

CHAPTER 10

Soil Pollution

How is soil formed?

Soil formation is a long and complex process and it can take 100 to 10,000 years to create one inch of top soil. It is driven by many factors such as climate, topography, living organisms and the type of parent material. Parent materials come from break down of underlying rocks or from deposits by. Streams and rivers, seas and gulfs, hills, wind and glaciers or organic plant residues.

Eventually the parent material is divided into three horizontal layers, the top layer consists of mostly organic matter, biological activity, the middle layer is the zone of maximum material accumulation, and the bottom layer bold is mainly the parent material, but slightly altered. The top soil is important since it is the foundation for the life on the earth.