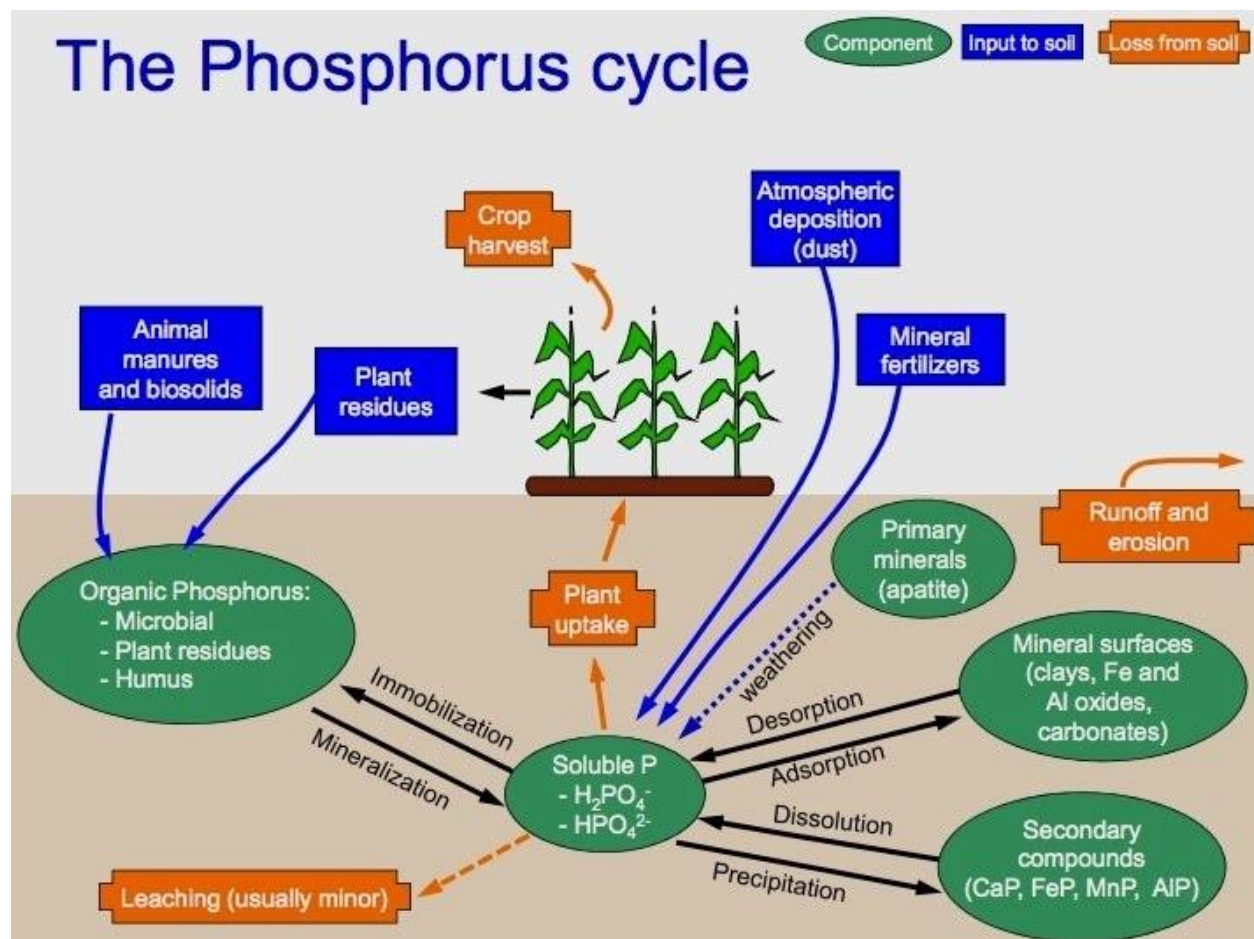


Phosphorous cycle

The transport and chemical transformation of phosphorus through the lithosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere are called phosphorus cycle.

The atmosphere does not play a significant role in the movement of phosphorus because phosphorus or phosphorus-based compounds are solids available in normal ranges of temperature and pressure of the earth. Most of the phosphorus remains within rocks, sediments, sand and the ocean floor with a fraction in living biomass. Phosphorus moves along trophic levels in an ecosystem by plant growth, herbivores and carnivores.



Note- Phosphates are effective fertilizers but they also cause pollution in lakes and streams. Over enrichment of it can lead to algae blooms. This excess of algae causes increased consumption by bacteria which lead to higher bacterial concentration. In this process, bacteria use much of dissolved oxygen in the water for cellular respiration and cause the death of fish due to oxygen deprivation.

