

Soils and Spaceship Earth

HOW SOILS SUPPORT LIFE ON OUR PRECIOUS PLANET

Planet Earth is like a giant spaceship. It provides all of the life support systems that enable us to survive in the harsh environment of space. None of this would be possible without soil.

These life-supporting benefits are called 'ecosystem services', some of which include...

PROVIDING FOR BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Soil supports plants, which provide us with food, fuel, building materials, natural medicine and other essential building blocks of our civilizations.



STORING NUTRIENTS AND WATER,

which are released gradually when needed by plants and micro-organisms.



REDUCING POLLUTION

Soil filters pollution from water and also helps to recycle waste.



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Plants soak up and soils then store carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases, which reduces the rate of climate change.



RECYCLING WASTE AND FEEDING NEW LIFE

Soil provides a home for billions of micro-organisms that transform dead plants and animals into nutrient-rich organic matter. This in turn provides food for new plants, which feed more animals.

