



# Global Soil Regions

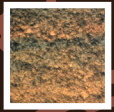
The 12 soil types, as defined by the USDA



**Alfisols** - Nearly **10%** of the world's ice-free land. Found in Western Europe and parts of North and South America, Africa, India and Australia. Clay-based and relatively fertile with high aluminium and iron content.



**Inceptisols** - **10%** of the world's ice-free land. Found in China, Alaska and both sides of the Mediterranean. Largely degraded rock material.



**Andisols** - **1%** of the world's ice-free soil, with pockets in New Zealand, Northwest USA, Chile, Kenya, Indonesia and Japan. Formed from volcanic ash and highly fertile and ideal for crops.



**Mollisols** - **7%** of the world's ice-free land. Found in Ukraine, parts of Russia and the USA. Some of the world's most fertile soil, including the black soils with high organic content.



**Aridisols** - Nearly **13%** of the world's ice-free land. Present in the world's deserts and unsuitable for crop production.



**Oxisols** - **7.5%** of the world's ice-free land. Found in the world's tropical rainforests, including the Amazon and in Africa. High iron content.



**Entisols** - **16%** of the ice-free land area and largest soil type of all. Found in the Sahara, Arabian Peninsula and Australia. Weathered/eroded rock or sediment, with limited agricultural value.



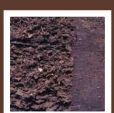
**Spodosols** - **2.5%** of the world's ice-free land. Found in many forests including much of Scandinavia. High-sand content and not very fertile.



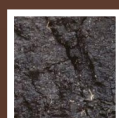
**Gelisols** - Nearly **9%** of the world's ice-free land. Present in northern Russia and North America. Under permafrost, with little agricultural value even when thawed as most nutrients leached out.



**Ultisols** - **8.5%** of the world's ice-free land. Found in Southern USA and Asia, Africa and South America. Acidic red clay, successful in agriculture if fertilized.



**Histosols** - About **1%** of the world's ice-free area. Found in Northern Scandinavia and Canada and give some of Scotland's whisky its unique taste. Up to **18%** organic carbon, these peats act like a sponge, do not drain well and can be acidic.



**Vertisols** - **2.5%** of the world's ice-free land. Found in India, Australia, sub-Saharan Africa and South America. Clays expand/contract with water available. With irrigation they support cereal, cotton, sorghum and rice growing.