

Community Resources

Kosciusko Urban Healthy Soils Working Group

Supporting local producers, small farms, and home gardens through education and resources.

Updated Dec 2023

Soil Health Garden

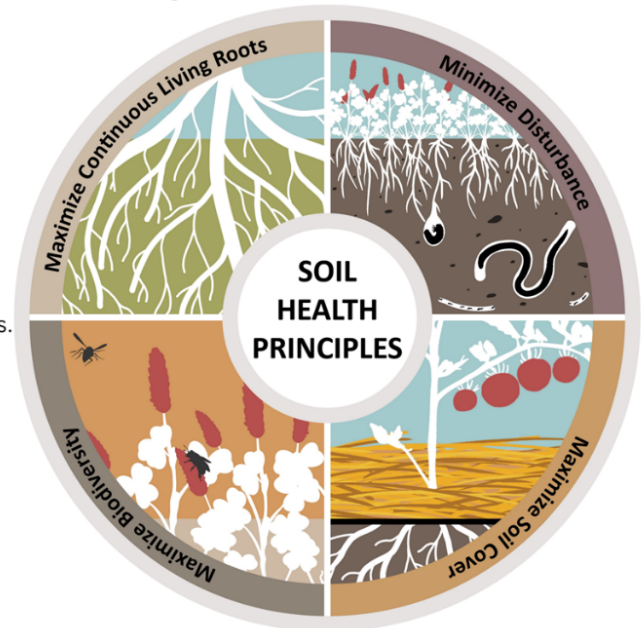
Healthy food from healthy soil

PRINCIPLES OF SOIL HEALTH

- 1. Minimize Disturbance**
Disturb the soil as little as possible.
- 2. Maximize Soil Cover**
Keep the soil covered as much as possible.
- 3. Maximize Continuous Living Roots**
Keep plants growing throughout the year.
- 4. Maximize Biodiversity**
Use diverse crops, crop rotation, and cover crops.

FARM AND GARDENING PRACTICES

- Cover cropping
- Mulching
- Crop rotation
- No till / reduced till
- Nutrient management
- Integrated pest management



Soil health is for everyone

Farm & Garden Practices

Maximize continuous living roots, biodiversity, & minimize disturbance

Cover Crop Seed and more:

Applegate's Seed House

Brook, IN

219-275-3664

www.applegatessseedhouse.net

Cisco Seeds, Mark Perry

574-377-7541

Markperry@ciscoseeds.com

Clayton's Garden Center

North Webster, IN

574-834-2249

www.claytongardencenter.com

E&R Seeds

Monroe, IN

260-692-6827

erseed@ibyfax.com

Mentone Feed & Grain LLC

Bill Wohead

574-353-7791

Saddle Butte Ag, Jamie Scott

Piercetown, IN

574-551-1276

jasfarm@aol.com

Learn More:

www.urbansoilhealth.org/resources

www.marionswcd.org/soil-health-guide/

Mulching Resources and Ideas

Maximize soil cover

Compost:

Ground Down

Fort Wayne, IN

compost@grounddown.org

www.grounddown.org/products/bulk-partner-compost

“Our compost is a combination of locally collected food scraps, leaves, landscaping, and composted manure. Our partnering farmer has over 40 years’ experience with aerobic composting, and has learned what formula, ingredients and processes make great finished compost!”

Kosciusko Recycling Center

Leslie Williams, Education Coordinator

574-372-3087

educationsource@embarqmail.com

www.kcrecycling.com

Contact Leslie for proper disposal of solid waste and education opportunities for composting.

Mark Ringenberg, Ringenberg Nursery

Fort Wayne, IN

IDEM Certified and sifted compost

260-489-4614

Organic Resources

South Bend Street Department

4340 Trade Drive

South Bend, IN

574-287-6841

311@southbendin.gov

www.southbendin.gov/department/public-works/utilities-division/organic-resources/

“The city produces compost and mulch from yard waste collected from residents and businesses. Items such as grass clippings, leaves, weeds, and branches are converted into compost and mulch at Organic Resources.”

Superior Excavating Soils & Services LLC

Warsaw, IN

574-372-3478

www.372dirt.com

Silage Tarp:

E&R Seed, Monroe, IN

Call to receive a catalog for a variety of small farm supplies.

260-692-6827

erseed@ibifax.com

www.Farmersfriend.com

www.Johnnyseeds.com

Mulch:

Scott Organic Products, LLC

Goshen, IN

574-553-6200

Nutrient Management- soil testing:

A&L Great Lakes Laboratory

Fort Wayne, IN

260.483.4759

www.algreatlakes.com



Creative and Conscious Sourcing

*Please remember you are asking for materials, recycled or otherwise. Please request price estimates and acknowledge donations with a *smile and thank you*!*

Straw: Contact a local farmer by finding farmer and their goods on social media groups specific to gardening, farming, and homesteading.

Silage Tarps: Contact your local dairy farmer for off cuts of silage tarp. This saves their dumpster bill and saves the tarp from the landfill for a second life in your garden.

Leaves: Contact your town's local yard waste pick up service. Using leaves to mulch your garden is an awesome way to add moisture retention, nutrients and organic matter to the garden.

Wood chips: Contact your local tree removal business if they do a "chip drop" or if you can pick some up. If they arrange a drop off with you, ask for an estimated quantity and be sure you have the space for it. Keep fresh chips to your pathways to aid in weed suppression or allow your chip pile to break down until there are no large pieces remaining before applying to your growing space. Applying or turning in fresh chips can rob nitrogen from garden plants.

Compost: This soil amendment should be considered carefully after receiving the results from your soil test. Compost is generally high in phosphorous and potassium. Contact Kosciusko Recycling Center to learn how to make your own! NOTE: Manure or livestock bedding should be applied a minimum of 120 days before planting in to ensure food safety.

Pest Management

Reduce chemical dependance through soil health. See "Farm and Garden Practices" and "Suggested Reads"

Other Resources

Local Native Plants:

Applegate's Seed House
Brook, IN
219-275-3664

www.applegateseedhouse.net

Clayton's Garden Center
North Webster, IN
574-834-2249

www.claytongardencenter.com

Heartland Restoration Services
Fort Wayne, IN
260-489-8511

www.earthsourceinc.net

Indiana Berry & Plant Co.
Plymouth, IN
www.Indianaberry.com

Myers Landscape Nursery
Syracuse, IN
574-457-5354

Riverview Nursery
Spencerville, IN
260-704-5092

www.RiverviewNativeNursery.com

Indiana Native Plant Society
www.indiananativeplants.org

Invasive Plants:

Indiana Native Plant Society
www.indiananativeplants.org/invasive-plants/

Kosciusko Water and Woodland Invasives
Partnership
Peggy Wihebrink
pwihebrink@hotmail.com
www.kwwip.info
Looking for local members and volunteers

State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management
sicim.info@gmail.com
812-653-5563

Suggested Reads:

“The Living Soil Handbook” by Jesse Frost

“The No-Till Organic Vegetable Farm” by Daniel Mays

“The New Organic Grower” by Eliot Coleman

“The Market Gardener: A Successful Grower's Handbook for Small-Scale Organic Farming” by Jean-Martin Fortier

Hardiness Zone Map:

www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov

Local Groups:

Kosciusko Bee Keepers Group:

Call D J or Becky for upcoming group meetings

County Farm Bees
D Josh Fox
260-823-1052

The Rusty Bucket Farm
Becky French
574-265-180

Kosciusko Farmers Markets:

www.visitkosciuskocounty.org/play/shopping/farm-fresh/

See a complete list and contact for markets in our county.

Kosciusko Food Insecurity Coalition:

Caroline Arnett, Purdue Ext. Community Wellness
Coordinator
Warsaw, IN
574-372-2340

arnettc@purdue.edu

Contact Caroline to learn more about food insecurity in Kosciusko County or to donate produce, food, or other items to local non-profits for distribution.

www.MilfordFoodBank.org

Kosciusko Urban Healthy Soils Working Group:

574-267-7445 x 3

kosciuskoswcd@gmail.com

Get a soil sample and technical assistance, become a volunteer, or share your experience as a small farmer to better our program!

Financial and Kickstart Small Farm Resources:

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Emma Cole, County Executive Director

574-267-7445 ext. 2

Emma.Cole@usda.gov

FSA offers programs that may be of assistance to urban agriculture producers. If you are farming at least 0.01 acres, you can obtain a farm number. This is your first step towards receiving USDA assistance. Examples of programs available include: Farm Loan Programs, Organic Certification Cost-Share Program, Marketing Assistance Loans, Farm Storage Facility Loans, and Disaster Assistance Programs. If you are interested in learning more about FSA programs that might fit your operation, contact the Kosciusko County FSA office.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Chad Schotter, Kosciusko County District Conservationist, NRCS

260-366-3898

chad.schotter@usda.gov

www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers/business-plan

For application to Environmental Quality Enhancement Program (EQIP) or Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), call Chad. Some examples of EQIP or CSP funding support or cost share opportunities include high tunnels or pollinator plantings.

Purdue Extension Kosciusko County

Emily Kresca, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator

574-372-2340

eluc@purdue.edu

www.extension.purdue.edu/anr/teams/dffs/

www.extension.purdue.edu/anr/teams/dffs/beginning_farmer/index.html

For questions about plant health or our local Master Gardeners course, call Emily.

Kosciusko Urban Healthy Soils Working Group Partners:

