

Soil Profile



The soil consists of distinct layers which are also called **Horizons of the Soil**.

The **Soil Profile** is a vertical section of the soil which depicts all the layers of the soil. The layers of the soil can be seen if we dig deep through it like while creating a well or while laying the foundation of a building.

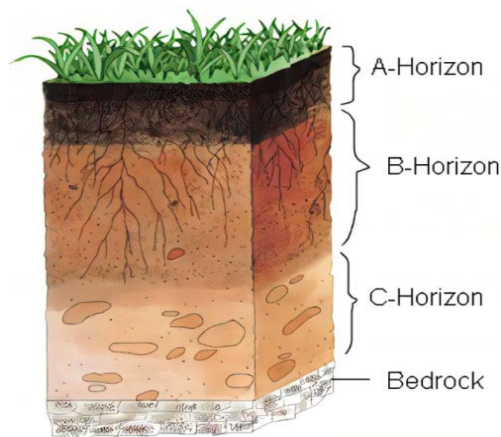
Humus: The decaying matter in the soil is called **Humus**.

Weathering: Soil is formed when rocks break down. This process is also called **Weathering**. The weathering of rocks takes place because of rains, flowing water, winds, temperature and climatic conditions of a place.

Parent Rock: The nature of the soil that is its texture and availability of minerals depends upon the rock from which it is formed. This rock is often called as the **Parent Rock**.



Layers of the Soil



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Horizon A

- This layer is also called the **topsoil**. It is visible to us.
- It contains large amounts of humus and minerals which makes it dark in colour.
- The soil is rich in nutrients because of the presence of humus.
- The topsoil has a soft texture and can retain water easily. That is why plants roots grow in the topsoil region.
- The topsoil is a home to many living organisms as well like insects, worms, beetles, rodents and moles.



Horizon B or the Middle Layer

- It is the next layer of the soil which does not contain much humus.
- The minerals are found in large quantities in this layer.
- This layer has a hard texture, light colour and is more compact than the topsoil.



Horizon C or Third Layer

The third layer of the soil consists of small rocks with cracks in them. These rocks are partly weathered.



Bedrock

- The last layer of the soil is called the Bedrock.
- It contains large pieces of rocks that are not weathered or exposed to any winds or water.
- Bedrock cannot be dug with the help of a spade. It is very hard in texture.