

SOILS OF CALIFORNIA

Handout - Storie Map of California Soils

Purpose: To explain the natural native soils of California

Objective: At the end of this lecture the student will have a good understanding of how soils are formed, their classifications, and their spatial patterns in California.

I. Soil Formation

A. Soil forming factors

1. Parent Material - Influences initial fertility, texture
2. Landform - Influences depth
3. Climate - Influences speed of formation, drainage
4. Biological Activity - Influences rate of plant decay, fertility.
5. Time - determines zonal or azonal soils

II. Soil Classifications

A. Pedogenic Regimes

1. Podzolization
2. Laterization
3. Gleization
4. Calcification
5. Salinization.

B. The Seventh Approximation; It is inappropriately complex for this course.

C. Agricultural Soil Suitability (STORIE) Index, Grades 1-6

1. Most useful for agricultural uses and therefore for this course.
2. Discuss Soil Types and explain Index

III. Discuss California's Soil Distribution

A. Strengths:

Most of Cal. soils are good in well-drained areas. Storie map review with class

B. Weaknesses:

Best soils coincide with preferred Urban growth areas due to easy digging and ease of lot layout in flatter landscapes. Miller dwells on this note as you read the text.

End