



Group I

Soils with well-developed horizons or with fully weathered minerals, resulting from long-continued adjustment to prevailing soil temperature and soil-water conditions.

Oxisols Very old, highly weathered soils of low latitudes, with a subsurface horizon of accumulation of mineral oxides and very low base status.

Ultisols Soils of equatorial, tropical, and subtropical latitude zones, with a subsurface horizon of clay accumulation and low base status.

Vertisols Soils of subtropical and tropical zones with high clay content and high base status. Vertisols develop deep, wide cracks when dry, and the soil blocks formed by cracking move with respect to each other.

Alfisols Soils of humid and subhumid climates with a subsurface horizon of clay accumulation and high base status. Alfisols range from equatorial to subarctic latitude zones.

Spodosols Soils of cold, moist climates, with a well-developed B horizon of illuviation and low base status.

Mollisols Soils of semiarid and subhumid midlatitude grasslands, with a dark, humus-rich epipedon and very high base status.

Aridisols Soils of dry climates, low in organic matter, and often having subsurface horizons of accumulation of carbonate minerals or soluble salts.

Group II

Soils with a large proportion of organic matter.

Histosols Soils with a thick upper layer very rich in organic matter.

Group III

Soils with poorly developed horizons or no horizons, and capable of further mineral alteration.

Entisols Soils lacking horizons, usually because their parent material has accumulated only recently.

Inceptisols Soils with weakly developed horizons, having minerals capable of further alteration by weathering processes.

Gelisols Soils underlain by permafrost, with organic and mineral materials churned by frost action.

Andisols Soils with weakly developed horizons, having a high proportion of glassy volcanic parent material produced by erupting volcanoes.