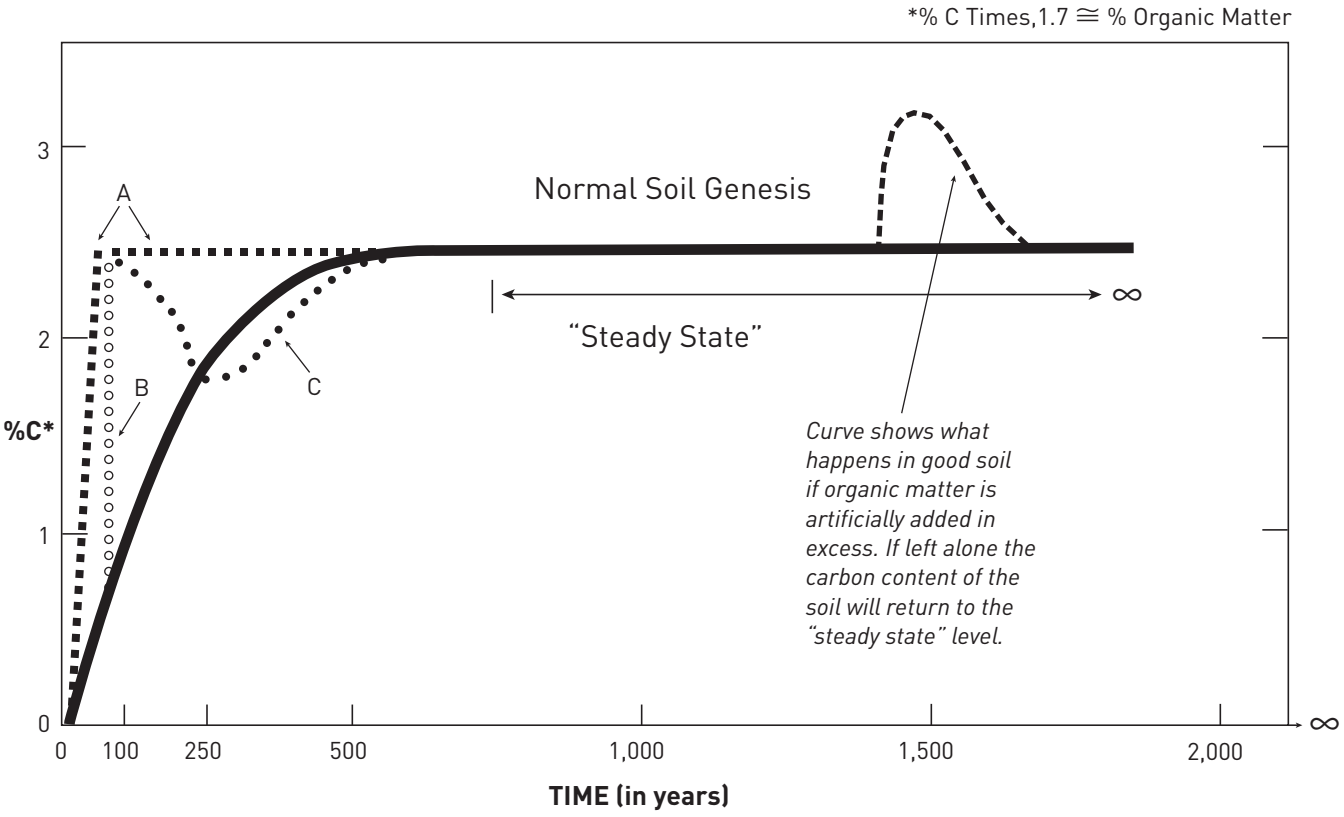
Soil Build-Up Rate with GROW BIOINTENSIVE Practices at Palo Alto Site Compared with Normal Build-Up Rate

A. Observed increase (buildup) in carbon soil (which was subsoil to begin with) at the Ecology Action Research Site (tentative figures). The program began in June 1972.
B. Normal buildup of soil by natural processes.
C. Natural development?



Question: What would the fate of the carbon curve (or nitrogen curve) be if the bed were now left fallow after the normal "intense" organic matter input?

A. ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪

Remains at "natural" steady-state level?

—Unlikely.

B. ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Drastic drop back down to zero?

—Unlikely.

C. • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Substantial drop, but leveling off, then rising again under "natural development"?

—Most likely. Accelerated gain of hundreds of years of soil development (in as little as 6 months or as much as 8 years time with Ecology Action-type cultivation).