

Table of Contents

About	3	3.52 The Chemistry	40
Introduction	3	3.6 Horizon Boundaries	41
1.0 What is a Soil?	6	w 42	
1.1 Regolith, Sediment, and Soil	6	3.8 Roots	42
1.2 Soil-Forming Processes	7	3.9 Artifacts	44
2.0 Soil Classifications	12	4.0 The POT Method	44
2.1 History and Approach to Soil Classification	12	5.0 Soil Water	46
2.2 The Current Classification System	13	5.1 Infiltration – Water Enters the Soil	46
2.2.1 The 12 Soil Orders	14	5.2 Percolation/Hydraulic Conductivity – Water Moves Through the Soil	47
2.2.2 Soil Suborders, Great Groups, Subgroups, and Families	17	5.3 Percolation Test	51
2.2.3 Soil Series	17	5.4 Drainage Class	54
2.2.4 Soil Associations	19	5.5 Hydrologic Soil Groups	55
3.0 Soil Descriptions	22	5.6 Plant-Available Water	56
3.1 Color	22	5.7 Water Tables	58
3.2 Fabric	23	6.0 Soil Fertility and Use	59
3.2.1 Coarse Fragments – The Rock Modifier/ Rock Fragments	23	7.0 Soil Modification	60
3.2.2 Three Soil Separates – The Heart of Soil Texture	24	7.1 Erosion/Sedimentation	61
3.3 Structure	28	7.2 Preparing Soil for Crops	62
3.3.1 Shape	29	7.3 Construction and Mining	62
3.3.2 Grade of Structure	30	7.4 Fertilizer/Compost	63
3.3.3 Size	32	7.5 Irrigation	64
3.4 Consistency	34	7.6 Artificial Soils	64
3.5 Redoximorphic Features	37	Summary	65
3.5.1 Describing Mottles	37	Definitions	66
		References	72