Moving Forward with Crop Rotations and Cover Crops… Maximizing Rainfall Capture

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Ideal

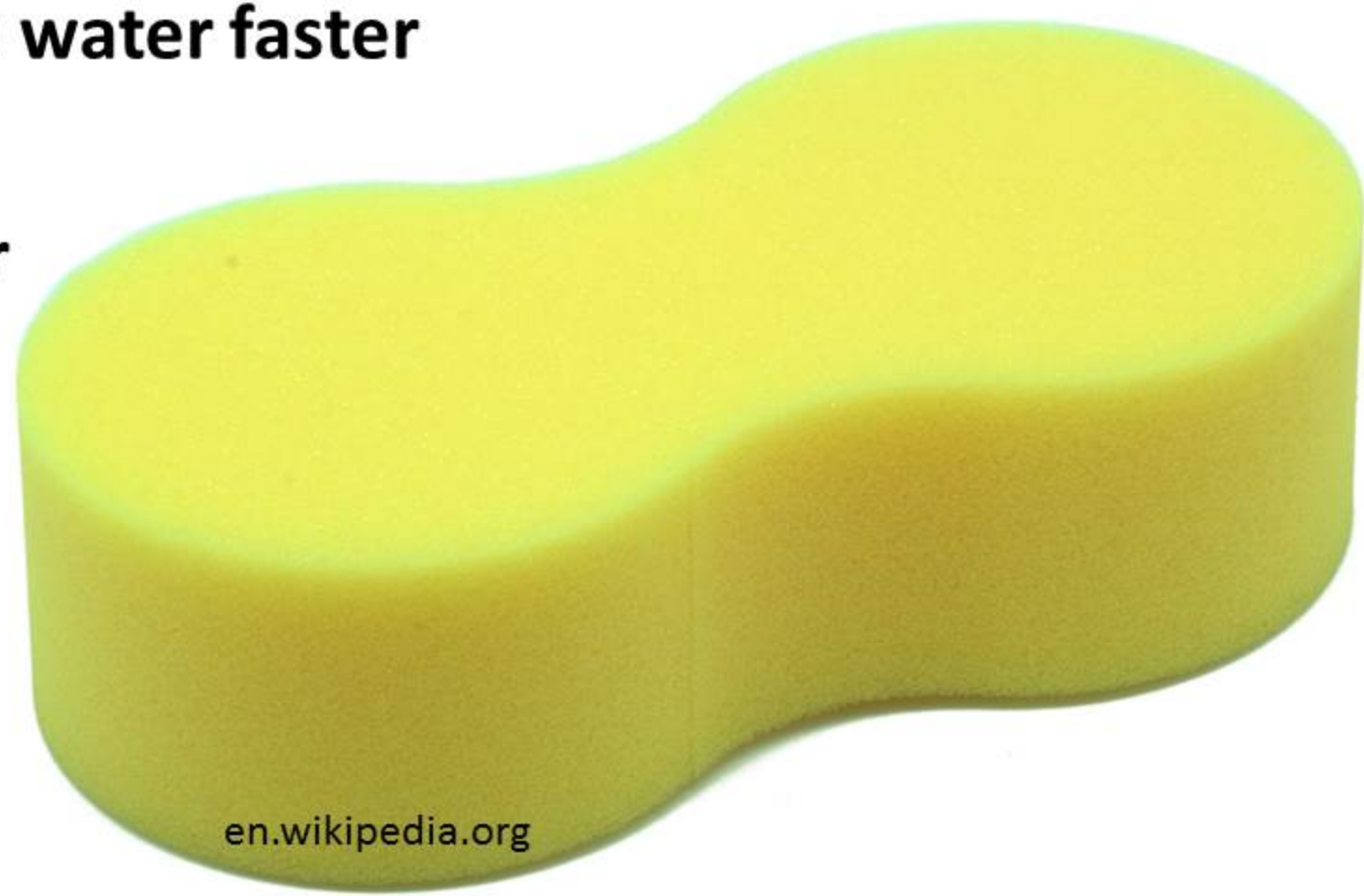
↑ Infiltration and Water Holding

- Make the soil absorb water faster

  a better sponge

- Make the soil deeper

  a bigger sponge



Infiltration Rates Inches/Hour

- Miller clay
  <0.06
- Hollister silty clay loam
  0.2-0.6
- St. Paul silt loam
  0.6-2.0
- Pond Creek fine sandy loam
  2.0-6.0
- Dad's Creek
  2.7
- Dad's House
  2.9
- Davis
  2.6
- Tabor
  2.0*

Days of Water Storage Between Rains

- 9.2 inch awc / 0.15 inch et/day = 61 days
- 0.88 inch awc / 0.15 inch et/day = 6 days
- 0.72 inch awc / 0.15 inch et/day = 5 days

How Much Rain Do You Need?

- Only as fast as you can soak in
- Only as much as you can store
- Only what you can use with a growing crop

Rain…use it or lose it

June 5, 2018

June 6, 2018
No Rain until 1.15 fell June 24 & 25

July 1, 2018

July 15, 2018

July 19, 2018

Sept 21, 2018 2 inch rain

Sept 26, 2018 2 inch rain

Questions?