



What is Soil?

Soil is the loose material closest to Earth's surface composed of minerals, organic matter, water, and air.



Solid mass of rock, such as granite

MANAGING SOIL

R HORIZON

There are 4 principles for improving soil health.



Maximize Living Roots – Provide a food source for microbes, which release nutrients into the soil, by planting year-round.



Minimize Disturbance – Reduce disturbance to minimize erosion and aid in plant growth.



Maximize Soil Cover – Keep the soil covered with cover crops, living mulches, and crop residues to restore soil health.



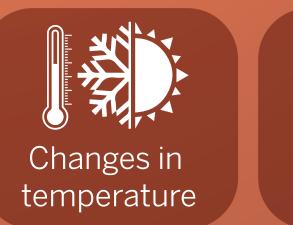
Maximize Biodiversity – Maintain a variety of plants, animals, and microorganisms to support a fully functioning soil web of life.



Well-managed soil is a key component to feeding nearly 10 billion people by 2050.

Soil is slowly and continuously being formed by the weathering of rocks.

Physical weathering:







There are size grou		ifferent particle	
Sand:		0.05 mL - 2 mL	
Silt:	•	0.002 mL - 0.05 mL	•
Clay:	•	less than 0.002 mL	



There are 12 categories, or orders, of soil. Texas is home to more soil orders than any other state.