

Soil



TEXAS FARM BUREAU®

What is Soil?

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



MANAGING SOIL

There are **4** principles for improving soil health.

- 1 Maximize Living Roots** – Provide a food source for microbes, which release nutrients into the soil, by planting year-round.
- 2 Minimize Disturbance** – Reduce disturbance to minimize erosion and aid in plant growth.
- 3 Maximize Soil Cover** – Keep the soil covered with cover crops, living mulches, and crop residues to restore soil health.
- 4 Maximize Biodiversity** – Maintain a variety of plants, animals, and microorganisms to support a fully functioning soil web of life.

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

Physical weathering:



There are **3** different particle size groups!

Sand:	●	0.05 mL - 2 mL
Silt:	●	0.002 mL - 0.05 mL
Clay:	●	less than 0.002 mL



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



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