In the article “Microplastic pollution devastating soil species” written by Johnathon Watts, frightening information about a study regarding plastic and essential soil microorganisms was revealed. The study that was done involved developing plots of land in China to put polyethylene fragments (plastic) in and then left the plastic to seep into the soil for 287 days. After this time frame the levels and populations of microorganisms such as moth and fly larvae were measured. It was found that the populations had decreased a good amount and that the plastic intervention in the soil had negative effects on microbial functioning. It was stated in the article that this could have further negative consequences to soil and the life that lives in it.

This article is very relevant today where plastic is a huge issue in our world. There is so much debate about the environment and what negative effects we as humans have had to it, and plastic is a large issue. I have seen numerous shows and documentaries about the pollution in the oceans and landfills filling up and seeing new studies about how plastics have negative effects on soil is concerning. Soil is so important in so many ways including being a vital part of growing food and feeding livestock with food grown. The health of the worlds soil is a massive part of the environmental issues the world has today.

One thing that I think the world can do better with is not using one time use products. These could include plastic plates and silverware, plastic bags while shopping, and very relevant today-disposable masks and gloves. In certain circumstances disposable gloves and masks are required (surgery, medical settings), but for people who are following masks mandates, investing in reusable masks would already help the environment and pollution. I have seen so many masks and gloves just sitting in parking lots after people are done using them and I try to safely pick them up and find the nearest trash can because it makes me sad to think they could end up hurting wildlife or ending up at the bottom of the ocean.

Today I hope that the people in charge of environmental tasks are taking more action with simple things such as reusable products. I am not sure what other countries in the world are doing but I hope to be more educated with global climate actions that other countries are taking to help the earth. We are already seeing implications of climate change and pollution with different weather patterns and extreme summers and extreme winters. It is scary to think that we could be part of the 6th mass extinction that has taken place on Earth, but the fact that the environment isn’t really priority for a lot of the decisions made by leaders it makes sense.

This article makes it more real that little things like forgetting to pick up the plastic fork you dropped on your way out of the restaurant could result in destruction of populations essential to soil, which is then essential for plants, which is then essential to the survival of living things such as animals and humans. I wish more articles such as this one were more prevalent in the every day news so more people could think and be concerned about the unsustainable way we are living.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/02/microplastic-pollution-devastating-soil-species-study-finds