

6. GLOSSARY

A horizon - See Horizon

B horizon - See Horizon

C horizon - See Horizon

Consistence - this is a fairly subjective property which expresses the degree and kind of cohesion and adhesion in soil (refer to Appendix 2 for moist and dry consistence).

Duplex Soils - Duplex is the term used, in Northcote's Soil Classification System (Northcote K. H. 1974) (2) to soils where there is a sharp differentiation between the A and B horizons, which occurs over a vertical distance of not more than 10 cm. symbols used in the soil classification include Dy, Db, Dr and Dg.

Erodibility - Erodibility is a measure of the soil's inherent susceptibility to erosion. It may be determined experimentally, but are more usually based on the assessment of an experienced person.

Erosivity - Erosivity is a measure of the power of the eroding force, that is, wither wind or water.

Gradational Soils - Soils showing increasingly finer (more clayey) texture on passing down through the soil profile, but without the sharp change as with duplex soils. Symbols used in soil classifications are Gc and Gn.

Gravel this can be found in particular sections of the soil profile, or throughout the profile. They are defined as fragments of stone between 0.2 and 7.5 centimetres in diameter.

Hardpan - See Pan

Horizon A soil horizon is a layer within the soil profile, having morphological characteristics and properties different from those below and above it. The surface horizon is referred to as the A horizon and the horizon below it where there is more clay or iron oxide accumulation is called the B horizon. The C horizon is partially weathered, consolidated or unconsolidated parent material.

Pan - These are hardened horizons in the soil profile. They often impede water movement, or growth and development of plant roots.

pH - pH is the measure of acidity or alkalinity (refer Appendix 2, Item 14)

Subsidence - the sinking of an area of soil relative to the land around it.

Texture - This is a measure of the behaviour of a small handful of soil when moistened and kneaded into a ball, when pressed out between thumb and finger.

Uniform - Uniform is the name given in Northcote Soil Classification (3) to soils where there are small if any texture differences throughout the profile, such that no clearly defined horizon boundaries are found. Symbols used include Uf, Um and Uc.