

# Soil Pollution



Soil pollution is the presence of unwanted substances in the soil that can be harmful for all living beings.



## Causes of soil pollution:

- Solid waste (human excreta, fruits and vegetable peels, plastics, metal objects, etc.), excess use of chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides, acid rain are the main contributors to soil pollution.
- Untreated sewage sludge, human excreta, livestock, etc., used as manure also contributors to soil pollution.



## Prevention of soil pollution:

- Decreasing the generation of waste.
- Compost improves the quality of soil, loosens the soil and helps air and water to move more freely.
- Farmers should be encouraged to use biofertilizers, biopesticides and fungicides.
- Preventing the use of harmful chemicals.
- Recycling and reusing waste not only helps in reducing the felling of trees but also helps in decreasing soil pollution.
- Afforestation (planting of trees)
- Measures also need to be taken to prevent overgrazing and over-cropping as they lead to soil erosion.