



SOIL CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF CANADA CONSEIL CANADIEN DE CONSERVATION DES SOLS

*The face and voice of soil conservation in Canada
Le visage et la voix de la conservation des sols au Canada*

Soil health impacts all Canadians

Watch for Soil Conservation Week from April 18-22

Healthy soil — healthy planet! That's a connection more Canadians are making. The Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC) has always been a strong advocate for our soils to ensure that all Canadians continue to benefit from the health of this resource.

Soils are so much more than dirt. Farmers depend on soils for their livelihoods and all Canadians rely on them for clean air, food and water.

Farmers know that soil health and conservation practices are the best way to manage agricultural land. Soil health practices (zero till, cover crops, extended and diverse crop rotations, etc.) prevent soil degradation, thus maintaining and improving soils for future generations. These practices make farming more sustainable while improving farmers' bottom lines. The current estimate of soil degradation costs to Canadians is around \$3.1 billion annually. Clearly, there is still work to be done.

Did you know healthy soils can do a lot to meet Canada's climate change commitment? When soil is disturbed or tilled, carbon dioxide is released back into the atmosphere, where it is a major contributor to global warming. Soil health practices allow soils to act as a colossal carbon sink. As a sink, soils store 10 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide — more than all terrestrial vegetation and the atmosphere combined. Soil health management systems and practices that increase carbon sequestration can play a significant role in making agriculture a carbon-neutral industry. These systems and practices also play a part in supporting biodiversity, providing clean air, and increasing soils resiliency which buffers droughts, floods

and other stressors. Those are big building blocks towards a healthier planet.

Resilient, productive, and profitable soils provide benefits to all Canadians. We all enjoy the benefits of healthy soils, and we can all play a part in keeping it that way!

Interested in soil health? National Soil Conservation Week (NSCW) is a great opportunity for you to learn more about Two shovels of soil from Adam Ireland's field. One from an area seeded with a cover crop, one from

the compacted wheel track without the cover crop. Photo by Mel Luymes. Canada's soil resource and what you can do to keep it healthy. The Soil Conservation Council of Canada and our many partners are pleased to present NSCW every year during the third week of April. This year we invite you to keep an eye out from April 18-22 to learn more about soil health and conservation in Canada or visit our website at www.soilcc.ca.



TWO SHOVELS OF SOIL FROM ADAM IRELAND'S FIELD. ONE FROM AN AREA SEEDDED WITH A COVER CROP, ONE FROM THE COMPACTED WHEEL TRACK WITHOUT THE COVER CROP. PHOTO BY MEL LUYMES.

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