Soil of the Mediterranean Region

Luvisols

A Luvisol is a fertile soil suitable for a wide range of agricultural uses (except for the shallow leptic units). On sloping land, Luvisols require measures, such as man-made terraces, to control erosion and deforestation. The Chromic, Calcric and Vertic Luvisols of the Mediterranean are commonly used for cereals and sugar beet while the upper slopes are best suited for fruit trees, vineyards, olives and grazing. The Haplic Luvisols of northern Italy are used for wine production.

Calcisols

Calcisols if fertilization with nitrogen, phosphorus and trace elements (Iron and Zinc) are provided. Calcisols if fertilization with nitrogen, phosphorus and trace elements (Iron and Zinc) are provided. A number of crops growing in desert areas of the Mediterranean region, such as cotton, alfalfa, are best suited for Calcisols. A number of crops growing in desert areas of the Mediterranean region, such as cotton, alfalfa, are best suited for Calcisols. Extensive areas of Calcisols in the Mediterranean are used for extensive and nomadic grazing. The Chromic Calcisol in the Mediterranean region is a productive soil for wine production.

Cambisols

A Cambisol represents a young soil in a continuous process of pedological maturation, as revealed by the presence of a Cambic horizon. Cambisols stand between Fluvisols and Luvisols. Cambisols are the most widely distributed soil of the Mediterranean delimiting the semi-arid climatic regions of the area. The major Cambisol units are Eutric and Dystric Cambisols which occur in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya. A number of crops growing in desert areas of the Mediterranean region, such as cotton, alfalfa, are best suited for Calcisols. A number of crops growing in desert areas of the Mediterranean region, such as cotton, alfalfa, are best suited for Calcisols.

Regosols

A Regosol is a weakly developed soil found on unconsolidated materials. Regosols are typical of the mountainous regions of Spain, Italy, Algeria, Morocco, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel. Regosols occur primarily on eroded land associated with Cambisols, Leptosols, Luvisols, Phaeozems, Umbrisols, and Calcisols. The Dystric qualifier is the main measure of the Regosols in the Mediterranean and is followed by the Calcric and Cambic soil units.

Arenosols

Arenosol is a sandy soil having sand or another coarse material as the principal mineral fraction. Arenosols are typical of the coastal environments of the present and ancient coastal areas. The surface soil is covered with sand dunes. The surface soil is covered with sand dunes. A number of crops growing in desert areas of the Mediterranean region, such as cotton, alfalfa, are best suited for Calcisols. A number of crops growing in desert areas of the Mediterranean region, such as cotton, alfalfa, are best suited for Calcisols.