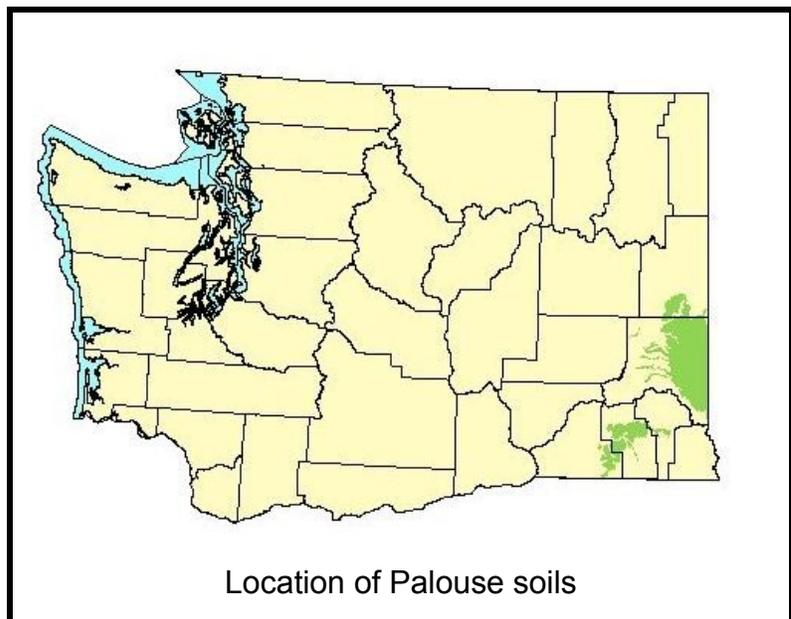


# PALOUSE SERIES



Palouse soils occur on south-facing slopes



# PALOUSE SERIES

## Land Resource Region B

**Parent material:** Wind-blown silt (loess) and small amounts of volcanic ash.

**Extent:** Extensive

**Climate:** Average annual precipitation is about 21 inches, and average annual soil temperature is about 48 degrees F. The climate is characterized by warm, dry summers and cool, moist winters.

**Depth:** 60 or more inches

**Drainage:** Well drained

**Average frost-free period:** 100 to 160 days

**Elevation:** 1,600 to 4,500 feet

**Soil order:** Mollisols - grassland soils that have a dark-colored surface layers and high fertility.

**Family classification:** Fine-silty, mixed, superactive, mesic, Pachic Ultic Haploxerolls

Palouse soils occur on hills in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. They are in Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Whitman and Spokane Counties, Washington. They are in Union and Umatilla Counties, Oregon. They are in Latah, Benewah, and Nez Perce Counties, Idaho.

**Uses:** They are used mainly for crop production. They produce small grains, peas, lentils, alfalfa, and some areas are used to produce grasses for hay and pasture. Natural vegetation is prairie grasses like Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass and bluegrass. Arrowleaf balsamroot, snowberry and wild rose are also common. Areas of natural vegetation are extremely scarce because of farming pressures.

**Management considerations:** Steep slopes and volcanic ash in surface layers make Palouse soils susceptible to water erosion.

The official soil series description is online at:

[https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD\\_Docs/P/PALOUSE.html](https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/P/PALOUSE.html)