

Randomness in soil across vegetation what fun!

A poem for grade 5s related to PhytoRCLASS

What is randomness you ask?

Well, that is something for this task.

It is nothing to cause pain.

It means that things happen by chance, or are hard to predict such as rain.

This research looks at many forest and grassland plots.

Then sees if soil bacteria and fungi are in predictable spots (happening a lot and the same or similar) or in contrast to random spots.

It also looks at the pH or acidity of the soil to relate to these soil-living creatures.

The point is the acidity (lemon juice is acidic) may have a pattern that matches again and again as features.

However, this pH may or may not match the pattern as well as chance occurrences of our friends the bacteria and fungi in the ground.

There might be more at work along with the plants and microclimate (tiny climate) through the summer and fall resulting in different patterns of pH than what you would expect for bacteria and fungi to be found!

