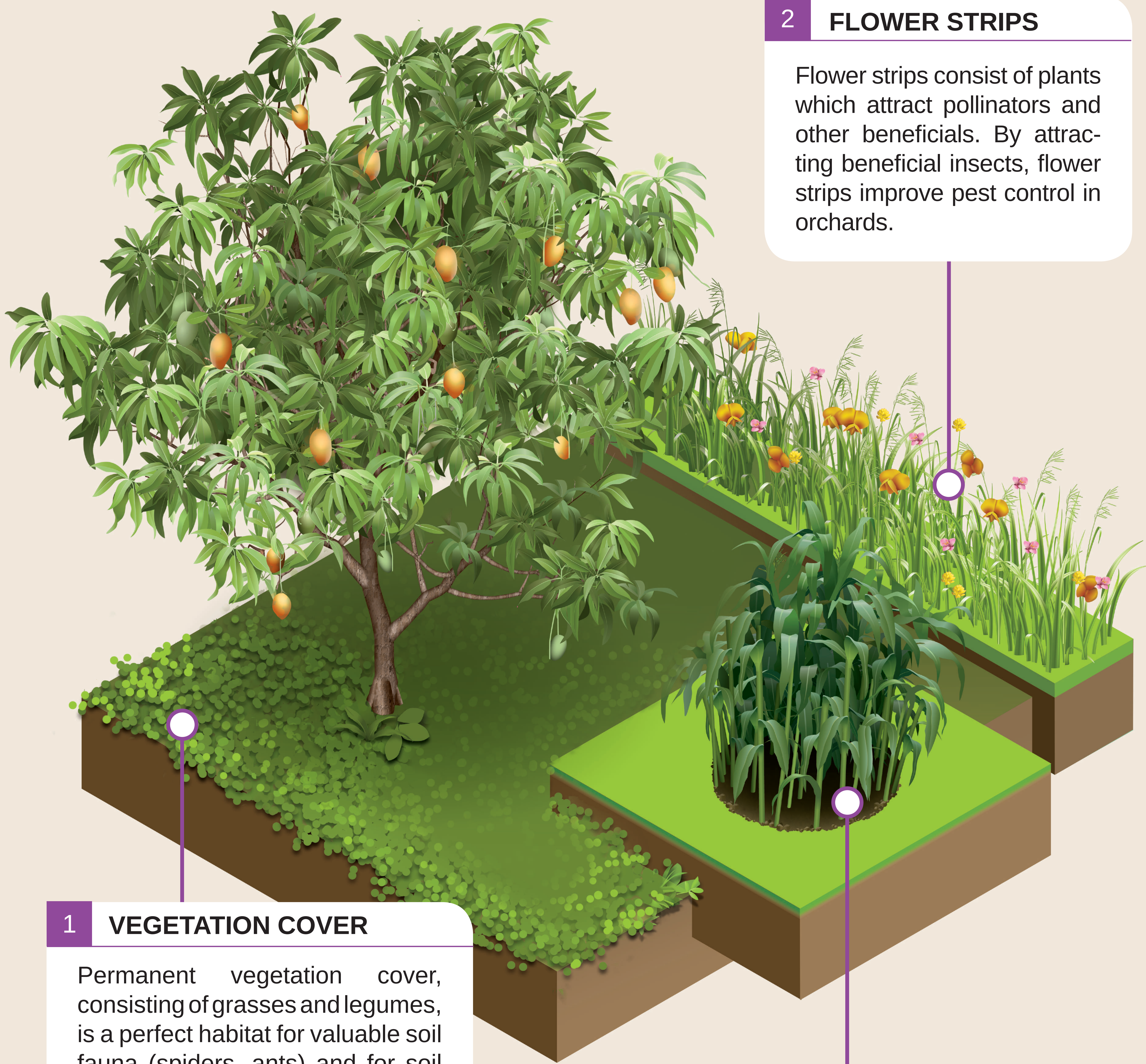




PLANT BIODIVERSITY: HABITATS

Habitat management is a key aspect of agroecological crop protection. It is based on the renewal of bio-ecological balances in agroecosystems. Agroecological techniques for managing plant biodiversity can both reduce the pressure of insect pests and increase populations of useful insects for agriculture by promoting the development of functional animal biodiversity. Functional biodiversity is composed of beneficials (predatory arthropods, pollinators and parasitoids) and has become a major part of pest regulation.



1 VEGETATION COVER

Permanent vegetation cover, consisting of grasses and legumes, is a perfect habitat for valuable soil fauna (spiders, ants) and for soil health.

2 FLOWER STRIPS

Flower strips consist of plants which attract pollinators and other beneficials. By attracting beneficial insects, flower strips improve pest control in orchards.

3 TRAP PLANTS / REFUGE PLANTS

These are intended to trap pests and to attract beneficials. They can be planted between crop rows or around the orchard.

+ Habitats are also important on a larger scale

The structure of the landscape (crops, natural elements - hedges, gullies, etc. - and urban elements) influences arthropod biodiversity. A diversified and heterogeneous landscape with many different crops and natural elements guarantees a high diversity of beneficials.

