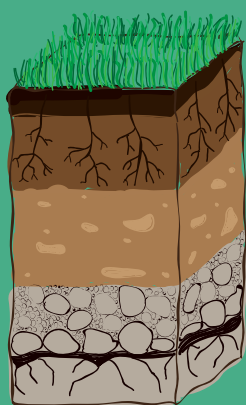




## SOIL HEALTH



### Reduce Soil Erosion

The quality of soil can deteriorate due to erosion from wind and water removing the topsoil. This erosion can significantly impact crop growth and yield. Trees can help to maintain soil health by reducing the exposure to wind and the impact of water washing away the fertile topsoil.

### Increase Organic Matter

Trees improve soil health by adding organic matter to the soil through decomposition of leaf litter and roots.



#### Sources of soil erosion



Wind



Water



Fire

### Learning Activities

- Explore the characteristics and features of different soils by conducting a range of tests, such as; water retention, presence of gases, soil composition and soil texture.
- Create a model catchment and assess the quality of the catchment with and without trees in the landscape.
- Examine samples of soil under a microscope to determine the presence of soil biota.



### Questions to Explore



- When farmers are working the land to grow crops or preparing a site for tree planting, how can they minimise the impacts on the soil structure and health?
- What are some of the key factors that could influence soil erosion caused by wind and water in the farm landscape?
- What role do decomposers (animals that consume dead and decaying material) play in producing and maintaining healthy soils?

### Find out more...

[Healthy Living Soils](#)

[Trees and Soil](#)

[Health - Fact sheet](#)