Introduction: An ecological approach to growing fruit

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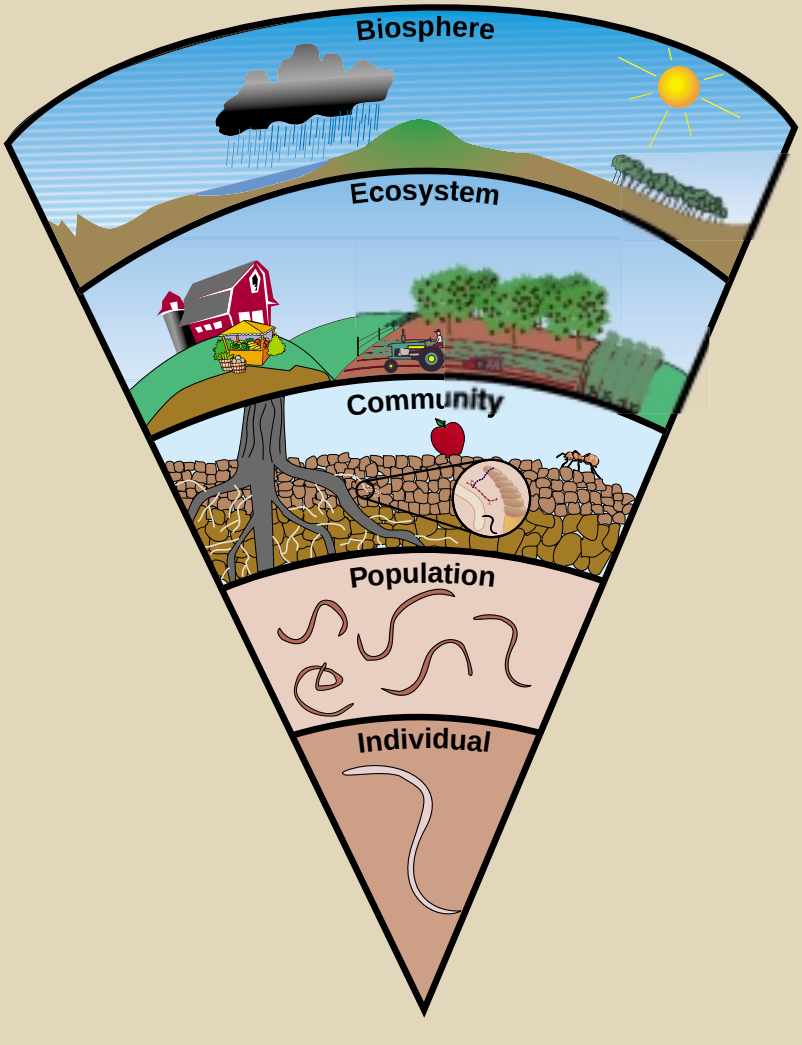
What is fruit crop ecology?

Biological and social factors are driving the need for new farming practices. Fruit crop ecology is the study of the interactions among the many biological, environmental and management factors that make up and influence fruit production. This book explores growing fruit within a complex web that connects soil, plants, animals, humans, landscapes and the atmosphere. An ecological approach to fruit production recognizes that these factors interact in a changing environment and that it is impossible to change one aspect of a farming system without affecting others.

Growers and consumers have benefited greatly from technological advances in fruit production that have increased yields and reduced labor costs. There have also been some unexpected environmental and social consequences, such as pesticide resistance, loss of biodiversity, potential water pollution, consumer concerns



Individuals of a species are connected to the rest of the ecosystem. The biosphere includes all the world's ecosystems.