Orovada soils are extensive in northern Nevada, where they have an extent of more than 360,000 acres. They are common soils on semiarid rangeland with sagebrush-grass plant communities. Orovada soils are arable when irrigated and are considered prime farmland. Alfalfa for hay and seed, winter wheat and barley, and grass for hay and pasture are the principal crops grown on these soils.

Orovada soils are well drained and formed in alluvium derived from mixed rock sources and in loess and volcanic ash. These soils typically occur in the Great Basin section of the Basin and Range physiographic province. The mean annual precipitation is about 8 inches, and the mean annual temperature is about 47 degrees F.

Orovada Soil Profile
Surface layer: light brownish gray sandy loam
Subsurface layer: light brownish gray loam
Subsoil: light gray fine sandy loam
Substratum - upper: light brownish gray very fine sandy loam with carbonates
Substratum - lower: pale brown silt loam with carbonates