

CHAPTER 10

Soil Pollution

Soil pollution:

Soil pollution refers to the contamination of soil with high concentrations of toxic substances. The waste material that would cause pollution are two types.

- Biodegradable waste
- Non-biodegradable waste.

Biodegradable waste:

Includes substances that can be degraded by microbes into harmless and non-toxic substances. Agricultural and animal wastes like leaves, twigs, hay, dung, etc. are biodegradable waste.

Non - biodegradable waste:

Cannot be easily degraded. Aluminum cans, plastics, glass, DDT, etc. are examples of non-biodegradable wastes. Radioactive wastes produced during nuclear reactions take a long time to decay and are harmful to human beings. Nowadays 'E - waste' (computer, mobile wastes) is also leads to soil pollution. Solid waste is a mixture of plastics, cloth, glass, metal and organic matter, sewage, sewage sludge, building debris, generated from households, commercial and

industries, establishments add to soil pollution. Fly ash, iron and steel slag, medical and industrial wastes disposed on land are important sources of soil pollution.

