

bioaccumulation

the gradual accumulation of toxic materials by organisms along a food chain; also known as biomagnification

biological control

the deliberate introduction of organisms such as insects or diseases to control the numbers of a pest

DDT

dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane; a non-biodegradable insecticide that is now banned

drip irrigation

the supply of water whereby it is released in a controlled manner as drips at the base of a plant

duricrust

the hardened soil crust formed in semiarid climates by leaching and deposition of minerals in deeper layers followed by the erosion of surface soil to expose the hardened surface

enhanced greenhouse effect

the abnormal warming of the atmosphere by the greenhouse effect caused by increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide being added to the atmosphere by human activity

environmental flow

an artificial input of fresh water into a river system to maintain riverine habitats

fallow time

the time between harvesting one crop and sowing the next

fossil fuel

once living things converted by heat and pressure over long periods of time to coal, oil or natural gas; releases energy and carbon dioxide when burnt

genetic engineering

the purposeful manipulation of genetic material to alter the characteristics of an organism

greenhouse effect

the trapping of the sun's warmth in a planet's lower atmosphere, due to the greater transparency of the atmosphere to visible radiation from the sun than to infrared radiation emitted from the planet's surface

irrigation

the supply of water from dams or rivers to farms for agricultural use

landfill

a depression that has been carefully designed and built to put wastes into, or an old mine site that has the appropriate geology

leaching

the vertical movement of minerals within the soil due to dissolving out of soluble materials by percolation of water

paleodrainage

ancient drainage systems

pesticide

a chemical substance for destroying unwanted plants and animals e.g. insecticides, weedkillers and fungicides

pollution trap

a filter-like device that sorts out larger particles such as rubbish from a liquid such as stormwater

putrescible waste

wastes liable to decay and become putrid

radical

a highly reactive atom or a molecule which possesses one unpaired electron

sewerage

the discharge of liquid wastes from medical, domestic and sanitary appliances

tailings

sediments left over
after mining

tailwater

the excess water from irrigation
that has passed through the soil
and is contaminated with
nutrients or pollutants such as
pesticides
