

TECHNICAL NOTES

May 15, 1998

MO-1 Technical Note Number 2

Re: Classification - Soil Taxonomy

- Assigning of mineralogy classes is required for fragmental, pumiceous, and cindery particle-size and substitute classes of mineral soils.
- The strongly contrasting particle-size class ashy over clayey-skeletal is approved for use.
- Be aware of the term "aniso" for use in a soil with more than one pair of strongly contrasting particle-size classes within the control section. (Ref. page 592, first paragraph in Keys to Soil Taxonomy)
- The particle-size class "clayey" was redefined in the 7th edition of the Keys to Soil Taxonomy and now includes only those soils with 35 percent or more clay (30 percent in Vertisols) and are in a shallow family, or in a lithic, arenic, grossarenic, or a pergelic subgroup, or the layer is an element in a strongly contrasting particle-size class. This change is of particular importance as it relates to Ultisols. Ultisols with more than 35 percent clay in the particle-size control section and not shallow or in a lithic subgroup will now be defined as fine or very fine.
- New nomenclature suffix's approved for use include:
 - j - accumulation of jarosite
 - jj - evidence of cryoturbation
 - ff - dry permafrost
 - f - change from frozen soil to frozen soil or water
- New master horizon:
 - W - layer of water

This would be analogous to "R" in that it is not a water table in a mineral or organic soil but rather, it is non-soil. One could think of this layer of water as the material (layer of water) under a floating bog.