

Life in Soil: Dig Deeper

Protecting our Soil and Water Protects Us!

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It is important to be a good steward of our land. The optimum way to accomplish this is through soil and water conservation. It has been proven that small changes in the way we live and tend to our land can provide great outcomes in healthier soil and water.

The best way to protect our soil is through composting, crop rotation and planting trees. Composting is nutrition for our soil. The benefits of composting are that it enriches soil, helps retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests. Composting also encourages the production of beneficial bacteria, which in turn grows healthier food for us to eat. Crop rotation benefits our soil because it gives the soil a chance to rest. Other benefits to using crop rotation include improved nutrient cycling and enhanced weed control. Planting trees benefits our soil by reducing erosion, increasing the soil's fertility, lessening the risks of salinization, and helping to stabilize water supplies.

Some of the best water conservation practices are cedar removal, rotational grazing and planting drought tolerant crops. Cedar removal will benefit water conservation because cedar trees consume a lot of water and their removal has been proven to benefit land and water management. The benefits of rotational grazing are increased resistance to drought. It also helps slow water movement during hard rains and increases absorption of water by the soil. Drought tolerant plants are a benefit because as the name implies, they do not consume as much water and are able to withstand drier conditions better than other plants.

Soil and water give us everything we need to live; food, clothing, building materials, and clean air. If we take care of our soil and water, it will take care of us!