Science Societies

Unlocking the quiet power of soil: New featured topics available on Soils4Teachers.org

August 18, 2026

The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) K-12 Outreach Committee has expanded its "Featured Topics in Soils" collection on Soils4Teachers.org to include: Soils and Pollinators, Soils and Flooding, and Urban Soils. Photos courtesy of (l to r): Patricia Marie Cordero Irizarry, SSSA Soils Matter blog, and Adobe Stock.

Soil is often overlooked, yet it plays an essential, quiet role in nearly every aspect of our daily lives—from filtering clean water to sustaining biodiversity and built environments. To highlight these vital connections, the Soil Science

Society of America (SSSA) K-12 Outreach Committee has expanded its "Featured Topics in Soils" collection on Soils4Teachers.org.

Soil is often overlooked, yet it plays an essential, quiet role in nearly every aspect of our daily lives—from filtering clean water to sustaining biodiversity and built environments. To highlight these vital connections, the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) K-12 Outreach Committee has expanded its "Featured Topics in Soils" collection on Soils4Teachers.org.

Written specifically for a general audience, these new web resources bridge foundational earth science with real-world environmental challenges, making them ideal for classroom instruction or community outreach:

- **Soils and Flooding***(Author: Dotun Nathaniel Arije)*: Explores the severe structural and biological challenges soil faces during major flooding events and highlights key management strategies to prevent soil loss and degradation when floods occur.

- **Soils and Pollinators***(Authors: Patricia Marie Cordero Irizarry and Andrew Lydeard)*: Examines the dynamic connections between aboveground plant-pollinator networks and belowground biological health, emphasizing organic components as indicators of robust soil systems.

- **Urban Soils***(Author: Oluwasegun Olubisi)*: Details the unique genesis of anthropogenic soils in city environments, outlining the compaction, contamination, and structural hurdles urban soils encounter compared to rural or suburban lands.

Each featured topic includes vetted citations for deeper research alongside practical teaching activities designed to easily integrate into STEM lesson plans.

Share your expertise: Call for authors

The K-12 Outreach Committee is actively seeking scientists, educators, and graduate students to author upcoming featured topics. If you are passionate about soil science communication and want to help build this growing educational library, consider sharing your knowledge! Contact Matt Wascavage at mwascavage@sciencesocieties.org (send email) for submission guidelines and more information.

Interested in contributing?

Soils4Teachers.org

More education content

Back to issue

Text © . The authors. CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Except where otherwise noted, images are subject to copyright. Any reuse without express permission from the copyright owner is prohibited.