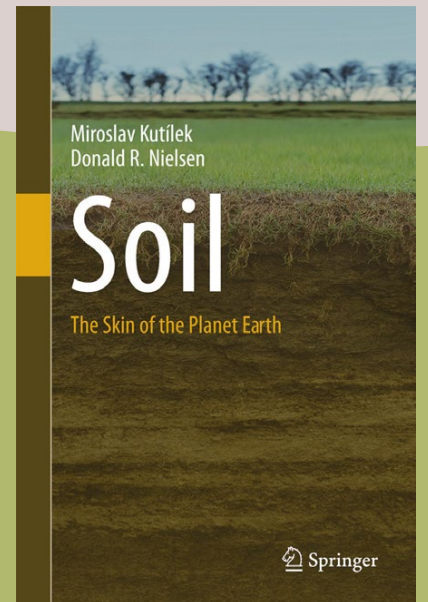


# Soil

## The Skin of the Planet Earth



Facts taken from the book  
Soil – The Skin of the Planet Earth

Soil is one of the five essential factors crucial for human life.

Soil started its existence when **macroscopic life** moved from oceans to land – roughly 500 million years ago.

The size distribution of particles in fine soil is truly remarkable. Extending from 2 mm to 0.002 mm.

Our soils form a **very thin peel** on the surface of our planet Earth.

The total surface area of Earth is 510 million km<sup>2</sup> or  $5.1 \times 10^8$  km<sup>2</sup>.

Soil regulates **circulation of water** on the planet earth. If there were no soil, infiltration would not exist.

Soil has a miraculous ability to **accept many strange materials** and to transform them into an integrated part of its existence.

Without soil the Earth's landscape would be as **barren as Mars**.

Real soils have been born on terrestrial landscapes that extend across 143,330,000 km<sup>2</sup> or rounded to  $1.43 \times 10^8$  km<sup>2</sup> when we omit the area of Antarctica covered by ice **during the last 2 million years**.

Soil is a **pantry for all plants**

where elements are continuously stored and waiting to be accepted by roots as ions of simple inorganic compounds dissolved in water.

The soil layer forming the boundary between the Earth and the atmosphere has a thickness usually of **only 1m**. This layer in the context of the Earth's radius is extremely thin. It is about **six million times smaller** than the radius of the Earth.

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