

Site Definition Sheet

Soil Characterization Data Sheet

Soil Temperature Data Sheet

Soil Moisture Site Definition Sheet

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Textural Triangle

Glossary

Site Definition Sheet

* Required Field

School Name:	Site Name:
	Choose a unique name based on location, e.g. "Grassy area - Front of School"
Names of students	completing Site Definition Sheet:
Date: Year	Month Day Check one: ☐ New Site ☐ Metadata Update
*Coordinates: La Elevation: m	titude:° □ N or □ S Longitude:° □ E or □ W eters
*Source of Locat	ion Data (check one): GPS GPS Other
Comments:	
fields below): ☐ Atr	all that apply based on intended measurements, then complete the necessary mosphere Surface Temperature Hydrology Land Cover Soil Characteristics Soil Moisture and Temperature
Atmosphere	
•	es (Check one): No obstacles Obstacles (describe below) es, buildings, etc. that appear above 14° elevation when viewed from the site)
Description:	
	D meters of instrument shelter (Check one): dings Buildings (describe below)
Other Site Data:	
Steepest Slope: _	Compass Angle (facing up slope):
Rain Gauge Height	Ozone Clip Thermometer Height cm Height cm
☐ Other, Soil o☐ Liquid-filled I☐ Liquid-filled,☐ Digital Single☐ Digital Multi-	Max/Min (U-tube) Current Temperature Only e-Day Min/Max
Was th □ AWS Weathe	vk

Can you see the bottom? \Box	I Yes ☐ No	
Channel/Bank Material: ☐ S	oil 🛘 Rock 🖵 Con	icrete 🔲 Vegetated Bank
Bedrock : ☐ Granite ☐ Lime	estone	☐ Mixed Sediments ☐ Unknown
Freshwater Habitats Present:	: 🗖 Rocky Substrate	☐ Vegetated Banks ☐ Mud Substrate
☐ Sand Substrate ☐ Subme	ersed Vegetation 🚨 I	_ogs
Saltwater Habitats Present:	☐ Rocky Shore ☐ S	Sandy Shore
	(metadata):	
Land Cover		
MUC Description: Level 1:		Level 2:
Level 3:		Level 4:
Note: Use the	MUC Guide to determine th	e greatest level possible within the MUC system
*MUC Code:		
Overall comments on the site ((metadata):	
Greening		
Are there multiple dominant sp	ecies? Yes No	
Primary Plant		
Is this plant in the understory?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Vegetation Type (Select one):	□ Grass Genus:	
Togotation Type (Colour one).		 Species:
		Species:
Label:		
Secondary Plant		
Is this plant in the understory?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Vegetation Type (Select one):	☐ Grass Genus:	
	☐ Tree Genus:	Species:
	☐ Shrub Genus:	Species:
Label:		

Tertiary Plant					
Is this plant in the understor	y? ☐ Yes ☐ N	10			
	\				
Vegetation Type (Select on		nus: nus:			
		enus:			
Label:		Jiiu3	Openic		
If additional plants will be moni	tored record the i	nformation on a	nother shee	t or in your S	Science Log.
Overall comments on the si	te (metadata): _				
Soil Characteristics					
Slope angle (North, Northe	ast, etc.):	_			
Method (select one): ☐ S ☐ R	Soil Pit 🔲 Aug oad Cut 🔲 Er	•	Near Surf	face 🚨	Excavation
Soil Characterization Site	Location (Selec	,	School Gro		
Land Use (Select one): ☐ t	Jrban □ Agric Other		ecreation	☐ Wilderno	ess
Landscape Position (Selec	ct one).		A		
☐ A. Summit	ot 0110).		В		
☐ B. Slope			\	\	
□ C. Depression□ D. Large Flat Area			_	C D E	
☐ E. Stream Bank					> ∼
Cover Type (Select one):			iss 🗖 Shri	∽ ubs 🖵 Tre	es
	Other				
Parent Material (Select one ☐ Marine Deposits ☐ Lak (Loess) ☐ Glacial Deposits Slope (Colluvium) ☐ Don't	e Deposits 🚨 S s (Glacial Till)	Stream Depos ☑ Volcanic De	its (Alluviun posits 🔲 I	n) 🚨 Wind	d Deposits
Distance from Major Featu	ıres:				

Soil Horizon Definitions

Carbonates	(Select one:	Unknown,	None, Slight,	Strong)													
Structure	Estimate	(Select one:	Unknown,	Granular,	Blocky, Platy,	Prismatic,	Columnar,	Single	Grained,	Massive)							
Consistence	Estimate	(Select one:	Extremely	Firm, Firm,	Friable, Loose,	Unknown)											
Texture Field	Estimate	(Select one:	Unknown, Sandy	Clay, Sandy Clay	Loam, Sandy	Loam, Silty Clay,	Silty Clay Loam,	Silt Loam, Loamy	Sand, Sand, Silt,	Clay, Clay Loam,	Loam, Organic)						
Rock	Quantity	Estimate	(Select one:	Unknown,	None, Few,	Many)											
Root	Quantity	Estimate	(Select one:	Unknown,	None, Few,	Many)											
Moisture	Estimate	(Select one:	Unknown,	Dry, Moist,	Wet)												
Secondary	Color	(code from	soil color	book)													
Main	color	epoo)	from soil	color	book)												
*Bottom	Depth	(cm)															
		(cm)															
		Ä W	(00														
Horizon	Number																

Note: The Top Depth of any horizon must be the same depth or lower than the Bottom Depth of the horizon above it; it cannot be higher that the bottom depth above it.

Comments on the site (metadata):

GLOBE® 2014 Appendix- 6

Soil Moisture and	d Temperature		
Surface State (Selec	ct one):		☐ Backfill ☐ Compacted
Surface Cover (Sele	ct one): 🖵 Bare Groun	d Short Grass (Und	der 10 cm) Long Grass (Over 10 cm)
Canopy Cover (Sele	ect one): 🗖 Open 🗖 S	Some Trees (within 30m) 🗖 Canopy Overhead
Overall comments or Site Photos	ain gauge or instrumer Soil Characterization Si the site (metadata): _ te photo number for ea	ite: m; Direct	ion
North	South	East	West
Photo number	Photo number	Photo number	Photo number
Overall comments or	the site (metadata): _		

Soil InvestigationSoil Temperature Data Sheet

Study S	Site:														
Name o	of Collector/	'Analyst/Red	order:												
Date: _															
Soil The	ermometer:	Dial	_ Digital	Othe	r										
Has the	ere been pre	ecipitation w	ithin the last	24 hours? \	/es	No		_							
Daily/V	Weekly Me	easuremen	nts												
Sam	pleTime		Temperatur	е											
No.	(hr)	(min)		10 cm											
1			(C)	(° C)	(C)										
2															
3															
Diurna	ol Cycle M	easureme	nte												
	pleTime		Temperatur	a											
No.		(min)	-	10 cm	Δir			Diu	ırnal Te	mper	ature	Anal	ysis		٦
	(1117)	(111111)		(° C)									+	+	1
1						40							+	_	1
2						<u>O</u> 30							\Box	1]
3						Soil Temperature (C)							\dashv		$\frac{1}{1}$
4						20 Lberg							+		1
5						Je 10									
6 7						S '							\dashv	_	4
8						00							+		1
O													+		1
Daily M	etadata/Co	mments:				C)6	08	10 Time	12 of F		14 (br)	16	;	18
						-									

Soil InvestigationSoil Moisture Data Sheet - Star Pattern

Study Site:										
			Month:							
			:(Hou			urs:Min)				
Current Co			saturated?			············				
			-105° C oven			r				
	-	•								
Average drying time: Hours/minutes Bearing from Star Center (optional): Distance from Star Center:										
	Observations:									
M 0	. .									
near-Suri	face Samp	oles:								
			А	В	С	(A-B)/(B-C)				
0-5 cm	Container ID#	Container Volume (mL) (Optional)	Mass of wet soil and container (wet mass) (g)	Mass of dry soil and container (dry mass) (g)	Mass of empty container (g)	Soil Water Content (from calculations) (g/g)				
Sample 1										
Sample 2										
Sample 3										
	•									
			А	В	С	(A-B)/(B-C)				
10 cm	Container ID#	Container Volume (mL) (Optional)	Mass of wet soil and container (wet mass) (g)	Mass of dry soil and container (dry mass) (g)	Mass of empty container (g)	Soil Water Content (from calculations) (g/g)				
Sample 1										
Sample 2										
Sample 3										

Soil Investigation

Soil Moisture Data Sheet - Transect Pattern

Study Site:	 				
Observer names:					
Date samples collected:	Year:	_ Month: _	Day	y:	
	Local Time: _	:(Hours:Min)	UT::	(Hours:Min)
Current conditions: Is so	oil saturated?	☐ Yes	□ No		
Drying method: (check or	ne) 🗖 95-105°	C oven	□ 75-95° C	oven 🗖 oth	ner
Average drying time: Hou	ırs/minutes				
Daily Metadata: (optio Length of Line:	•	s Bearing: _.	Stat	ion Spacing:	m
-	•		_	-	

Directions:

Transects should be 50 m long, located in an open field. Measurements are made 12 times/ yr. during a regular interval of your choice. Enter the data for your samples collected between 0-5 cm (10 single samples plus 1 triple sample):

Observations:

				А	В	С	(A-B)/B-C)
Sample Number	Offset from end of Transect (m)	Container ID#	Container Volume (mL) (Optional)	Mass of wet soil and container (wet mass) (g)	Mass of dry soil and container (dry mass) (g)	Mass of empty container (g)	Soil Water Content (from calculations) (g/g)
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							

Soil InvestigationSoil Moisture Data Sheet - Depth Profile

tudy Site:
bserver names:
ate samples collected: Year: Month: Day:
Local Time:: (Hours:Min) UT:: (Hours:Min)
current Conditions: Is surface soil saturated? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Prying Method: (check one) ☐ 95-105° C oven ☐ 75-95° C oven ☐ other
verage drying time: Hours/minutes
earing from Star Center (optional): Distance from Star Center:
Observations:

Depth Samples:

		,				
			Α	В	С	(A-B/(B-C)
Sample Depth	Container ID#	Container Volume (mL) Optional	Mass of wet soil and container (wet mass) (g)	Mass of dry soil and container (dry mass) (g)	Mass of empty container (g)	Soil Water Content (from calculations) (g/g)
0-5 cm						
10 cm						
30 cm						
60 cm						
90 cm						

Soil InvestigationSoil Moisture Data Sheet - SMAP Block Pattern

Study Site:
Observer names:
Date samples collected: Date (Year-Month-Day): Local Time:: (Hours:Min) UT:: (Hours:Min)
Drying
Is the soil saturated? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Drying Method (oven and temperature range) Drying time (hrs:min):
Weight Measurements Container with sample before drying (a) Gravimetric Soil Moisture (f) c/e = xx g/g (Calculated value by database) Container with sample after a - b = xx g weight (c) b - d = xx g (Calculated value by database) g Gravimetric Soil Moisture (f) c/e = xx g/g (Calculated value by database)
Container Volume Measurements
Container volume measurements are required at least once out of every 10 weight measurements, but can be repeated more frequently if desired. Below is your most recently measured Average Sample Volume:
Measure the Initial and Final volume of your measuring cylinder 3 times; container volume and average container volume will be calculated during data entry.
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Average Container Volume will be calculated during data entry.
Additional observations:

Soil InvestigationBulk Density Data Sheet

Note: All measurements are	e done without the can lid!!		
Date of sample collection: \	ear Month	Day	
Study Site:			
Horizon Number:	Horizon Denth: Ton	cm Rottom	cm

		Sample Number		er
		1	2	3
Α	Container #			
В	Wet mass of soil and container (g)			
С	Dry mass of soil and container (g)			
D	Container volume (mL)			
Е	Container mass (g)			
F	Mass of rocks (g)			
G	Volume of water without rocks (mL)			
Н	Volume of water with rocks (mL)			
I	Mass of dry soil (g) = C-E			
J	Volume of rocks (mL) = H-G			
K	Bulk Density (g/mL) = $\frac{I-F}{D-J}$			

Soil InvestigationSoil Particle Density Data Sheet

Note: All measurements should be made without the stopper/cap!!

Date soil is mixed with water: year	month	day	
Study Site:			
Horizon number:	_		
How has the soil been stored since it came of	out of the oven? _		
Length of time since the soil was dried in the	oven:		_
Other comments:			

			Sample Num	ber
		1	2	3
Mass of empty flask (g)	(B below)			
Mass of soil + empty flask (g)	(A below)			
Mass of water + soil + flask (g)	(D below)			
Water temperature (°C)	(F below)			

Calculation Worksheet

			Sample Num	ber
		1	2	3
Α	Mass of soil + empty flask (g)			
В	Mass of empty flask (g)			
С	Mass of soil (g) (A - B)			
D	Mass of water + soil + flask (g)			
Е	Mass of water (g) (D - A)			
F	Temperature of water (°C)			
G	Density of water (g/mL) (approximately 1.0)			
Н	Volume of water (mL) (E/G)			
Ι	Volume of soil (mL) (100 mL - H)			
J	Soil particle density (g/mL) (C/I)			

Soil InvestigationSoil Particle Size Distribution Data Sheet

Date of sample collection: Year M	onth Day	
Study Site:		
Horizon Number: Horizon Depth:	Topcm Bottomcm	
Sample Number 1		
Distance from 500 mL mark to base of grade	uated cylinder:cm	
Hydrometer Calibration Temperature:	°C	
A. 2 minute hydrometer reading:	C. 24 hour hydrometer reading:	
B. 2 minute temperature:°C	D. 24 hour temperature:°C	
Sample Number 2	usted cylinder:	
Distance from 500 mL mark to base of gradu	·	
Hydrometer Calibration Temperature:	°C	
A. 2 minute hydrometer reading:	C. 24 hour hydrometer reading:	
B. 2 minute temperature:°C	D. 24 hour temperature:°C	
Sample Number 3 Distance from 500 mL mark to base of grade	uated cylinder:cm	
Hydrometer Calibration Temperature:	°C	
A. 2 minute hydrometer reading:	C. 24 hour hydrometer reading:	
B. 2 minute temperature:°C	D. 24 hour temperature:°C	

Soil InvestigationSoil pH Data Sheet

Date of sample collection:	Study Site:		
Horizon Number:	Horizon Depth: Top	cm, Bottom	_cm
Sample Number 1 – pH Measure pH of soil and water mixture		J paper □ meter	
Sample Number 2 – pH Measure pH of soil and water mixture	,	J paper □ meter	
Sample Number 3 - pH Measures pH of soil and water mixture		paper □ meter	
Horizon Number:	Horizon Depth: Top	cm, Bottom	_cm
Sample Number 1 – pH Measure pH of soil and water mixture		J paper □ meter	
Sample Number 2 – <i>pH Measure</i> pH of soil and water mixture		J paper □ meter	
Sample Number 3 - pH Measures pH of soil and water mixture	,	paper □ meter	
Horizon Number:	Horizon Depth: Top	cm, Bottom	_cm
Sample Number 1 – pH Measure pH of soil and water mixture	,	J paper □ meter	
Sample Number 2 – pH Measure pH of soil and water mixture	,	J paper □ meter	
Sample Number 3 - pH Measures pH of soil and water mixture	ment method (check one): 🗆	paper 🗖 meter	

Soil InvestigationSoil Fertility Data Sheet

Date of Sample Collection:	Study Site:	
Horizon Number:	Horizon Depth: Topcm Botton	ncm
Sample Number 1	Sample Number 2	Sample Number 3
Nitrate (N): High Med Low None_	Nitrate (N): High Med Low None	Nitrate (N): High Med Low None
Phosphorus (P): High Med Low None_	Phosphorus (P): High Med Low None	Phosphorus (P): High Med Low None
Potassium (K): High Med Low None_	Potassium (K): High Med Low None	Potassium (K): High Med Low None
	Study Site: Horizon Depth: Topcm Botton	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Nitrate (N):	Sample Number 2 Nitrate (N): High Med Low None	Nitrate (N):
Phosphorus (P): High Med Low None_	Phosphorus (P): High Med Low None	
Potassium (K): High Med Low None_	Potassium (K): High Med Low None	Potassium (K): High Med Low None
Date of Sample Collection:	Study Site:	
	Horizon Depth: Topcm Botton	ncm
Sample Number 1	Sample Number 2	Sample Number 3
Nitrate (N): High Med Low None_	Nitrate (N): High Med Low None	Nitrate (N): High Med Low None
Phosphorus (P): High Med Low None_	Phosphorus (P): High Med Low None	Phosphorus (P): High Med Low None
Potassium (K): High Med Low None_	Potassium (K): High Med Low None	Potassium (K): High Med Low None

Soil InvestgationDigital Multi-Day Soil Thermometer Calibration and Reset Data Sheet

School Na	me:			Stud	y Site:	
Observer N	Names:					
Calibrati	ion					
			Thermomete	r Readings		
Reading	Date	Local Time	Universal	Calibration	Digital 5	Digital 50
Number	(yy/mm/dd)	(hour:min)	Time	Thermometer	cm sensor	cm Sensor
4			(hour:min)	Readings (°C)	Readings (°C)	Readings (°C)
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
Time of	Reset					
				en it is first setu han one hour fr		
Date:	Local	time (Hour:I	Min)	Universal tim	e (Hour:Min) _	
Was the r	eset due to a	a battery cha	inge?			
5 cm Se	nsor Check	(

Thermometer Readings					
Reading Number	Date (yy/mm/dd)	Local Time (hour:min)	Universal Time (hour:min)	Soil Probe Thermometer Readings at 5 cm (°C)	Digital 5 cm Sensor Readings (°C)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Soil InvestigationDigital Multi-Day Soil Thermometer Data Sheet

School Name:	Study Site:
ObserverNames:	
Date: Year Month	Day
	Universal time (Hour:Min)
Your <i>Time of Reset</i> in universal	I time (Hour:Min):
Current Temperatures	
5 cm soil temperature (°C):	
50 cm soil temperature (°C):	

Maximum, Minimum Temperatures

Do not read the thermometer within 5 minutes of your time of reset.

		Label on Digital Display Screen								
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6				
Maximum 5 cm Temperature (°C)										
Minimum 5 cm Temperature (°C)										
Maximum 50 cm Temperature (°C)										
Minimum 50 cm Temperature (°C)										
If you are reading thermometer AFTER your <i>time of reset</i> : Corresponding to 24-hour Period Ending:	Today	Yesterday	Two days ago	Three days ago	Four days ago	Five days ago				
If you are reading thermometer BEFORE your <i>time of reset</i> : Corresponding to 24-hour Period Ending:	Yesterday	Two days ago	Three days ago	Four days ago	Five days ago	Six days ago				

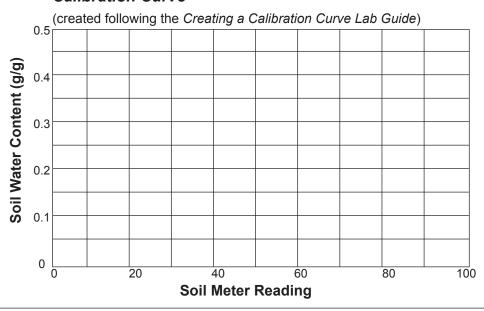
Soil InvestigationDaily Soil Moisture Sensor Data Sheet

School Name:	
Study Site:	
Date you started to use this SWC calibration curve:	
Type of Sensor: ☐ Watermark Block/Delmhorst meter	☐ Watermark Block/Irrometer Watermark meter
☐ Watermark Block/Spectrum Watchdog	g (logger) 🗖 Other

Observations:

Measurement					Soil M	oistur	9			from		
				Mete	r Rea	dings	(cm)	Calibration Curve (cm)				
#	Date	Time (UT)	Is the soil saturated? (Yes or No)	Observers' Names	10	30	60	90	10	30	60	90
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												

Calibration Curve



Soil InvestigationBiannual Soil Moisture Sensor Calibration Data Sheet

school Name:					
Study Site:					
Drying Method (check one): 95-105 °C oven; 75-95 °C oven; other	-105 °C ove	n; 75-9	35 °C oven	_; other	
Average Drying Time:	(hours or minutes)	minutes)			
Depth (Check one): 🗖 10 cm	□ 30 cm	□ 60 cm	□ 90 cm		
Observations:					

	G.	Soil	Moisture	Meter	Reading										
	Ш	Soil Water	Content	(C/E)	Reading										
Data and Calculations	Ы	Dry Soil	Mass	(B-D)											
and Cal	D.	Can	Mass	(b)											
Data	ن ن	Water	Mass	(A-B)											
	B.	Dry	Mass	(g)											
	ď.	Wet	Mass	(g)											
nents	Observers' Names														
Measurements	Time	(TD)													
2	Local	Time	(Hour:min)												
	Date														
	#					_	2	က	4	2	9	2	8	6	10

Soil InvestigationBiannual Soil Moisture Sensor Calibration Data Sheet — Continued

School Name:				
Study Site:				
Depth (Check one): ☐ 10 cm	□ 30 cm	□ 60 cm	□ 90 cm	

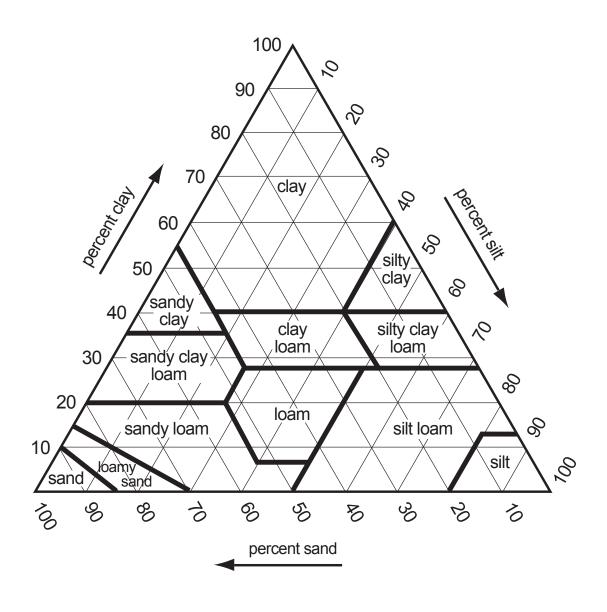
Observations:

	<u>ن</u>	Soil	Moisture	Meter	Reading										
	<u> </u>			(C/E)	Reading										
Data and Calculations			Mass	(B-D)											
and Cal	٥.	Can	Mass	(g)											
Data	ပ် ့	Water	Mass	(A-B)											
	B.	Duy	Mass	(g)											
	ď	Wet	Mass	(g)											
nents	Observers' Names														
Measurements	Time	(TD)													
Σ	Local	Time	(Hour:min)												
	Date														
	#					1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Soil InvestigationSoil Infiltration Data Sheet

Site Name:					
Name of Collecto	r/Analyst/Reco	rder:			
Sample collection	ı				
	(hours and r		k one: UT	Local	
Distance to Soil N	_				
Sample Set numl				d:mm	
Diameter: Inner F		_			
Heights of referei	nce band above	e ground level	: Upper :	_ mm Lower : _	mm
sheet for each se	et. Each set con becomes cons rements you ta s setup to help	isists of multip stant or 45 mir ke. you calculate	ole timings of the state of the	he same water ecord your data	a different data wo level drop or chan below for one set
Observations:					
A. Start (min) (sec)	B. End (min) (sec)	C. Interval (min) (B-A)	D. Midpoint (min) (A+C/2)	E. Water Level Change (mm)	F. Flow Rate (mm/min) (E/C)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
9				. ,	
Saturated Soil Wat Weight:					sight (A. D.):
					eight (A-B):
D. Container Wei			igni (в-р):	9	
F. Soil Water Co					
Daily Metadata/C	ornments: (option	onaı)			

Soil InvestigationTextural Triangle 3



Glossary

Acid Soil

A soil that contains more hydrogen ions than hydroxide ions and therefore has a pH less than 7.0

Alluvium

Sediment transported by flowing water (e.g. a stream)

Anomaly

Something irregular or abnormal

Basic Soil

A soil that contains more hydroxide ions than hydrogen ions and therefore has a pH greater than 7.0

Blocky Structure

Irregular block-like soil peds that are usually 0.5 cm to 5.0 cm in diameter

Bulk Density

Mass of dry soil per unit volume (expressed in GLOBE as grams per cubic centimeter)

Chroma

When referenced to hue, the level of saturation of a color

Clay

A mineral particle <.002 mm in size that has a "sticky and dense" feel when moistened and rubbed between the fingers

Columnar Structure

A type of soil structure where the soil peds (or chunks) are in the shape of a column with a rounded top. Columnar structure is found in arid regions and generally ranges between 1 and 10 cm long.

Concretion

A cemented mass of a chemical compound, such as iron oxide or calcium carbonate, that can be removed intact from the soil

Consistence

How easy or hard it is for a soil ped to break apart when it is squeezed

Crytoturbation

Process of freezing, thawing, and churning of a soil



Diurnal cycle

A daily cycle, a basic repetition period of 24 hours. All processes that are dominated by the sun are diurnal. Tides, in contrast, repeat cycles twice daily.

Effervescence

The bubbling action that occurs as a gas comes out of a liquid such as when carbon dioxide gas is produced by the reaction of carbonate coatings on soil being treated with an acid like vinegar

Eluviation

The removal of materials from one horizon which are then "illuviated" or deposited into a lower horizon

Erosion

The removal and movement of soil materials by water, wind, ice, or gravity as well as by human activities such as agriculture or construction

Evaporation

Water on Earth's surface or in the soil absorbs heat from the sun to the point that it changes from a liquid to a gas and moves into the atmosphere

Extremely Firm

A type of soil consistence in which soil peds require extreme pressure, requiring the use of a tool (e.g., a hammer), to break

Face

The way an exposed section of soil or soil profile appears

Fertility

The ability of a soil to supply the elements and compounds needed for plant growth

Fill

Soil, rock, or other material that has been added to a site for construction purposes usually to bring the surface to a certain level

Firm

A type of soil consistence in which the soil peds require significant pressure before breaking



Floury

Having the feel of finely ground flour – smooth and powdery

Free Carbonates

Carbonate materials that form coatings on soil that react with an acid, such as vinegar, to form carbon dioxide gas

Freeze-thaw

The mechanical break up of rock caused by the expansion of freezing water in cracks and crevices

Friable

A type of soil consistence in which the soil ped breaks easily when squeezed between the thumb and fore finger with a small amount of pressure

Glacial Till

Sediment deposited from a glacier

Granular Structure

Roundish soil peds with an appearance like "cookie crumbs" that are usually less than 1.0 cm in diameter

Gravimetric

Analysis of soil moisture that depends on weighing the soil in a moist and dry state and determining the difference

Ground Water

Water stored underground in a saturated zone of rock, sand, gravel or other material

Heat Capacity

The ratio of the heat required to raise the temperature of a unit volume of soil by one degree

Horizon

An individual layer within the soil which has its own unique characteristics (such as color, structure, texture, or other properties) that make it different from the other layers in the soil profile

Hue

A particular color as distinguished from other colors on the color wheel

Humus

The part of the soil profile that is composed of decomposed organic matter from dead and decaying plants and animals and is usually dark colored

Hydrometer

An instrument based on the principles of buoyancy used to measure the specific gravity of a liquid containing suspended soil particles in relation to the specific gravity of pure water at a specified temperature

Illuviation

The deposit of materials carried by water from one horizon into another within the soil (such as clay or nutrients)

Infiltration

Downward entry of water into the soil

In situ

Location at a particular site

Leaching

Removal of soluble material in solution from the soil by the movement of water through the soil

Lithosphere

The outer layer of soil and rock on a planet is called the "lithosphere" after the Greek word "lithos" meaning "stone."

Litter

Leaves, needles, twigs, branches, stems, or fruits covering the soil from the surrounding trees in a forest

Loam

Soil that contains an approximately equal amount of sand, silt, and clay particles.

Loess

Fine sediment transported by wind

Loose

A type of soil consistence in which the soil grains do not stick to one another (i.e. structure is single grained).

Massive Structure

A structureless soil in which all soil particles are stuck together and there are no distinct peds

Metadata

Data about data. Soil moisture data requires metadata describing the vegetation cover and possible sources of water in order to be interpreted properly.



Mottles

Streaks of spots of different colors in a soil interspersed with the dominant soil color, usually indicating poor drainage

Organic Matter

Decomposed animal or plant material that is added to the soil and becomes a part of the soil profile. When it is fully decomposed and incorporated into the soil, organic matter becomes a dark, moist, nutrient rich substance called humus and the plant and animal material from which it formed can no longer be recognized

Particle Density

The mass per unit volume of soil particles, excluding pore space

Particle Size Distribution

The amount (percent) of each of sand, silt, and clay in a soil sample

Ped

An individual unit of natural soil structure or aggregation (such as granular, blocky, columnar, prismatic, or platy)

Pedosphere

The thin outer layer of the Earth which is made up of soil. The pedosphere acts as an integrator between the atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere of the Earth.

Permafrost

A continuously frozen soil horizon

рΗ

Measure of the acidity of a soil

Platy Structure

Flat, plate-like soil peds

Porosity

Percentage of soil volume not occupied by solid material

Prismatic Structure

A type of soil structure in which the soil ped is in the shape of a prism, generally ranging from 1.0 – 10.0 cm

Profile

The "face" of a soil when it has been cut vertically that shows the individual horizons and soil properties with depth

Runoff

Water that falls on the land surface but does not infiltrate and therefore flows across the land surface

Sand

A mineral particle between 0.05 and 2.0 mm in size that has a "gritty" feel when moistened and rubbed between the fingers

Saturation

When the pores of a soil are completely filled with water

Single Grained Structure

A structureless soil in which each soil grain is individual and loose in the soil (i.e. there are no peds)

Silt

A mineral particle between 0.002 and 0.05 mm in size that has a "floury, smooth" feel when moistened and rubbed between the fingers

Soil Profile

The "face" of a soil when it has been cut vertically that shows the individual horizons and soil properties with depth

Soil Water Content (SWC)

A measure of how much water is present in the pores of a soil, specifically, the ratio of the mass of water to the mass of dry soil.

Structure

The shape of soil units (peds) that occur naturally in a soil horizon. Some possible soil structures are granular, blocky, prismatic, columnar, or platy. Soils can also be structureless if they do not form into peds. In this case, they may be a consolidated mass (massive) or stay as individual particles (single grained).

Subsoil

The common term for the layers beneath the topsoil

Supernatant

When soil particles are suspended and allowed to settle, the liquid above the settled soil is cleaner than the soil below



Texture

The way soil "feels" when it is squeezed between the fingers or in the hand. The texture depends on the amount of sand, silt, and clay in the sample (particle size distribution), as well as other factors (how wet it is, how much organic matter is in the sample, the kind of clay, etc.)

Topsoil

The common term for the top layer of soil

Transect

In any field (outdoor) study, a transect consists of a line of study, often divided into intervals where observations or samples are collected.

Transpiration

The transfer of water as a gas from plant leaves to the atmosphere through the stomates

Uniform

This term is used in its traditional sense when characteristics display similar properties. Two related words are homogeneous (distributed evenly) and normal (distributed about a central mean value and described by a statistical equation).

Value

When referenced to hue, an indication of the lightness of a color

Volatilization

Evaporation of water vapor or other gases from the soil

Water Erosion

The wearing away of the land surface by water creating the detachment and movement of soil from one location to another.

Wind Erosion

The wearing away of the land surface by wind creating the detachment and movement of soil from one location to another

