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## Seminars

### The Natural Mediterranean Garden

Week-end residential seminar offering new insights to the Mediterranean Garden

### Dryland Permaculture Design

Residential seminar for designers and land owners

### Holistic Management

Residential seminar in sustainable decision-making and management

### Sustainable Stewardship

Residential seminar in a whole approach to creating a sustainable life, landscape or livelihood

### Free on-line Newsletter

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[www.holisticdecisions.com](http://www.holisticdecisions.com)

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## Nutshell Series

1. The Savory Brittleness Scale
  2. Carbon Sequestration
  3. Ecosystem Processes
  4. Grazing Animals
  5. Run-off
  6. Water Cycle
  7. Root Cause
  8. Plant Succession
  9. Irrigation
  10. What is Holistic Management@?
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*Semilla Besada*  
*Nutshell Series*

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*The Savory  
Brittleness Scale  
and its importance to  
dryland design and  
management*



# *The Savory Brittleness Scale and its importance to dryland design and management*

**Seventy percent** of the world's landmass is brittle.

**It is very important** to know where landscapes stand on the Savory Brittleness Scale, as this will determine which land management tools are appropriate and which are not.

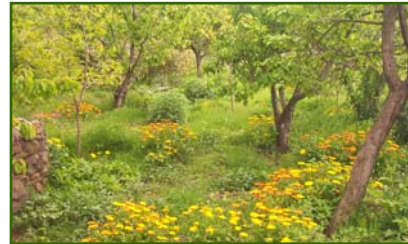
**The Savory Brittleness Scale** classifies every environment according to how well moisture is distributed throughout the year and how quickly dead vegetation breaks down.

At one end of the scale are brittle environments where limited rainfall and humidity are scattered erratically throughout the year. Dead vegetation breaks down very slowly in brittle environments

At the other end of the scale there are non-brittle environments, where rainfall and humidity are perennial and dead vegetation breaks down quickly.

Brittleness is measured on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is a rainforest and 10 is a desert.

What the Savory Brittleness Scale ratings look like ....



A landscape that looked like the above would register about 3 on the Savory Brittleness Scale.



A landscape that looked like the above would register about 8 on the Savory Brittleness Scale.

**One of the most used tools** in temperate climates is rest. In fact, conservation in those environments is based on setting land aside and leaving things to nature. Ultimately, in a temperate landscape this would probably result in forest regeneration.

However, in a brittle landscape, the use of this tool would generate quite the opposite affect. Dead vegetation simply oxidises and suffocates the plants beneath, eventually leading to their death. When the dead vegetation is cleared by the wind or washed away by rain, it leaves bare soil exposed to erosion. The ultimate result is a desert.

**It is necessary** to use only those tools that are appropriate when designing and managing brittle landscapes.

**For the first time in Europe**, residential educational programmes at Semilla Besada consider new insights for sustainable design and management of dryland environments.

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Nutsbell Series*

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