

Properties of Soil



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1. Percolation of water through the Soil: Percolation can be defined as the property of the soil by which it allows the flow of water through it. The rate at which water percolates or moves through soils may vary in different kind of soils. Some soils absorb water while others allow it to flow through them.

2. Moisture: Moisture is the amount of water that is present in the soil. Even a dry soil has some amount of moisture in the air. However, the clayey soil has the highest content of moisture.



3. Absorption: Every soil has a water absorption capacity which depends upon how porous the soil is. Clayey and loamy soils are most porous hence can retain water in large quantities. That is why crops can grow over these soils. Sandy soils, on the other hand, do not absorb water and hence do not support much vegetation.

4. Texture: The texture is the size of particles of the soil. Different kinds of soils have a different texture.

5. Colour: Different soils have different colors as well. This is because of the minerals and nutrients present in the soil. For instance, some soils are black in colour because of the presence of humus and minerals while some soils are red in colour because they have iron in large quantities in them.



6. pH of Soil: Soils can have different pH depending upon their acidic, basic or neutral nature. Based upon the pH different types of crops grow in the soil.

7. Air Content: Since soil is made up of particles of different sizes these particles can be loosely bound or tightly bound. The air often occupies the space in between these particles. This allows life to sustain in the soil such as microorganisms.