

SOIL MANAGEMENT

1 Soil, like air and water, is critical to life on earth. Good soil and fertility are essential to grow healthy, nutritious crops sustainably and to increase productivity.

2 Soil is one of nature's most complex ecosystems and one of the most diverse habitats on earth – home to billions of beneficial organisms.

3 Farmers do a great job to protect, monitor and enhance soil quality and performance – today and for future generations. Maintaining healthy soil is key to building up resilience to events such as floods and droughts.

4 Farming techniques used to manage soil include avoiding excessive tillage, housing livestock indoors in winter, rotating crops and maximising ground cover. Slurry and farmyard manure are fantastic natural fertilisers and are spread on fields to help improve soil organic matter and encourage earthworms.

LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is a leading global charity working to promote more sustainable farming through Integrated Farm Management. Look out for the LEAF Marque logo next time you are shopping www.leafuk.org

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