

Soil

Plants need soil to grow, so let's learn more about what soil is and how it supports plants.

Soil is a living thing made of minerals, water, air, organic matter, and many tiny living things called microorganisms. The organic matter in soil is made up of the broken down pieces of living things like leaves and animals.

Soil forms life. It helps plants grow by providing them with the nutrients that they need. Soil helps plants “eat” nutrients just like we eat food. Soil supports all people around the world by providing food, fiber, and medicine. It is also used to build houses made out of earth where 1.7 billion people around the world live.

Soil functions:

- Water purification and soil contaminant reduction
- Climate regulation
- Nutrient cycling
- Habitat for organisms
- Flood regulation
- Source of pharmaceuticals and genetic resources
- Foundation for human infrastructure
- Provision of construction materials
- Cultural heritage
- Provision of food, fiber and fuel
- Carbon sequestration

You can purchase soil or make your own for growing. If you purchase soil, make sure you look for soil that is specifically for raised beds or container gardens. It's also best to look for soil that is listed as organic.

You can make your own soil by following the directions at bit.ly/3KCE6hc or by scanning the QR code.

