Paragraph Matching

E: Match the following paragraph headings with the correct paragraph in the text.

A) Protecting soils with cover crops
B) Afforestation and sustainable management of marginal areas
C) Mulching
D) Controlling water flow across your land
E) Terracing with retaining walls & edging
F) Contour farming and gardening & strip cropping
G) Preventing soil disturbance by livestock

Soil Erosion

1._____
If none of the options listed above suits your needs, you have another alternative that doesn't require planting of other plants or crops on your land and allows you to create a clean look to your property. You can protect the soil by covering exposed spots around the plants with a mulching material. By putting down mulch, you are keeping bare soil from being washed and eroded away, as well as helping to retain soil moisture and eliminate weed growth around your carefully selected plants. Mulching layer stabilizes soil temperature, protecting plants and soil from the effects of fluctuating temperature in winter.

2. _____
You can create neatly looking dry creeks that direct water away from your land or channel runoff to your designated area from where you can reuse it (e.g. for irrigation). Dry creeks look like a small version of a rocky river bed and even imitate its function. You also have an option to plant vegetated filter strips or simply install drainage pipes to gather water and carry it away from critical areas. Some people choose to protect land around their houses by implementing so called French drains. French drains are trenches along outer house walls that contain drainage pipes covered by permeable gravel.

3. _____
Growing crops on slopes can be particularly challenging and plowing on slopes can easily lead to soil erosion. However, there are several techniques for cultivating crops on slopes that prevent erosion. These include contour farming, where farmers plow and plant across a slope along its contour lines as opposed to planting in downhill facing lines.

4. _____
When talking about soil erosion control measures, we should not neglect the areas that have already been damaged but have a potential for great improvement when managed properly. Restoration of degraded ecosystems and protection of marginal areas to ensure that we will place sufficient soil erosion prevention methods in place is crucial.

5._____
Land that is used for livestock grazing is often hilly or is located in marginal areas that are unsuitable for crop cultivation. Unsustainable livestock management on such lands leads to overgrazing and decreases the protective groundcover. When more than 60 percent of vegetation gets removed, the rate of erosion accelerates, and topsoil is more likely to be washed off with every rainfall event.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6. _____
Whether on a large scale, like rice fields, or on a smaller scale in your backyard, terracing allows cultivation and erosion control of many difficult slopes that would otherwise be unsuitable for any activity. With the structural support of retaining walls, terraces can create a nice decorative element on your property, giving it a new look. They can be useful for the creation of raised garden beds that are for many gardeners more comfortable to maintain.

7. _____
It is recommended to plant cover crops after the harvest of the main crop. Take for example corn. Once you harvest corn, the land will most likely remain barren over the winter. This means that the soil will lack the protective layer of growing vegetation in the season when it rains or snows a lot and the land is subjected to cycles of freezing and unfreezing. This easily damages soil structure and increases the risk of soil loss.

F: **In which paragraph will I find the following information? Give the paragraph number as your answer. Numbers may be used more than once.**

A) A number of techniques allow farmers to overcome issues with slanted landscapes in farming.

B) Without an abundance of plants, the wind and rain will wear away the land more quickly.

C) When the land is emptier, it is more prone to damage and lose earth.

D) Adding a cover protects the land and keeps soil from being harmed by fluctuating temperatures.

E) Another way to protect soil is to redirect water away from where plants are being grown.

F) By becoming frozen and then thawing out, farmers may experience harm to soil or a reduction in the amount of soil.

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