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Soil atmosphere! As all soils are more or less porous they contain in their interstices gases which form the soil atmosphere. These gases may come from the chemical activity of the earth materials, biological processes, or from the earth's atmosphere itself. The quantity of soil atmosphere varies because of several things acting singly or together. Wind or air pressure, since both vary, may drive air in or draw it out. Rain or irrigation, by filling the interstices, will do the same thing, or evaporation may allow more air to go in. Temperature changes causing compressions and expansions perform similar functions. This soil atmosphere is necessary for plant-life.
