

The little book of “dirty words”



Soil is formed from weathering rocks and decaying plants.



“We know more about the movement of celestial bodies than about the soil underfoot.”

Leonardo da Vinci (ca early 1500s)

Half of soil is air and water - the other half is the mineral and organic matter which provides the nutrients for life.



“The Nation that destroys its soil destroys itself.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1937)



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There are more living things in a tablespoon of soil than there are people on Earth.



“Essentially, all life depends upon the soil ... There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together.”

Charles E. Kellogg (1938)

The total living matter in one hectare of soil can weigh up to 22,000 kilograms.

Each year in just one hectare, 37 tonnes of dry soil passes through earthworms.



“For all things come from earth, and all things end by becoming earth.”

Xenophanes (580 B.C.)

Almost all of the antibiotics we take to help us fight infections were obtained from microscopic soil lifeforms.