Iowa Soil Associations

**Loess with Bedrock Outcrops**

This region is commonly referred to as the “Dripless Area” because it suggests that the area was never glaciated. However, soil scientists and geologists have documented that this area was once covered by glaciers. This region consists of the steepest slopes, bare limestones form rock outcrops. Often valleys take abrupt, sharp angled turns indicating the location of the most steeply sloping areas. Nearly all of the soils in this area are in cliff, and overdeepened hills are the major crops. Native vegetation of the upland is oak savanna.

**Fun Fact:** The types of bedrock found in this region have resulted in the formation of many sinkholes, springs, and caves.

**Loess with Glacial Till – SE Iowa**

This region consists of gently sloping to strongly sloping soils formed in loess and strongly sloping to steep soils formed in chalk and glacial till. This region is characterized by a 10 to 15 percent slope. The soils are artifically drained and are in pasture, woodland, and some oxbow wetlands remain.

**Fun Fact:** This is one of the most common soil regions in Iowa along the Mississippi River floodplain.

**Loess with Glacial Till – SW Iowa**

This region consists of soils developed on broad, convex ridges and upper side slopes. Most of these soils are in cropland, but some oxbow wetlands remain. Corn and soybeans are the major crops. Native vegetation of the upland is oak savanna and the soils are the major crops.

**Fun Fact:** The native forest conditions result in an abundance of Morel mushrooms in the spring.

**Loess Ridges/Glacial Till Sideslopes**

This region consists of deeply terraced sideslopes and upper side slopes. The slopes are dissected with many drainageways and steep streams. A few larger creeks have nearly level and broad valley floors.

**Fun Fact:** The native forest conditions consist of narrow bands of mesic forests.

**Loess Ridges/Glacial Till – SE Iowa**

This region consists of soils developed on broad, convex ridges and upper side slopes. Some soils developed in chalk till dominate the steeper soils. The soils are dissected with many drainageways and steep streams.

**Fun Fact:** One third of the soils are in cropland, and the remainder of the land is pasture, woodland, and some oxbow wetlands remain.

**Loess Ridges/Glacial Till – SW Iowa**

This region consists of soils developed on broad, convex ridges and upper side slopes. Some soils developed in chalk till dominate the steeper soils. The soils are dissected with many drainageways and steep streams.

**Fun Fact:** As glaciers melted, strong winds blew the exposed soil and formed sand dunes.

**Shallow Loess over Glacial Till**

This region consists of soils developed in a mantle of loess. Most of these soils are in cropland, but some oxbow wetlands remain. Corn and soybeans are the major crops. Hence, the subsoil is composed of mostly loess, very deep, wind moved soils. Native vegetation of the upland is oak savanna.

**Fun Fact:** The northwestern Iowa loess is the thickest in the US.

**Shallow Loess over Glacial Till**

This region consists of soils developed in a mantle of loess. Most of these soils are in cropland, but some oxbow wetlands remain. Corn and soybeans are the major crops. Native vegetation of the upland is oak savanna.

**Fun Fact:** Iowa's greatest natural resource is loess, each possessing a unique native vegetation.