

**Soil.**  
Where it all Begins



# TEXAS SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK

## APRIL 26-MAY 3, 2026

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The 2026 Texas Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship Week theme centers around “Soil. Where It All Begins.” This theme recognizes soil as the foundation of life, productivity, and resilience across Texas. Soil is more than the ground beneath our feet; it is the starting point for healthy food systems, clean water, strong habitats, and thriving communities.

Healthy soil supports everything Texans depend on. From the food on our plates to the clothes on our backs, the foundation for our homes and offices, to the working lands and city parks, soil plays a critical role in sustaining both natural resources and local economies. Healthy soil plays a key role in safeguarding water resources, agricultural productivity, and wildlife habitats.

### **HEALTHY SOIL SUPPORTS EVERYTHING TEXANS DEPEND ON BY PERFORMING THE FOLLOWING ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS EVERY DAY:**

- **Produces food and fiber** by anchoring roots and supplying nutrients that crops and pastures need to grow.
- **Manages and protects water** by absorbing rainfall and irrigation, reducing runoff and erosion, filtering pollutants, and helping to recharge aquifers.
- **Cycles and stores nutrients and carbon**, supporting soil biology and keeping ecosystems productive and balanced.
- **Builds resilience** by reducing the impacts of drought, flooding, and extreme weather.
- **Provides physical stability** by supporting plant roots, human infrastructure, and cultural and archaeological resources.

Texas soils are as diverse as the landscapes they support. Prairies, forests, croplands, wetlands, and urban spaces all rely on soil health to function properly. This diversity means soil health affects every corner of the state. When soil is healthy, land is productive, and communities are stronger. Stewardship of this vital resource is a shared responsibility and a long-term investment in the future of our state. Caring for soil today supports stronger outcomes for communities tomorrow. Meeting this responsibility takes more than awareness. It takes action, partnership, and persistence.

Since 1939, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) across Texas have been working to encourage the wise and productive use of natural resources. Through voluntary conservation programs, technical assistance, and education, we help Texans implement practices that keep soil productive and resilient for the long term. It is our goal to ensure the availability of those resources so that the needs of all Texans, present and future, can be met in a manner that promotes a clean, healthy environment and strong economic growth.

Soil does the quiet work beneath the surface, day after day, to make food production and healthy ecosystems possible. Without it, nothing else moves forward. When we protect it, we protect Texas.

**BECAUSE SOIL IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS.**