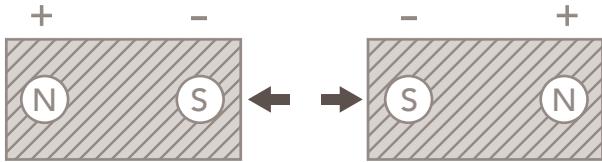
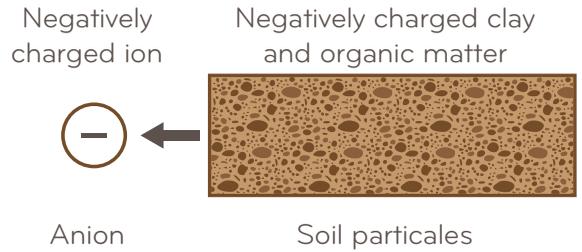


HOW SOIL HOLDS and SUPPLIES NUTRIENTS to PLANTS

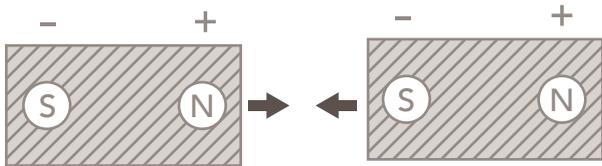


1. Like poles of magnets **repel** each other

Similarly

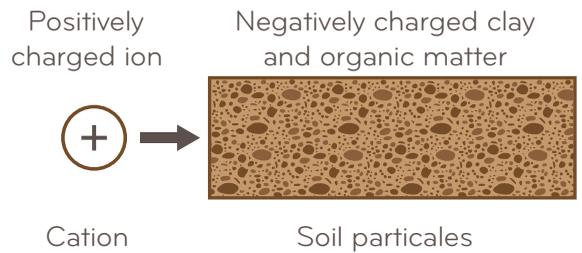


Ions and soil particles with **like charges repel** each other



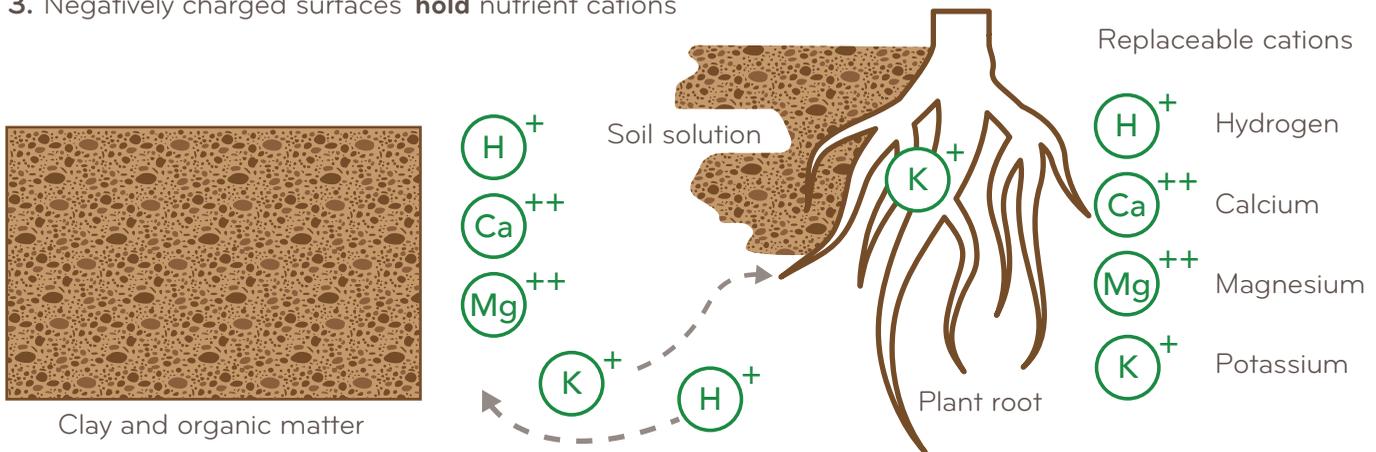
2. Unlike poles of magnets **attract** each other

Similarly



Ions and soil particles with **unlike charges attract** each other

3. Negatively charged surfaces **hold** nutrient cations



The nutrient ions held in replaceable form or absorbed on clay and organic matter soil particles are a major source of plant nutrients. They are replaced or exchanged to the soil solution and taken up by plants...soil minerals contain a reserve of nutrients. These nutrients become slowly available to plants.

Idea from "Profitable Soil Management" Soil Fertility Services, No.3, University of Wisconsin.