

NCSS Conference

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Acid Sulfate Soils

Quick Refresher

ST has two related diagnostic items

1. Sulfidic Materials

- Can be mineral or organic.
- Accumulate in saturated/brackish settings (like tidal marsh).
- Contain sulfur compounds (pyrite, iron monosulfides).
 - If allowed to oxidize, sulfuric acid is formed.

2. Sulfuric Horizon

- Results from the oxidation of sulfidic materials.
- Very low pH due to production of sulfuric acid.

Proposal for Revision

by Fanning and Rabenhorst

General Summary of Proposal

1. Background Text is updated to:
 - correct some small errors,
 - more accurately describe mineral species,
 - clarify concepts
2. Revise criteria to better reflect current knowledge.

Proposal for Revision by Fanning and Rabenhorst

Sulfidic Materials Proposed Changes

1. Incubation procedure
 - Recognize weekly moisten/drying cycle
 - Extend period from 8 to “16 weeks or longer...”
2. Allow 2nd way to meet sulfidic materials criteria
 - Materials with high S that do not reach low pH on incubation due to buffering, but can still produce acid drainage waters.
 - Mirrors criteria from WRB.

Proposal for Revision

by Fanning and Rabenhorst

Sulfuric Horizon Proposed Changes

1. Allow pH between 3.5 and 4.0 if sulfuric acid producing minerals are present in the material.
2. Delete color criteria because it has been shown to be inaccurate as relating to jarosite.