

EROSION

C	A	W	R	E	S	I	D	U	E	P
O	D	I	R	H	S	L	O	P	E	O
N	C	N	A	G	J	S	I	L	T	L
S	E	D	I	M	E	N	T	X	N	L
E	R	F	N	H	S	R	J	G	Z	U
R	O	V	F	L	O	P	L	A	N	T
V	S	I	A	E	T	Y	K	R	W	A
A	I	N	L	V	F	A	S	O	A	N
T	O	A	L	E	V	B	P	O	T	T
I	N	F	I	L	T	R	A	T	E	Z
O	C	M	U	L	C	H	L	O	R	R
N	U	Q	E	R	U	N	O	F	F	W

A major concern to society today is erosion. **EROSION** is the wearing away of land surfaces by water, wind and ice. **SEDIMENT** is a major **POLLUTANT** found in lakes, rivers and streams by **WATER** erosion. During the 1930's, **WINDS** swept through the Midwest carrying soils to the Atlantic. This massive wind erosion was called the "Dust Bowl". The soil texture most easily eroded is **SILT**.

RAINFALL on **LEVEL**, or flat, ground forms puddles when the soil is saturated. If the ground has a **SLOPE**, water can run downhill carrying soil with it. This movement of water across the soil surface is called **RUNOFF**.

PLANTS help prevent erosion. Their residue and **ROOTS** slow down the flow of water across the soil surface and allow the water to **INFILTRATE**. Plants can also absorb (drink) water so there is less water to run off the soil. Plant **RESIDUE** prevents erosion. **MULCH** can be almost anything; bark, leaves, straw, paper, and stones prevent erosion. Can you think of other things that could be used as mulch? Anyone who works to prevent the erosion of soil practices good **CONSERVATION**.