

Save our Soils!

THREATS TO THE SOILS ON WHICH WE DEPEND



You might not think it, but our lives depend on soils! Without them we'd struggle for food, water, building materials and many other essential ingredients for supporting human life.

Soils are tough, but they're not indestructible... and there's lots we can do to protect them.



URBAN EXPANSION

As our towns and cities expand, the area of agricultural soil available for growing food starts to shrink. Maybe you can help by growing food in your garden, window-box, allotment or school grounds?



COMPACTION

Heavy machinery can squash soils, causing pockets of air – known as 'pores' – to become squeezed. Farmers try to prevent soil compaction by ploughing, which mixes up the soil so that it contains plenty of healthy pores that help plants to grow.



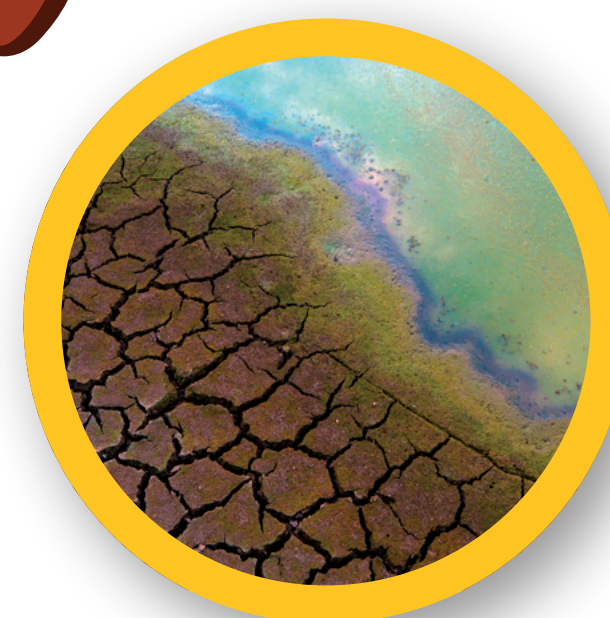
SALTINESS OR 'SALINITY'

Too much salt is bad for soils, as well as most plants and animals. Good drainage and plentiful irrigation can help to wash away surplus salt, keeping the soil healthy.



EROSION

Fertile soils take a long time to develop but can get quickly worn away by water, wind and ice. Soil conservation is therefore an important part of farming, as healthy soils are vital for growing healthy crops.



POLLUTION

Soils sometimes get mixed up with toxic substances, which can make it difficult or even impossible for the soil to support life. That's why it's important to take care when disposing of the waste from our homes, cities and industries to prevent harmful pollutants from poisoning the soil – and us!

