



Landforms
Upland*
Terrace
Flood Plain
Lake Pain
Beach Ridge
*Includes glacial till plain and end moraine

Position on Landform
Depression
Flat
Knoll
Crest
Hillslope
Footslope

Shape of Slope
Convex
Concave
Linear
Complex

Horizon Nomenclature			
Master Horizons		Horizon Suffixes	Horizon Modifiers
O	Predominantly organic matter (litter & humus)	a	Numerical Prefixes: Used to denote lithologic discontinuities.  Numerical Suffixes: Used to denote subdivisions within a master horizon.
A	Mineral, organic matter (humus) accumulation, loss of Fe, Al, clay	b	
E	Mineral, loss of Si, Fe, Al, clay, organic matter	d	
B	Subsurface accumulation of clay, Fe, Al, Si, humus; sesquioxides; loss of CaCO <sub>3</sub> ; subsurface soil structure	e	
C	Little or no pedogenic alteration, unconsolidated earthy material, soft bedrock	g	
R	Hard bedrock	i	
		p	
		r	
		t	
		w	
		x	

Soil Texture			
Texture Class Abbreviations		Textural Class Modifiers	
Course Sand	cos	Gravelly	GR
Sand	s	Fine Gravelly	FGR
Fine Sand	fs	Medium Gravelly	MGR
Very Fine Sand	vfs	Coarse Gravelly	CGR
Loamy Coarse Sand	lcos	Very Gravelly	VGR
Loamy Sand	ls	Extremely Gravelly	XGR
Loamy Fine Sand	lfs	Cobbly	CB
Loamy Very Fine Sand	lvfs	Very Cobbly	VCB
Coarse Sandy Loam	cosl	Extremely Cobbly	XCB
Sandy Loam	sl	Stony	ST
Fine Sandy Loam	fsl	Very Stony	VST
Very Fine Sandy Loam	vfsl	Extremely Stony	XST
Loam	l	Bouldery	BY
Silt Loam	sil	Very Bouldery	VBY
Silt	si	Extremely Bouldery	XBY
Sandy Clay Loam	scl	Channery	CN
Clay Loam	cl	Very Channery	VCN
Silty Clay Loam	sicl	Extremely Channery	XCN
Sandy Clay	sc	Flaggy	FL
Silty Clay	sic	Very Flaggy	VFL
Clay	c	Extremely Flaggy	XFL

\*Estimate approximate clay percentage within 5 percent

Soil Structure					
Grade	Size	Type (Shape)			
Structureless	0	Very Fine	vf	Granular	gr
Weak	1	Fine	f	Angular Blocky	abk
Moderate	2	Medium	m	Subangular Blocky	sbk
Strong	3	Coarse	co	Platy	pl
		Very Coarse	vc	Prismatic	pr
		Extr. Coarse	ec	Columnar	cpr
		Very Thin*	vn	Single Grain	sg
		Thin*	tn	Massive	m
		Thick*	tk	Cloddy	CDY
		Very Thick*	vk		

\* The sizes Very Thin, Thin, Thick, and Very Thick, are used when describing platy structure only. Substitute thin for fine, and thick for coarse when describing platy structure.

Moist Consistence	
Loose	l
Very Friable	vfr
Friable	fr
Firm	fi
Very Firm	vfi
Extremely Firm	efi

For a more detailed explanation on describing and sampling soils, please refer to the "Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils" Schoeneberger, P.J., Wysocki, D.A., Benham, E.C., and Broderson, W.D. (editors) 2002. Field book for describing and sampling soils, version 2.0. Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, National Soil Survey Center, Lincoln, NE.