Glossary of Terms

Aerobic	Living or occurring only in the presence of oxygen.
Allelopathic	The inhibition of growth in one species of plants by chemicals produced by another species.
Anaerobic	Living, active, or occurring in the absence of free oxygen.
Apogee	The point in the orbit of a heavenly body at which it is most distant from the earth.
Ascending period	When the earth's energy flows outwards into the atmosphere.
Astral	Embodies in the animal and human kingdoms; the 'feeling' realm, bearer of consciousness.
Astrology	The study of the movements and positions of the sun, moon, planets and stars, and the skill of describing the expected effect that these are believed to have on the character and behaviour of humans.
Astronomy	The scientific study of celestial bodies such as the moon, sun, planets and the universe of which they form a part.
Bahá'í	Of or relating to a religion founded in 1863 in Persia and emphasizing the spiritual unity of all humankind.
Basalt	An igneous rock which flowed out of the earth in the form of lava. It is a member of the feldspar family and is high in silica.
Bentonite	A clay formed of weathered volcanic ash and noted for its high absorbency power.
Biodiversity	The number and variety of all life forms; the different plants, animals, insects and microorganisms, the genes they contain, the ecosystems they form and the interactions between life forms and the environment.
Biodynamic (farming and gardening)	An organic farming system introduced by Dr Rudolf Steiner. The farm is seen as an ecosystem within a wider system including the universe, but also an entity as distinct in its own right as one human being is from another. Biodynamic farming has also been chacterised by use of biodynamic preparations and astronomical rhythms.
Biodynamic preparations	Substances prepared from animal and plant material which are used to balance physical and cosmic energies in nature.

Biofumigants	Plants which when grown inhibit the growth of certain species of plant and/or soil biota by creating chemical changes within the soil.
Bio-geography	Includes the aspect, climate and energy flows of the land.
Biological control	A strategy which exploits nature's own techniques by using specific predators and pathogens against unwanted weeds and insects.
Brix measure	Brix is a measure of the percent of solids (TSS) in a given weight of plant juice. Developed by Professor Brix.
Bulk density	The mass of dry soil to unit of soil volume (combined volume of soil solids and pore space).
Capillary dynamolysis	Qualitative testing developed by Lili Kolisko following instructions by Rudolf Steiner.
Carbonaceous	Containing carbon.
Cation	A positively charged ion (atom with one or more electrons removed).
Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)	Measure of the soil's ability to hold cations; the ability of the soil to store nutrients and release them as required.
Certification	The process whereby produce meets the required standards for biodynamic production systems.
Clay rock powders	The clay fraction controls most of the important properties of a soil. The cation exchange capacity of a soil is determined by portions of the clay and the organic matter.
Chelate	Chelates are organic molecules that can trap or encapsulate and then release certain ions, such as calcium, magnesium, zinc, iron, copper, cobalt and manganese.
Chemical or tone ether	The term used by Rudolf Steiner to describe the energy state which brings 'life' to the element of water.
Chromatogram	The picture which is formed when a solution of plant or animal material is absorbed by filter paper.
Chrystallisation	A picture-developing method for studying properties of organic solutions e.g., fruit juices by adding solutions to CuCl2 and studying the morphology of the formed crystals.

Colloid	A colloid is a particle substance that retains its identity and remains in suspension and when dissolved, diffuses slowly, or not at all. Colloids are very small in size and therefore easily absorbed by the cells of the body. Plants convert metallic minerals into this form.
Colloidal	State of matter in which extremely fine particles are held in suspension.
Companion plants	Plants which mutually help one another.
Conjunction	See Planetary conjunction.
Cosmic forces	These forces come from outside the earth's atmosphere and are captured by the rocks, stones and sand component within the earth.
Descending periods	When the earth's energy flows inwards into the earth.
Diamagnetism	A measure of how rapidly a material is repelled from a magnet of known intensity.
Diamagnetic energy	Energy that moves clockwise in a downwards moving spiral.
Ecology	The interrelationships of organisms and their environment or surroundings. This includes relationships between air, land, water, plants, animals and non-living organisms in a particular area.
Ecosystem	A discrete unit or community of diverse organisms (including all species of animals, plants and microorganisms) and the environment in which they live, which interacts to form a stable system.
Ego	The realm of individuality; the capacity for reflection and creativity.
Ecliptic	The great circle formed by the intersection of the plane of the earth's orbit with the celestial sphere; the apparent annual path of the sun in the heavens. This can be thought of as the plane of the earth's orbit extended to meet the celestial sphere.
Ellipse	A curve placed by a missing point the sum of whose distance of two fixed points, the foci, is constant.
Elliptical	Relating to or having the form of an ellipse.
Enterprise	Refers to all activities which take place on the site.

Etheric	Term used to describe the realm of energy that brings life to the physical world of matter: soils, plants, animals and mankind.
Etheric formative forces	The realm of energy that creates physical matter. This energy manifests as life, chemical/tome, light and warmth ethers.
Equinox	The time when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are equal, occurring twice yearly, on 21 March (known as vernal or spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere) and 23 September, (known as autumnal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere).
Geocentric	As viewed from earth, with the earth as the centre.
Geography	Pertaining to the interrelationships of climate, soil, land forms, land use, population and industries. The study of the physical features of the earth and of human activity as it relates to these.
Goethean observation or phenomenology	A method of close observation used to increase understanding of an organism, introduced by Goethe.
Granite	A member of the feldspar family. Silica.
Gypsum	A lime rock powder,generally a sedimentary calcium sulfate rock occurring in massive beds. Is also known as 'Plaster of Paris' or 'Lime'.
Harrowing	A farm implement consisting of a heavy frame with sharp teeth or upright disks, used to break up and even off plowed ground. Also used to break-up manure piles.
Hazard	A potential cause of harm to a person or to the natural environment.
Heliocentric	A reference centre which ahs the sun as the centre.
Holistic	An approach in which a system is viewed as a whole, rather than as its component parts.
Humification	A natural process whereby organic residues are transformed and converted to stable humic substances through biochemical and chemical processes.
Humus	A brown or black organic substance consisting of partially or wholly decayed vegetable or animal matter that provides nutrients for plants and increases the ability of soil to retain water.
Igneous	Primal rocks originating from molten mixtures which solidified over many thousands of years.
Immobilisation	Conversion of a plant nutrient from an inorganic state to an organic by microbes or plants.

Infiltration rate	Rate at which water filters into the surface layer of soils.
Landscape	Design of the environment.
Lemniscate	A symmetrical curve in the form of the figure 8, generated by the point in which a tangent to an equilateral hyperbola meets the perpendicular on it drawn from the center.
Life ether	The term used by Rudolf Steiner to describe the energy state which brings 'life' to the element of earth.
Light ether	The term used by Rudolf Steiner to describe the energy state which brings 'life' to the element of air.
Lime	A compound formed by combination of calcium with oxygen and its relatives. Calcium oxide [CaO], quicklime, is strongly alkaline and highly reactive. Calcium hydroxide [Ca(OH)2], hydrated lime or slaked lime, is not quite so reactive. Calcium sulphate [CaSO4], gypsum, the basis for plaster, is the liming agent of choice where no increase in pH is desired. Calcium carbonate [CaCO3], calcitic lime, is the most frequently used agricultural limestone.
Macro nutrients	Major plant nutrient required by plants – nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium and sulfur.
Metamorphic	Rocks which have been changed from their original state. Changes may be barely visible, or may be so great that it is impossible to tell what the original rock once was.
Microclimate	Climate of a small region which is different from the climate of the surrounding area.
Micro nutrients	Nutrients which are required by plants in small quantities; e.g. boron, copper, chlorine, iron, manganese, molybdenum, zinc.
Mineralisation	Conversion of a potential plant nutrient from its organic form to an inorganic plant-available from as a result of soil microbial activity.
Montmorillonite	A type of clay distinguished by its capacity to absorb moisture at various humidities and by its relatively high silica content.
Mycorrhiza	Mycorrhizal fungi live in and around the roots of most plants, serving as a secondary root system and extending far into the soil. In exchange for sugars and simple carbohydrates, the mycorrhizal fungi absorb and pass on minerals and moisture required for the plant's growth.
Mulch	Any material that is spread on the soil surface to protect the soil and plant roots from the effects of raindrops, the sun, soil crusting, freezing and water loss by evaporation. Examples are leaves and straw.

Nitrogenous	Relating to or containing nitrogen.
Opposition	See Planetary opposition.
Overgrazing	Grazing of leaves growing from stored root energy, at the expense of the roots, rather than from direct sunlight. In other words, overgrazing is grazing of the roots. Overgrazing occurs in two ways: when the animal remains in the presence of a rapidly growing plant and when the animal returns too soon to a slow growing plant. *Sourced from Holistic Resource Management, Allan Savoy*
Paradigm (scientific)	A pattern of thinking that matches accepted theories and scientific thinking of the day.
Paramagnetic	Substances with magnetic susceptibility greater than 0 are paramagnetic. They are drawn into a magnetic field.
Paramagnetic energy	Energy that moves anti-clockwise in an upwards moving spiral.
Paramagnetism	The ability of a substance to collect or resonate to the magnetic fields of the Cosmos. It is not magnetism.
Parent material of soil	The base material from which the soil has been formed; either igneous rocks or sedimentary rocks. Parent material can be divided into ten categories based on chemical composition (mainly silica and base element content).
Peppering	Outlined by Rudolf Steiner as a method for controlling unwanted plants, insects and animals. This involves burning weed seeds, insect pests and the skins of animals at particular times and dispersing the resulting ash over the area to be treated. The technique is known as 'peppering'.
Perigee	The point in the orbit of a heavenly body at which it is closest to the earth.
pH	pH is a measure of the percent of hydrogen in soil solution. It indicates the acidity or alkalinity of the soil.
Phosphate rock	A lime rock powder. When exposed to the elements phosphatic limestone slowly weathers, begins to crumble and breaks down. The calcium carbonate is the limestone dissolved in water and washes away in a natural refining process, leaving relatively pure deposits of phosphate rock.
Physical	The realm of matter.

Planetary conjunction	When two or more planets appear to be very close together in the night sky as seen from Earth.
Planetary opposition	When a planet is directly opposite the Sun in the sky as viewed from Earth.
Profile	A vertical section of soil or rock showing the sequence of the various layers.
Risk	A combination of the likely severity and frequency of harm arising from a hazard.
Risk assessment	The process of evaluating the likely severity and frequency of harm arising from a hazard.
Risk control	The process of implementing measures to reduce the risk associated with a hazard.
Risk control hierarchy	Ranks risk control measures in decreasing order of effectiveness.
Rhizosphere	Zone of soil chacterised by intense microbial activity, immediately adjacent to the plant roots, and which receives plant root exudates.
Sedimentary	These rocks are extremely varied, differing widely in texture, colour, and composition. Nearly all are made of materials that have been moved from their origin to a new place of deposition. Flowing water, wind, waves, currents, ice and gravity move materials on the surface of the earth by action that takes place on or very near the surface.
Sensitive crystallization	Qualitative testing developed by Ehrenfried Pfeiffer.
Sidereal	Determined by the stars.
Sidereal rhythm	The rhythm of the moon as it passes in front of the twelve` constellations of the zodiac.
Slashing	To cut or form by cutting with forceful sweeping strokes: slash a path through the underbrush, slash tall grass.
Soil biota	All living components of the biological community found in soils.
Soil fertility	The capacity of the soil to receive, store and transmit energy to support plant growth.
Soil food web	The community of organisms living all or part of their lives in the soil. These organisms range in size from the tiniest one-celled bacteria, algae, fungi and protozoa, to the more complex nematodes and micro-arthropods; and to the visible earthworms, insects, small vertebrates, and plants.

Soil microorganisms	Extremely valuable organisms which live within the soil.
Soil organic matter	Organic fraction of the soil, usually excluding undecayed plant and animal residues.
Soil structure	Size, shape and arrangement of soil particles and the gaps (pores) between them.
Soil texture	Amount of sand, silt and clay present in the soil.
Succession	The Law of Succession states that a species will move into an environment when conditions suit establishment. That same species will begin to move out of the environment when conditions are not suitable for reproduction.
Sustainable	Positive contribution to the well being of the soil-air-water biosphere; the creatures which inhabit it and the human beings who depend on it.
Sustainable society	Society that can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
Symbiotic relationships	A relationship that is mutually beneficial to both parties. In the soil this would refer to the relationship between the plant root, soil bacteria and fungi.
Terrestrial	Of or relating to the earth or its inhabitants. Living or growing on land; not aquatic.
Terrestrial forces	Flow up through the earth, via the limestone and calcium elements in the soil.
Topography	Graphic representation of the surface features of a place or region on a map, indicating their relative positions and elevations. The relief features or surface configuration of an area.
Understory	Herbage growing under the tree canopy.
Viscosity	The property of a fluid or semi fluid that causes it to resist flowing.
Warmth ether	The term used by Rudolf Steiner to describe the energy state which brings 'life' to the element of fire.
Zodiac	The belt of twelve constellations surrounding the plane of the ecliptic; also known as the 'animal circle', It spans all 360 degrees of the plane of the solar equator and the planets.