



The Soil

A wonder beneath our feet

What do Roquefort cheese and tuberculosis have in common: the soil! The very specific taste of Roquefort cheese is due to *Penicillium roqueforti*, a fungus found in the soil and streptomycin, the drug used very efficiently against tuberculosis, was extracted in 1943 from *Streptomyces griseus*, another soil fungus.

The soil is crucial for our everyday life. We use the soil, walk, drive and build on it. In a word, we live from the soil. The soil not only enables us to grow our orchards and vegetables, it also provides us with an incredible variety of goods and services. It helps to prevent flooding, offers up building materials, keeps us in good health as well as inspiring legends and works of art...

In the present book, the authors describe this often poorly known wonder. What in essence is the soil and how is it generated? Which organisms inhabit it? How does water circulate within it? How can the soil help reduce the impact of climate change? All these aspects and many more are clearly dealt with in this remarkably illustrated volume.

THE AUTHORS

Christian Feller, Ghislain de Marsily, Christian Mougin, Guénola Pérès, Roland Poss et Thierry Winiarski

"The most competent experts have got together to help us discover the soil, our vital partner in life itself. And understanding how ignorant we are, they have greatly simplified their explanations. The proof of their success? I understood everything and enjoyed it immensely!"

Érik Orsenna,
member of the French Academy

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256 pages / 24,90 €

ISBN: 978-2-7011-8349-7



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