

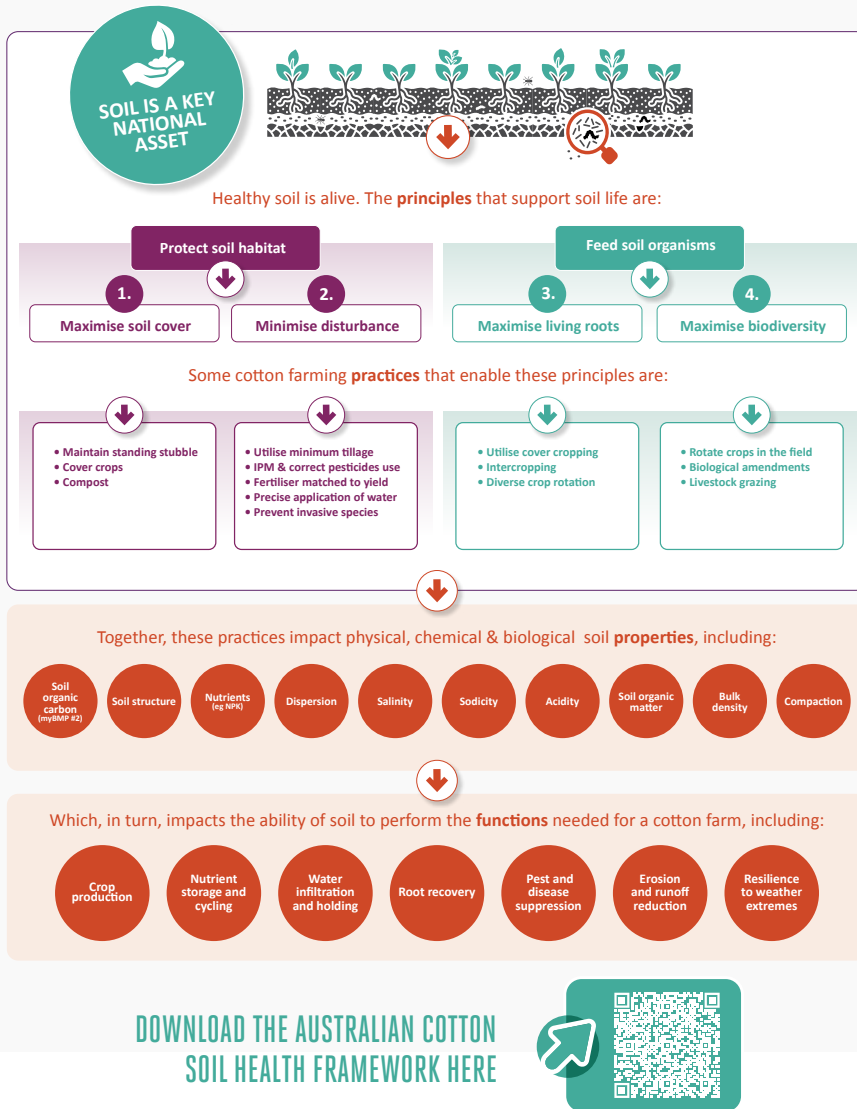


PLANET SOIL HEALTH

| supporting soil life



The Australian cotton soil health framework.



Soils are a national asset.

Healthy soil is the starting point for productive agriculture and the foundation of all terrestrial life. It underpins the fertility and productivity of a farming business, providing cotton plants with support and access to water, oxygen and nutrients.

Healthy soil is alive.

Healthy soil is a living, dynamic environment, full of microbial and macroinvertebrate life that help to recycle essential plant nutrients, improve soil structure, and control plant disease and pests.

Soil health is the capacity of soil to function as a living system. This means the principles for improving soil health are to provide food and shelter to the living organisms within soil.

Cotton farmers follow two principles to support living organisms in healthy soils: give them food and shelter.

Soil health can vary across different geological conditions, ecosystems and land uses.

Australian cotton farmers use practices such as tillage, addition of organic compost, controlled rotational crops, cover crops and optimising fertiliser application to optimise the health of the soil on their property.

Understanding how farming practices impact soil properties is critical for farmers to make the best soil management decisions.

The cotton industry supports a nationally consistent approach to measuring soil health. Until then, the cotton industry is encouraging greater adoption of practices to provide food and shelter to soils, in line with its principle-based soil health framework.

OUR GOAL

Deliver sustained cotton productivity growth by improving soil health.

SDG ALIGNMENT



SDG 2.4: implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity, help maintain ecosystems, strengthen capacity for adaption to climate change, and improve land and soil quality.

PATHWAY

1. Encourage greater adoption of practices that give food and shelter to soils
2. Research which practices have the greatest impact on soil properties and functions.

KEY FACTS

In 2022:

98%

of growers conserved crop residues

86%

of growers used minimum tillage

46%

of growers used cover cropping