

HILO -- HAWAII STATE SOIL



Hilo Soil Profile

Surface layer: dark brown silty clay loam

Subsoil: dark reddish brown, dark grayish brown,
and dark brown silty clay loam

Hilo soils have historically been used for sugarcane crops. With the decline of the sugar industry, there has been a shift toward truck crops, such as ginger and taro; orchard crops, such as macadamia and papaya; and forestry. These soils cover about 14,500 acres and are considered prime agricultural land. The Hawaiian definition of the word "Hilo" is "first night of the full moon." Also, the word is the Polynesian term for "Navigator."

The Hilo series consists of very deep, moderately well drained soils that formed in many layers of volcanic ash with lesser amounts of dust from the deserts of central Asia. These dust layers are noticeable because their gray color contrasts with the dark brown and dark reddish brown subsoil formed in volcanic ash. There are several buried layers within the Hilo soil profile. Hilo soils occur on the uplands of the Mauna Kea volcano along the Hamakua Coast.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). *USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

