

Plants help purify Earth's water. As wetlands receive and filter water runoff, the reeds, grasses, and other plants remove fertilizers used in farming, trap sediments, and reduce **erosion** and flooding by holding and slowly releasing water.

Trees provide us with lumber for building homes. We produce cloth from the fibers of cotton, flax, bamboo, and other plants.

*As our country's population increases, so does its demands for timber.*



*We use cotton fibers to make denim jeans and dollar bills.*





*At one time, farmers and builders thought of United States wetlands as wastelands, but now recognize their value as water purifiers and habitats for plants and animals.*

