

Is Scotland's soil disappearing into thin air?

Using isotopes to determine the sources of soil respiration

Different colours are used to represent different 'Carbon' isotope signatures

Green =
Respiration from roots
and microbial use of
root exudates

Brown =
Respiration from
microbial turnover of
soil organic matter



The point at which the total respired CO₂ lies between the two extreme signatures indicates whether its source is from root respiration or microbial turnover of soil organic matter

