



Mycorrhizal Planet

How Symbiotic Fungi Work with Roots to Support Plant Health and Build Soil Fertility

Regenerative practices for the farm, garden, orchard, forest, and landscape

Michael Phillips

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Full-color photographs and illustrations throughout

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“Did you know that our collective future could well pivot on people coming to understand that soil fungi matter? Or that there’s such a thing as *fungal consciousness*?”

In his new book, *Mycorrhizal Planet*, Michael Phillips offers new insights into the invisible world beneath our feet.

Mycorrhizae (mīkəˈrīzə/) is defined as *fungi that grows in association with the roots of a plant in a symbiotic or mildly pathogenic relationship*. Phillips explains the crucial, symbiotic role that fungi play in everything from healthy plants to healthy soils to a healthy planet.

Mycorrhizae sequester carbon in the soil in much more meaningful ways than any “carbon offsets” humans could ever devise. That means that one of the key solutions to offsetting the long-term effects of global warming is right under our noses—or feet.

Phillips, a holistic farmer and writer (*The Apple Grower*, *The Holistic Orchard*), explores this complex science in layman’s terms—offering insight into how to make plants and their fungi partners prosper.

Phillips also provides insight on low-impact, common-sense farming strategies, including information on:

- mulches for gardening
- cover crops
- shallow cultivation
- forest-edge orchards
- human-scale tools and technology
- and more

Beyond farmers, this book will resonate with anyone who is fascinated with the unseen workings of nature and concerned about maintaining and restoring the health of our soils, our climate, and the quality of life on Earth for generations to come.



Michael Phillips is a farmer, writer, carpenter, orchard consultant, and speaker who lives with his wife, Nancy, and daughter, Grace, on Heartsong Farm in northern New Hampshire, where they grow apples and a variety of medicinal herbs. Phillips is the author of *The Apple Grower* (Chelsea Green, 2005) and *The Holistic Orchard* (2011), and teamed up with Nancy to write *The Herbalist’s Way* (2005). His Lost Nation Orchard is part of the Holistic Orchard Network, and Phillips also leads the community orchard movement at www.GrowOrganicApples.com.

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