer

4) What can you do to insure healthy soil?
   a. Organic
   b. No till – or limit tilling
   c. Cover crops
   d. Buffer strips

5) If it’s good for pollinators – it’s good for soil fungi and bacteria. Generally speaking.

6) Questions?
Life’s Short. Extend That Season!
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A) The Tyranny of Mother’s Day
   1) Boycott May
   2) Resist!
B) The Five Effing Reasons to Choose a Plant (and a “b” word)
   1) Flower
   2) Fragrance
   3) Fruit
   4) Foliage
   5) Form
   6) Bark

Natural, No Makeup, Year-Round Beauties!
Acer palmatum cultivars (Japanese Maples)
Acer griseum (Paperbark Maple)
Acer griseum hybrids ‘Girard’s Hybrid’ & others
Betula nigra ‘Heritage’ (River Birch)
Corylus fargesii (Farges’ Hazelnut)
Fagus sylvatica cultivars (European Beech)
Fagus grandifolia (Beech)
Helleborus (Hellebores)
Lindera benzoin (Spicebush)
Metasequoia glyptostroboides (Dawn Redwood)
Parrotia persica (Persian Ironwood)
Parrotia subaequalis
Pinus bungeana (Lacebark Pine)
Platanus x acerifolia ‘Suttneri’ (London Planetree)
Prunus subhirtella pendula (Weeping Higan’s Cherry)

Some Come Early
Crocus
Anemone blanda
Chionodoxa
Galanthus (Snowdrops)
Iris reticulata
Narcissus (Daffodils)
Scilla
Mertensia (Virginia Bluebells)
Phlox subulata
Pulsatilla vulgaris (Pasque Flower)
Magnolia stellata (Star Magnolia)
Loebner Magnolias ‘Merrill’ & ‘Leonard Messel’
Magnolia ‘Yellowbird’
Prunus x yedoensis (Yoshino Cherries)

Some Stay Late
Acer rubrum cultivars

Some Come Early AND Stay Late
Amsonia hubrichtii (Arkansas Bluestar)
Aronia arbutifolia (Red Chokeberry)
Fothergilla species
Hamamelis species (Witchhazels)
Malus (Crabapples)

Persistent Little Devils
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides (Plumbago)
Leptodermis oblonga
Dahlia Mystic Illusion
Bidens Goldilocks Rocks
Evolvulus Blue My Mind
Lantana
Salvia Mystic Blue Imp
Tithonia
Zinnia

Winter Wonders
Twig Dogwoods
Deciduous Hollies
‘Winter Red’
‘Red Sprite’
‘Finch’s Gold’
‘Warren Red’

Summer Simmerers, Winter Warriors
Panicum virgatum ‘Northwind’
Calamagrostis ‘Karl Foerster’
Muhlenbergia capillaris
Schizochyrium scoparium ‘Standing Ovation’

Read Scott (at least) monthly on GardenRant.com, and bi-monthly in the Deep Roots column in Horticulture Magazine. Although rarely updated, more information available at scottbeuerlein.com.