

Save Our Soils!

Threats to the soil 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...

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.



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.



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 helps plants to grow.



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!



WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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