

What is soil? Where does it come from? How important is soil in our life and daily activities? Is soil the same everywhere? Is soil at risk? The first ever SOIL ATLAS OF EUROPE uses striking maps, clearly written informative texts and stunning photographs to answer and explain these questions.

A team of leading European soil scientists have collaborated to produce this unique document. Using state of the art computer mapping techniques, the SOIL ATLAS OF EUROPE shows the changing nature of soil across the European continent.

The SOIL ATLAS OF EUROPE explains the origin and role of soil, describes the different soil types that can be found in Europe and their relevance on a global scale. The atlas also discusses the principal threats to soil across Europe and the steps being taken within the European Union to protect soil resources.

The SOIL ATLAS OF EUROPE is more than just a normal atlas that simply shows the location of places. Rather, this volume presents an interpretation of an often neglected natural resource that surrounds and affects us all.

The SOIL ATLAS OF EUROPE is an essential reference to a non-renewable resource that is fundamental for life on this planet.



The properties of soil vary tremendously from region to region. Clay soil can hinder drainage when wet but produces wide open cracks in dry periods.



Plants and crops are dependent on soil for the supply of water, nutrients and as a medium for growing. Soil stores, filters, buffers and transforms substances that are introduced into the environment. This capability is crucial in producing and protecting water supplies and for regulating greenhouse gases. Soil is a provider of raw materials. Soil is also an incredible habitat and gene pool. Soil is a fundamental component of our environment and cultural heritage.



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