

SUMMARY:

- Soil is a mixture of minerals, dead and living organisms, air and water.
- A vertical section of the soil that ranges from surface to the underlying rock, referred to as soil profile.
- The soil provides plants with the vital nutrients, water and air that they require for healthy growth and development.
- There are four main soil groups: clay, sandy, silty and loamy. They each have different properties
- Clay soils are the heaviest of soil types and are rich with nutrients.
- Sandy soils are light and feels gritty.
- Silty soil feels soft and soapy, it holds moisture and is usually very rich in nutrients.
- Loamy soil has great structure, adequate drainage, is moisture retaining, full of nutrients, easily cultivated.
- **Soil Conservation is a combination of practices used to protect the soil from degradation.**
- The key goal of soil conservation is to protect it from degradation in any way, including depletion of fertility and erosion.