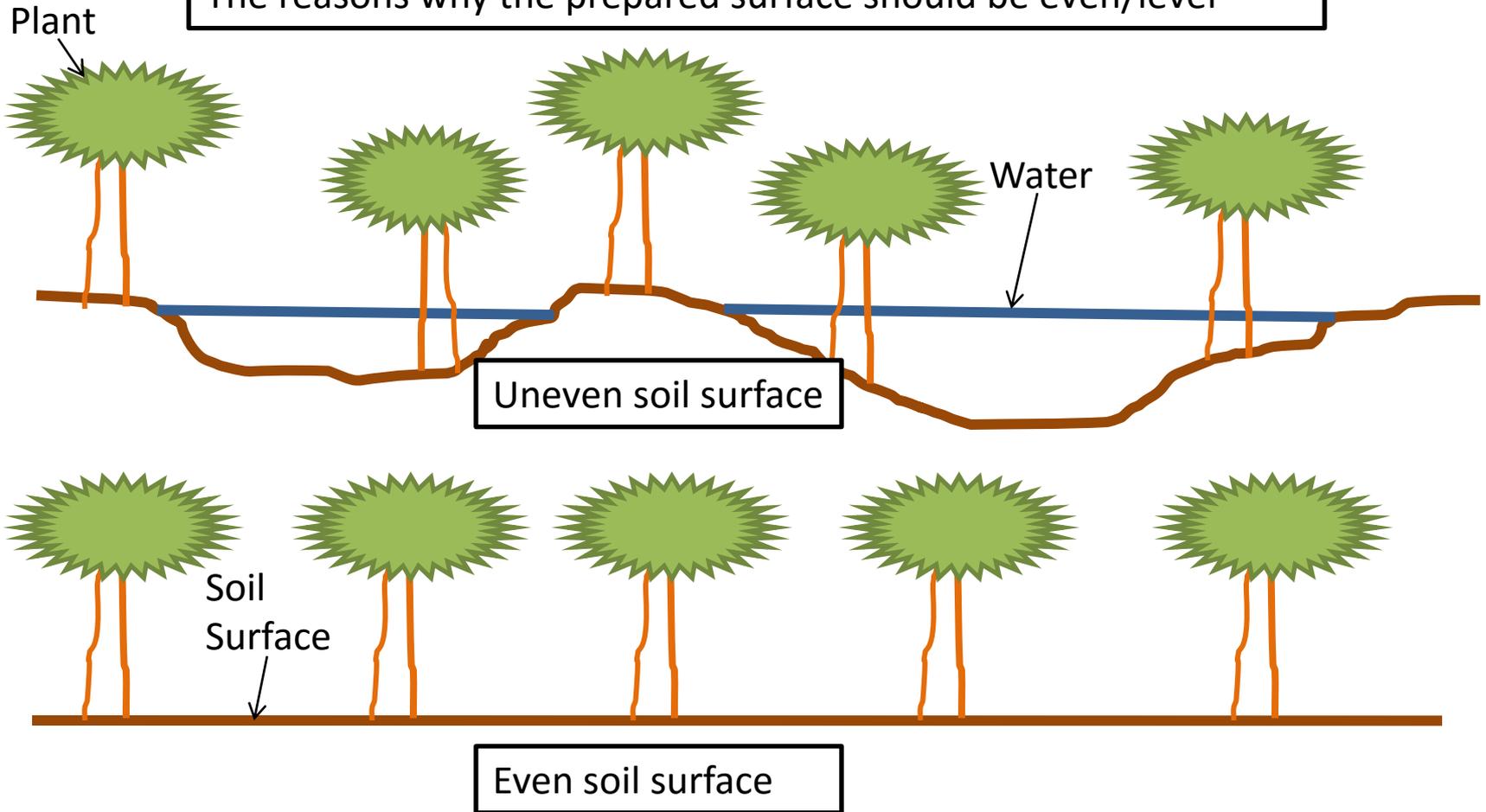


The reasons why the prepared surface should be even/level

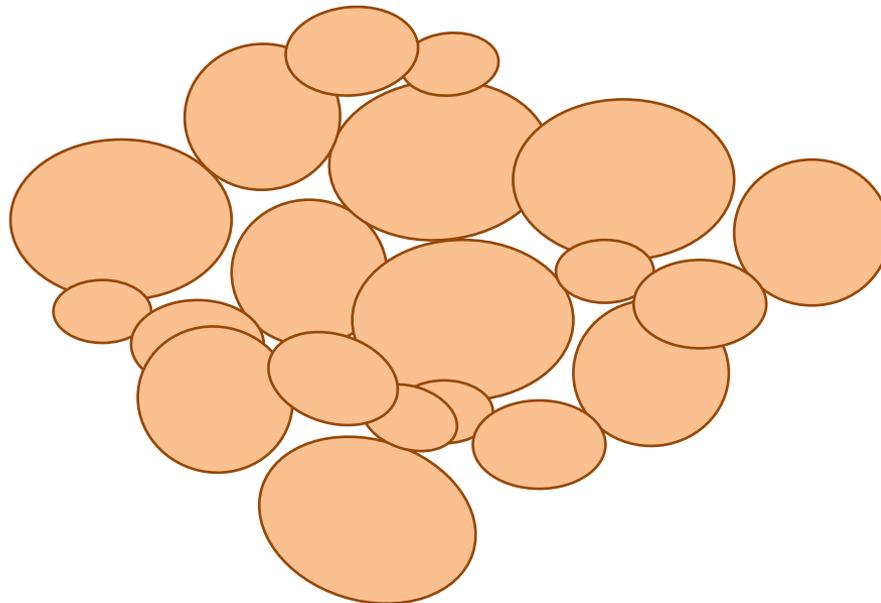


Which is better the even soil surface or the uneven soil surface?. Plants get even amount of light and an even amount of water when planted on the even or level surface

The planted area looks so much better if the plants are set out in straight rows

## Definition Tilth

Tilth is the physical crumbly texture of the top layer of the soil in relation to texture.



**Fine Tilth**



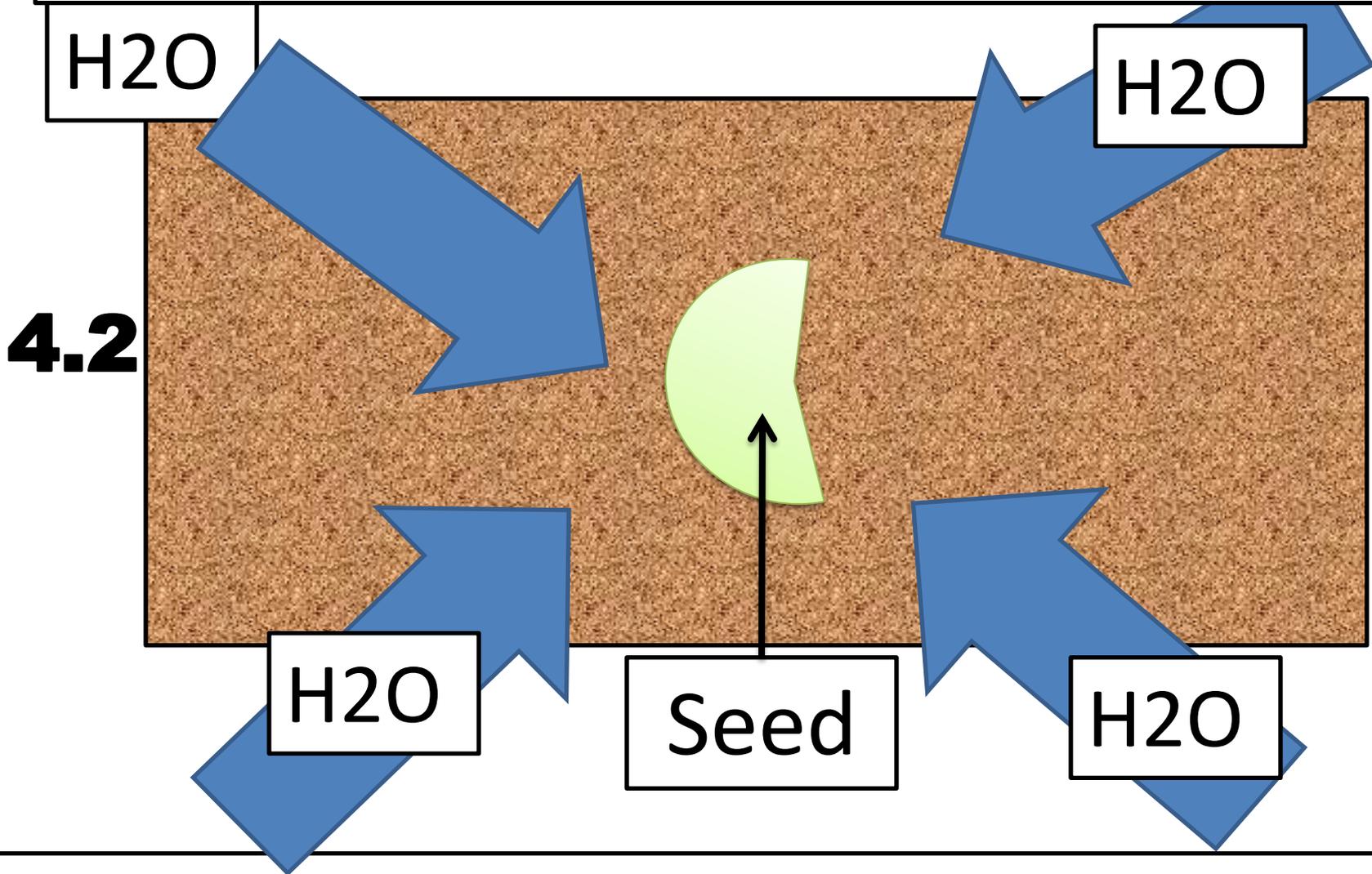
**Medium Tilth**



**Coarse Tilth**

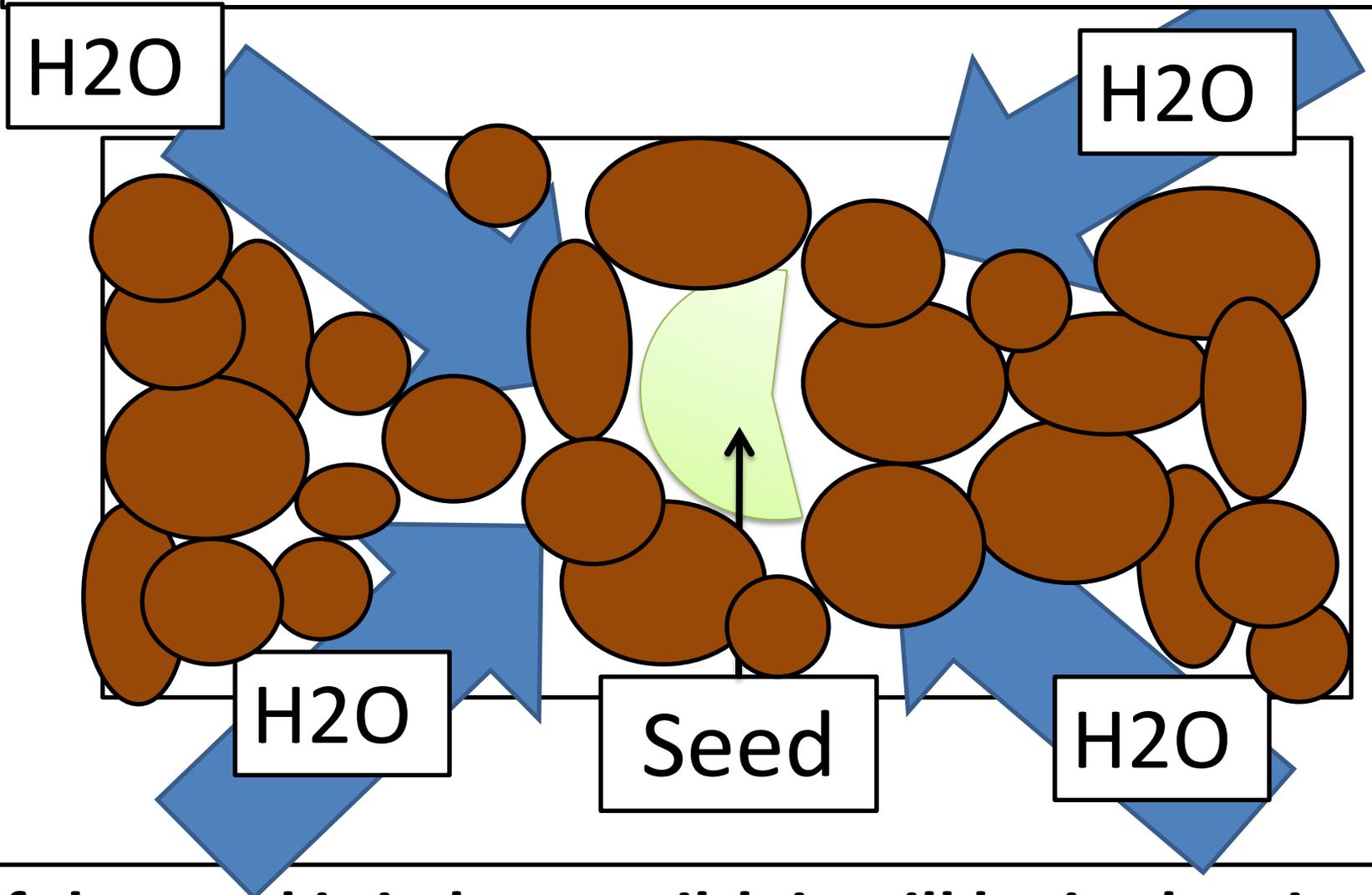


**Seed in medium-fine tilth has total contact with the soil**



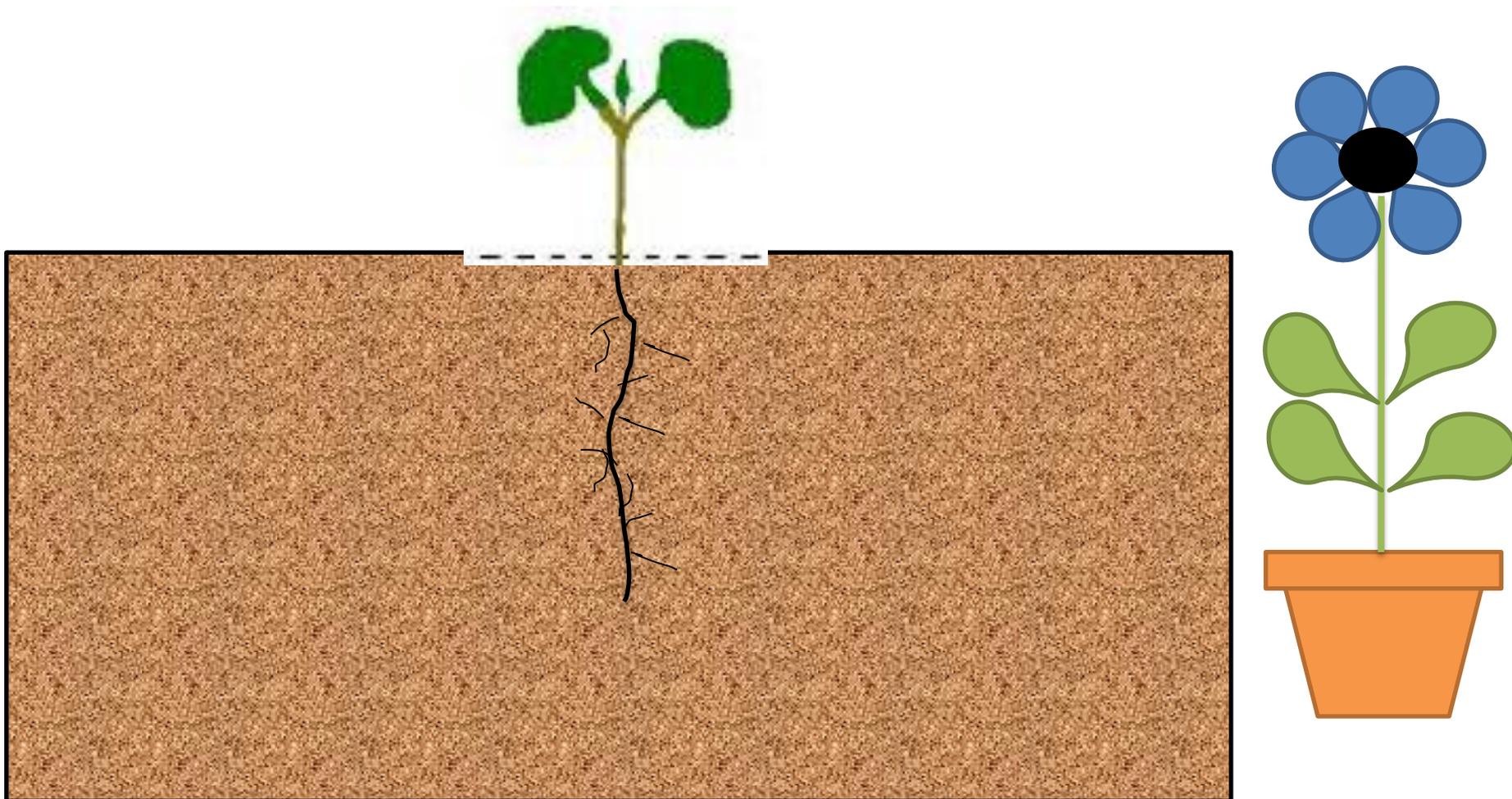
**first thing that needs to happen for a seed to germinate is for it to take in water**

**Seed in coarse tilth has limited contact with the soil**

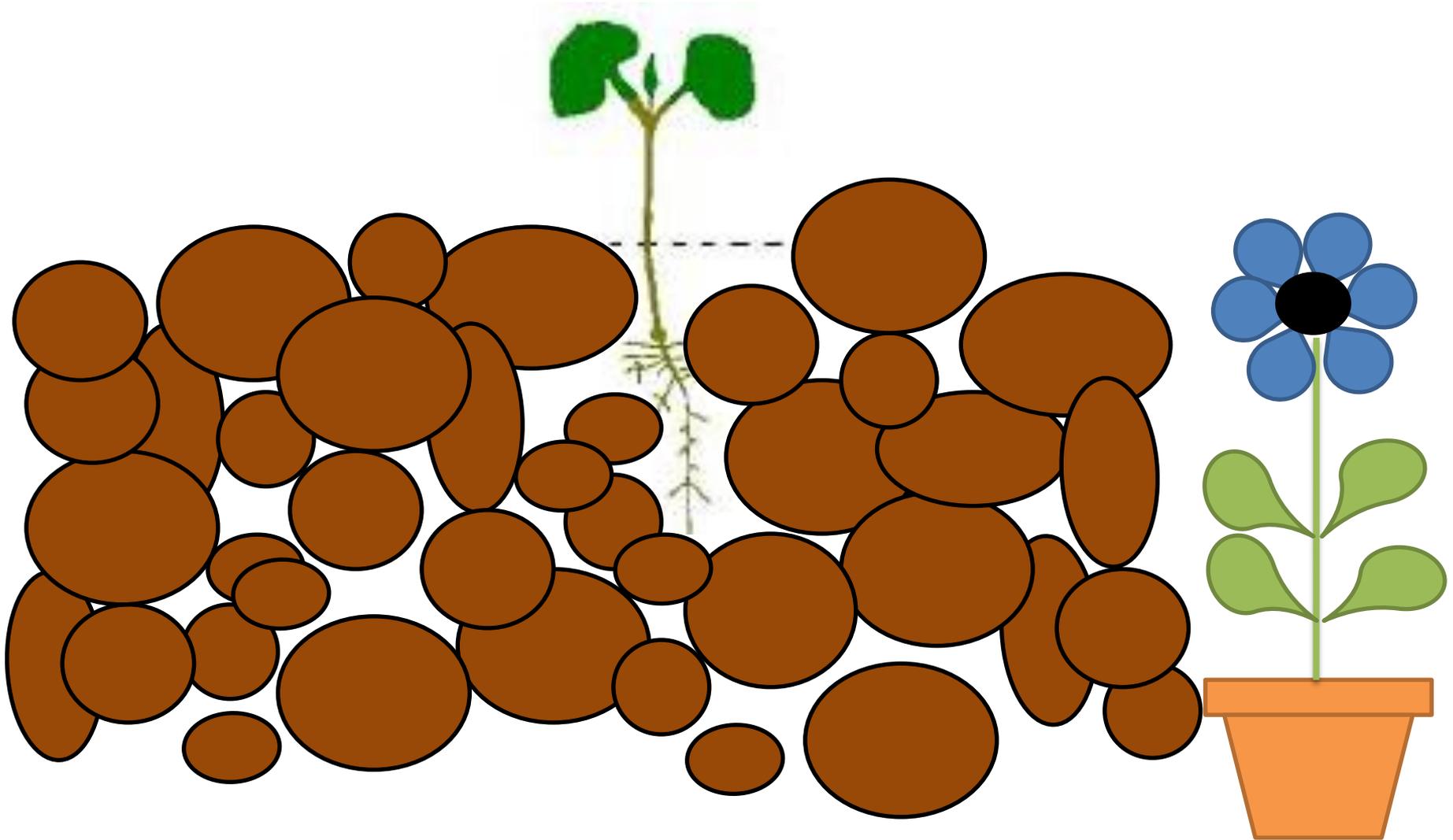


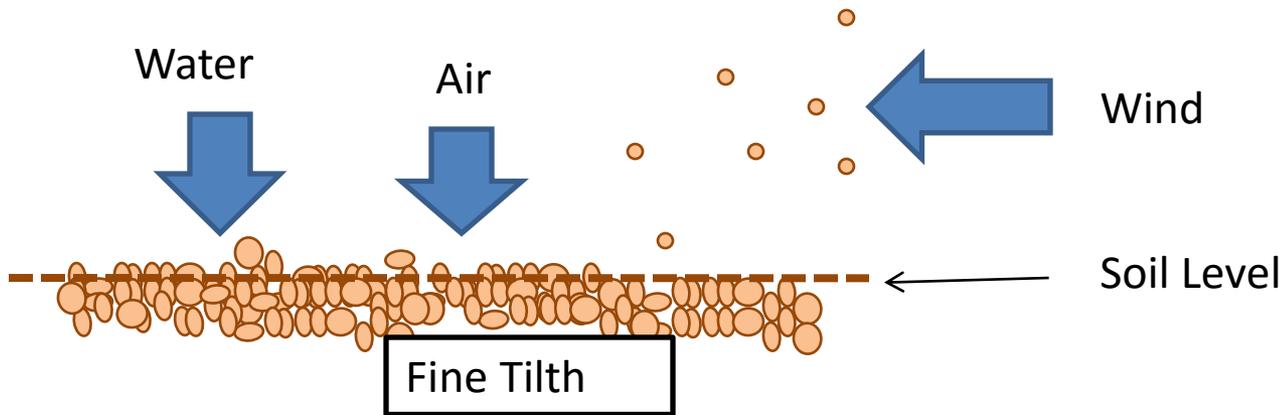
**If the seed is in lumpy tilth it will be in the air and will not absorb water so will not germinate.**

**Plant roots in medium-fine tilth have total contact with the soil and are able to take in nutrients and water.**

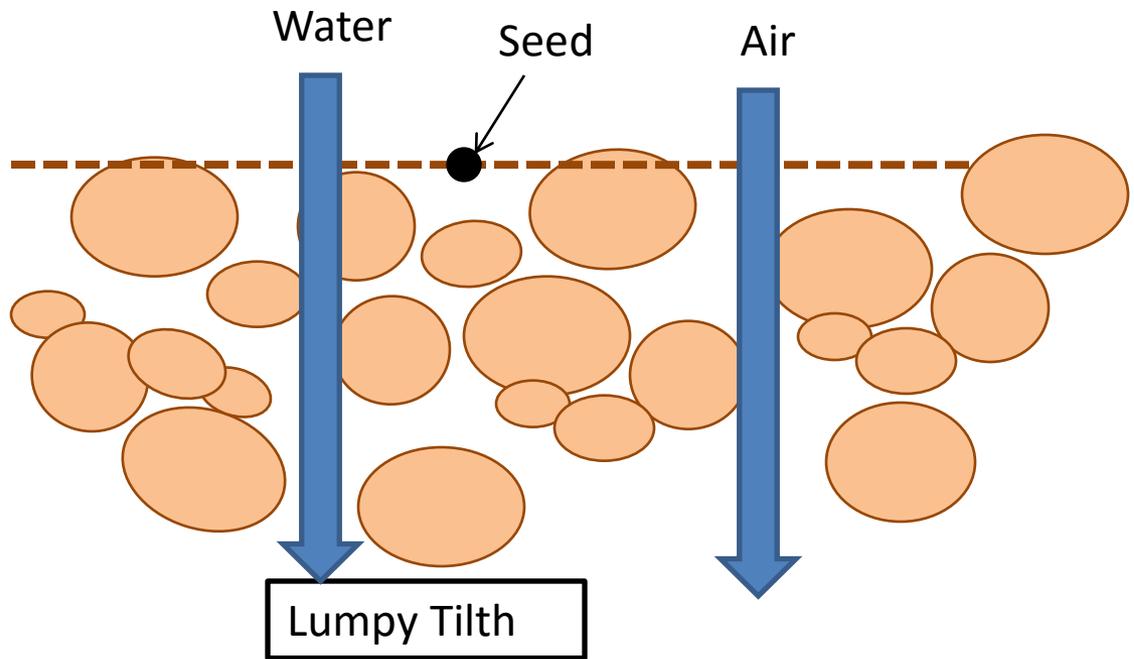


**Plant roots in medium-fine tilth has limited contact with the soil and will struggle to take in nutrients and water.**





When the tilth is too fine the wind will blow the soil away if it is too dry, or when it rains a hard 'cap' will form a crust over the surface.

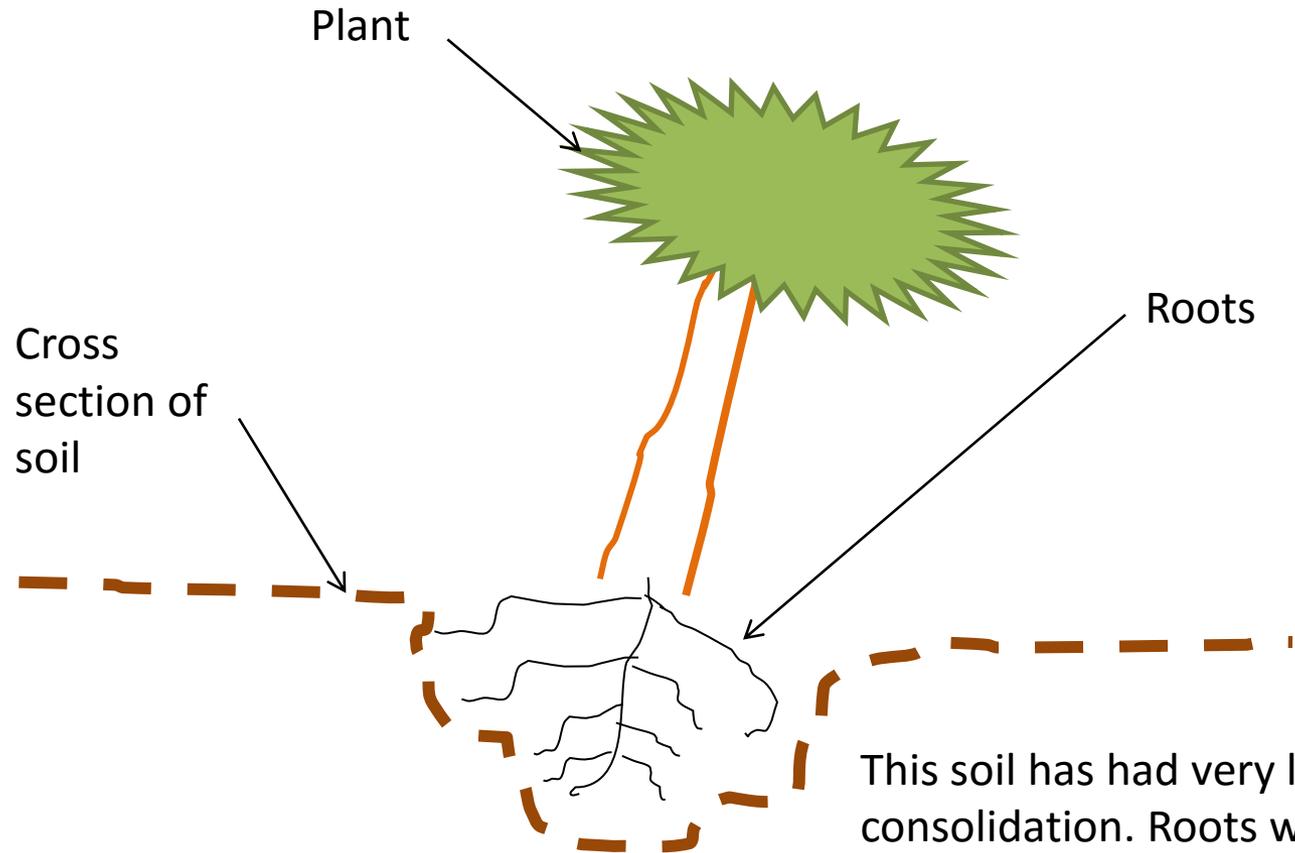


When the crumbs are too big water and nutrients leach through because it drains too quickly.

**Consolidation is treading down the soil, getting rid of air pockets, breaking down lumps of soil helping to create a finer tilth and to create a level/even surface.**



# Poor Consolidation of Soil



This soil has had very little consolidation. Roots will struggle to establish, the plant will fall over, the roots will struggle to take up water and nutrients