

# Soil Science

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## Glossary

**bedrock** solid rock under soil

**castings** waste material of earthworms that adds to the soil minerals and other things that plants need

**clay** smallest rock particles in soil

**composting** changing plant materials into humus that can be used to make the soil better for plants

**conserve** to protect natural resources and use them wisely

**contour plowing** plowing crop rows in lines across a hill rather than up and down a hill to prevent erosion

**decay** to break down dead plant or animal material

**earthworms** worms that live in soil

**erosion** movement of soil by water or wind

**glacier** large mass of moving ice on Earth's surface

**humus** part of soil that comes from dead plants and animals

**loam** soil that has a good mix of sand, silt, clay, and humus

**minerals** nonliving materials that form in nature; what rocks are made of

**natural resource** material on Earth that people need or use; for example, soil, water, air, forests, and minerals

**property** how something looks, feels, tastes, smells, or sounds

**sand** largest rock particles in soil

**silt** rock particles in soil between sand and clay in size

**soil** mixture of minerals, humus, air, and water on Earth's surface

**strip cropping** planting different kinds of crops side by side in strips to help prevent soil erosion

**subsoil** layer of soil below the topsoil

**texture** how a material feels

**topsoil** top layer of soil

**weathering** changes that wear rocks down or break rocks apart