## Field Handbook for the Soils of Western Canada Section 5: Taxonomic Key for Canadian Soils April 2016

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This section draws very heavily on material from the following:

Soil Classification Working Group. 1998. The Canadian System of Soil Classification. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Research Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Publication 1646. NRC Research Press, Ottawa, Ontario.

This is available on-line at <a href="http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/taxa/cssc3/index.html">http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/taxa/cssc3/index.html</a>.

The material on Anthroposolic soils is drawn from:

Naeth, A., Archibald, H.A., Nemirsky, C.L., Leskiw, L.A., Brierley, A. J., Bock, M.D., VandenBygaart, A.J. and Chanasyk, D.S., 2012. Proposed classification for human modified soils in Canada: Anthroposolic order. Canadian Journal of Soil Science 92, 7-18.

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# HOW DO I CLASSIFY MY SOIL? USING THE KEY TO THE CANADIAN SYSTEM OF SOIL CLASSIFICATION:

- 1) Describe each layer in the pedon and assign each layer a complete horizon designation using the Visual Horizon keys.
- 2) Begin with the Key to Soil Orders. Begin with the first Order (Anthroposolic) and consider each order in sequence until you reach the first one that includes the diagnostic horizon that you have described. Go immediately to the page indicated (i.e., DO NOT CONTINUE TO USE THE SOIL ORDER KEY).
- 3) Consider each Great Group in sequence for the Order you have selected until you reach a great Group that includes the diagnostic horizons you have described. Go immediately to the page indicated (i.e., **DO NOT CONTINUE TO USE THE GREAT GROUP KEY**).
- 4) Consider each Subgroup in sequence for the Great Group that you have selected until you reach a subgroup that includes the diagnostic horizons that you have described.
- 5) Some features (e.g. salinity, secondary carbonate deposition, thin peat layers) are not identified at the subgroup level yet are important to highlight. These can be identified as phases in the CSSC (e.g. Orthic Black Chernozem, saline phase; Orthic Gleysol, peaty phase). Therefore you should check to see if the assignment of a specific phase is appropriate for your profile.

In some cases you will need the results of specific laboratory tests to be completed before a definitive taxonomic placement can be made. These tests are detailed in the Canadian System of Soil Classification 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.

#### KFY TO SOIL ORDERS

A. Soils that have been visibly disturbed by human activity and that have a D horizon  $\geq$  10 cm thick OR have had natural soil horizons removed (scalped) **ANTHROPOSOLIC ORDER** *Go to p. 9* 

- B. Other soils that have permafrost (z suffix) within 1 m of the surface or within 2 m if strongly cryoturbated (y suffix). **CRYOSOLIC ORDER** *Go to p. 9*
- C. Other soils that either have organic horizons (peat; more than 17% organic C by weight) that extend from the surface to one of the following:
  - 1. A depth of 60 cm or more if the surface layer is fibric material (Of). ......ORGANIC ORDER Go to p. 9
  - 2. A depth of 40 cm or more if the surface layer consists of mesic or humic material (Om or Oh) ......ORGANIC ORDER Go to p. 9
  - 3. A depth of more than 40 cm if composed of folic materials (L, F, and H), or at least 10 cm if a lithic contact or fragmental materials are present. Folic materials must be more than twice the thickness of a mineral soil layer if the mineral layer is less than 20 cm thick.

    ......ORGANIC ORDER Go to p. 9

#### OR

Have one or more mineral horizons or layers within 40 cm of the surface in addition to the organic horizons (O) as follows:

- 1. If a mineral horizon or layer thinner than 40 cm occurs at the surface, the underlying organic horizon or horizons must have a total thickness of at least 40 cm.

  ......ORGANIC ORDER Go to p. 9
- 2. If one or more mineral horizons or layers occur within 40 cm of the surface, the organic material must occupy more than 40 cm of the upper 80 cm of the control section .......ORGANIC ORDER Go to p. 9
- D. Other soils that have both a vertic (v) horizon and a slickenside (ss) horizon, the top of which occurs within 1 m of the mineral surface. ........................VERTISOLIC ORDER Go to p. 9

PODZOLIC B HORIZON: A Bf, Bh, Bfh, or Bhf horizon that meets the following criteria:

- 1. It is at least 10 cm thick.
- 2. Color criteria for the horizon:
  - a. Bf: Hues of 7.5YR or redder, or its hue must be 10YR near the upper boundary and become yellower with depth. When moist the chroma is higher than 3 or the value is 3 or less. It has 0.5-5% organic C.
  - b. Bhf Black colour due to more than 5% organic C. The black color of the organic matter can mask the red colour of the f horizon if present.
  - c. Bh Black colour due to more than 5% organic C.
- 3. The accumulation of amorphous material is indicated by brown to black coatings on some mineral grains or brown to black microaggregates.

4. There is a silty feel when the material is rubbed wet, unless it is cemented.

Podzolic B horizons also must meet specific laboratory criteria

F. Other soils that are saturated with water and under reducing conditions either continuously or during some period of the year as indicated by either:

	1.	The presence of a horizon with a g suffix (e.g. Aeg, Bg, Btg, Cg, Cgk and others) within 50
		cm of the mineral surface except if the Ah or Ap is greater than 50 cm thick; in this case
		the mineral horizon immediately beneath the A horizon has a g suffix.
		GLEYSOLIC ORDER Go to p. 9
	OR	
	2.	By direct measurements of the water table and the oxidation-reduction status
		GLEYSOLIC ORDER Go to p. 9
G.	Othe	er soils that have a solonetzic B horizon (i.e., a Bn or Bnt that meets the morphological
		for a Bn or Bnt horizon plus additional laboratory criteria).

H. Other soils that have a chernozemic A horizon (i.e., an Ah, Ap, or Ahe horizon that meet the additional criteria shown below) **AND** do not have a well-developed Ae horizon. **All** of the criteria for the Chernozemic A horizon must be met **AND ONE** of the criteria pertaining to Ae horizons must be met.

CHERNOZEMIC A HORIZON: A horizons (Ah, Ahe, Ap) that meet additional criteria:

......SOLONETZIC ORDER Go to p. 10

A Chernozemic A horizon must meet **ALL** of the following morphological characteristics:

- 1. It is at least 10 cm thick. If the A horizon is thinner than 10 cm, it must be dark enough to provide 10 cm of surface material that meets the color criteria given in 2 and 3 when mixed with the underlying horizon (e.g. by mixing a 6-cm Ap with 4 cm of the underlying horizon).
- 2. It has a color value darker than 5.5 dry and 3.5 moist, and its chroma is less than 3.5 moist.
- 3. It has a color value at least one Munsell unit darker than that of the IC horizon.
- 4. Uncultivated Ah horizons typically have a granular structure. Characteristically it has neither massive structure and hard consistence nor single- grained structure, when dry.
- 5. It is restricted to soils having a mean annual soil temperature of 0°C or higher and a soil moisture regime subclass of subhumid and drier. Because of these restrictions, Chernozems are only found in Western Canada, specifically in the Great Plains, Peace River area, and the interior of British Columbia (see the overview of the Chernozemic order for more information).
- 6. There are two additional chemical criteria that must be met as well.

As well as meeting all of the above,	the profile must meet one	of the following	criterion to be
classified as a Chernozemic soils:			

7.	No Ae horizon	CHERNOZEMIC ORDER Go to p	10
/ .	140 /10112011	Cricking Children Children Control of the p	. 10

8. A weakly expressed Ae horizon (Aej) with a dry color value lower than 5	
9. An Ae horizon thinner than an overlying Ah OR an overlying Ap horizon that does	
not appear to be eluviatedCHERNOZEMIC ORDER Go to p. 10	
10. An Ae horizon not more than 5 cm thick if the chernozemic A is an Ahe horizon.	
CHERNOZEMIC ORDER Go to p. 10	
I. Other soils that have a Bt horizon LUVISOLIC ORDER Go to p. 10	
J. Other soils that have either Bm, Btj, or Bfj horizons at least 5 cm thick OR a Bf horizon less	
than 10 cm in thicknessBRUNISOLIC ORDER Go to p. 10	
·	
K. Other soils	

## **KEY TO GREAT GROUPS**

### A. GREAT GROUPS OF THE ANTHROPOSOLIC ORDER

(see page <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b> for an explanation of the dominant material (layers Anthroposols)	) for
AA.Soil material contains 10% or greater artifacts (Dw) throughout the dominant material (layers) of the profileTechnic Anthroposol, p. 1	1.
AB. Soil material contains more than 17% organic carbon (Do) in the dominant material (layo of the profileCarbic Anthroposol, p	ers)
AC. Other Anthroposolic soilsSpolic Anthroposol, p.	
B. GREAT GROUPS OF THE CRYOSOLIC ORDER	
BA. Cryosolic soils that are formed primarily in organic materials and have permafrost within m of the surfaceOrganic Cryosol, p. 2	
BB. Other Cryosolic soils that are formed in mineral materials, have marked evidence of cryoturbation, and have permafrost within 2 m of the surfaceTurbic Cryosol, p. 1	2
BC. Other Cryosolic soils that are formed in mineral materials, do not have marked evidence cryoturbation, and have permafrost within 1 m of the surfaceStatic Cryosol, p. 1	of
C. GREAT GROUPS OF THE ORGANIC ORDER	
CA. Organic soils that are formed primarily in upland organic (L,F,H) materials, generally of forigin, and are rarely saturated with water Folisol, p. CB. Other Organic soils that have a dominantly fibric middle tier (i.e., formed in relatively undecomposed organic materials)	13
D. GREAT GROUPS OF THE VERTISOLIC ORDER	
DA. Vertisolic soils that have either a surface color value of $\geq 3.5$ dry if well to imperfectly drained or an Ah horizon <10 cm in thickness if poorly drainedVertisol, p. DB. Other Vertisolic soils that have either a surface color value of <3.5 dry if well to imperfect drained or an Ah horizon $\geq 10$ cm in thickness if poorly drained Humic Vertisol, p.	ctly
E. GREAT GROUPS OF THE PODZOLIC ORDER	
EA. Podzolic soils that have a Bh horizon ≥10 cm in thickness	15

### F. GREAT GROUPS OF THE GLEYSOLIC ORDER

FA. Gleysolic soils that have a Btg horizon and usually have an eluvial (Ae, Aeg, Aegj) horizon. Luvic Gleysol, p. 16

FB. Other Gleysolic soils that have either an Ah horizon ≥10 cm in thickness or an Ap horizon ≥15 cm in thickness and have at least 2.0% organic C in the surface horizon ...... Humic Gleysol, p. 16

FC. Other Gleysolic soils	Gleysol, p. 17
G. GREAT GROUPS OF THE SOLONETZIC ORDER	
GA. Solonetzic soils that have a slickenside horizon within Solonetz, p. 17	1 m of the mineral surface Vertic
GB. Other Solonetzic soils that have an Ae horizon ≥2 cm i horizon (disintegrating Bnt)	
GC. Other Solonetzic soils that have an Ae horizon ≥2 cm i GD. Other Solonetzic soils	n thickness Solodized Solonetz, p. 18
H. GREAT GROUPS OF THE CHERNOZEMIC ORDER	
HA. Chernozemic soils that have a surface color value of 4 dry	·
HB. Other Chernozemic soils that have a surface color values.  >1.5 dry	ue of 3.5-4.5 dry and a chroma usually Dark Brown Chernozem, p. 19
≤1.5 dryHD. Other Chernozemic soils that have a surface color value chroma usually ≤1.5 dry, and characteristics indicating elue associated with soils formed under forest vegetation	ue of 3.5-4.5 (3.5-5.0 for Ap) dry, a viation (e.g. Ahe, Aej, thin Ae)
I. GREAT GROUPS OF THE LUVISOLIC ORDER	
IA. Luvisolic soils that have a forest mull Ah horizon and a (i.e., mesic temperature class found in southern Ontario, s and eastern Vancouver Island)	southern Quebec, Fraser delta in B.C. Gray Brown Luvisol, p. 21
J. GREAT GROUPS OF THE BRUNISOLIC ORDER	
Note: Brunisolic soils with pH of ≥5.5 are most frequent in	landscapes underlain by sedimentary
rocks and those with pH of <5.5 are most frequent in lands	scapes underlain by igneous rocks.
JA. Brunisolic soils that have an Ah or Ap horizon ≥10 cm i CaCl <sub>2</sub> )	•
JB. Other Brunisolic soils that have either no Ah horizon on thickness and pH of ≥5.5 (0.01 M CaCl₂)	Eutric Brunisol, p. 23
CaCl <sub>2</sub> )	Sombric Brunisol, p. 23
JD. Other Brunisolic soils that have no Ah horizon or an Ah $<$ 5.5 (0.01 M CaCl $_2$ )	
K. GREAT GROUPS OF THE REGOSOLIC ORDER	
KA. Regosolic soils that have an Ah or Ap horizon ≥10 cm i KB. Other Regosolic soils	

## **KEY TO SUBGROUPS**

#### A. SUBGROUPS OF THE ANTHROPOSOLIC ORDER

Soils of the Anthroposolic order are unique in the Canadian System of Soil Classification insofar as successive subgroups are added to account for all layers described in the control section (see p. **Error! Bookmark not defined.** for the definition of the control section). It is (theoretically) possible to have a Terro Aquo Cryo Egeo Carbo Techno Spolo Cryo Spolic Anthoposol

Ordering conventions: Terro and Aquo are written first (if present); then the surface horizon subgroup (Egeo, Albo, or Fusco) is added, followed by any appropriate sub-surface layers in the sequence shown below.

## Step 1) Select one of the following three subgroups for surface horizon

Soils with a distinguishable surface layer that is < 10 cm thick, regardless of its organic carbon content, over another layer(s) of disturbed material Egeo
Soils with a surface layer that is $\geq$ 10 cm thick and has < 2% organic carbon. This low amount of organic carbon would normally account for its light colour
Soils with a surface layer that is ≥ 10 cm thick and has 2 to 17% organic carbon. This higher amount of organic carbon would normally account for its darker colour relative to the Albo subgroupFusco
Step 2) Select as many of the following subgroups that are appropriate for layers contained in the control section (see Section 4 for the definition of the control section):
Soils with a Do horizon ≥ 10 cm thick and which is not the dominant layer [not used with Carbic great group]
Soils with a technic layer (i.e., a Dw horizon) present ≥ 10 cm thick and which is not the dominant layer [not used with Technic great group]
Soils with a spolic layer (i.e., a D horizon with less than < 10% artifacts by volume and < 17% organic carbon by volume) that is ≥ 10 cm thick
Soils with ≥10 cm of original parent material present within the 120-cm control section indicating shallow disturbance
Soils with evidence of prolonged wetness in the soil profile, such as a water table or saturated soil in a layer, hydrophilic vegetation and particle size discontinuities that may result in perched water tables (Mottles and gleying are not necessarily diagnostic in the anthropogenically

disturbed environment as they may be legacies of the undisturbed soil). ...... Aquo

Soils with the presence of permafrost	C۲۰	y(	O
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## Step 3) The assignment of a phase is important in Anthroposols (see Visual Soil Key in Section 4 for more information)

#### **BA ORGANIC CRYOSOL**

BAA Organic Cryosols that have an ice layer >30 cm in thickness with the upper boundary within
1 m of the surface
BAB Other Organic Cryosols that have a mineral contact within 1 m of the surface and mainly
fibric organic material above the contact Terric Fibric Organic Cryosol
BAC Other Organic Cryosols that have a mineral contact within 1 m of the surface and mainly
mesic organic material above the contact Terric Mesic Organic Cryosol
BAD Other Organic Cryosols that have a mineral contact within 1 m of the surface and mainly
humic organic material above the contact
BAE Other Organic Cryosols in which the organic material is dominantly fibric below a depth of
40 cm Fibric Organic Cryosol
BAF Other Organic Cryosols in which the organic material is dominantly mesic below a depth of
40 cm Mesic Organic Cryosol
BAG Other Organic Cryosols in which the organic material is dominantly humic below a depth of
40 cm Humic Organic Cryosol
BB Turbic Cryosol
BBATurbic Cryosols that have a gleved layer similar to soils of the Glevsolic order

......Gleysolic Turbic Cryosol BBB Other Turbic Cryosols that are >15 cm in thickness, have at least one O horizon in the upper 1 m, and have a pH ≥5.5 in some or all of the B horizons ...... Histic Eutric Turbic Cryosol BBC Other Turbic Cryosols that are >15 cm in thickness, have at least one O horizon in the upper 1 m, and have a pH <5.5 in some or all of the B horizons ..................... Histic Dystric Turbic Cryosol BBD Other Turbic Cryosols that are >15 cm in thickness, have at least one O horizon in the upper 1 m, and have no B horizons ......Histic Regosolic Turbic Cryosol BBE Other Turbic Cryosols that have a Bm horizon ≥10 cm in thickness and a pH ≥5.5 in some or all of the B horizons ...... Brunisolic Eutric Turbic Cryosol BBF Other Turbic Cryosols that have a Bm horizon ≥10 cm in thickness and a pH <5.5 in some or all of the B horizons ...... Brunisolic Dystric Turbic Cryosol BBG Other Turbic Cryosols that have a Bm horizon <10 cm in thickness and a pH ≥5.5 in some or all of the B horizons ......Orthic Eutric Turbic Cryosol BBF Other Turbic Cryosols that have a Bm horizon <10 cm in thickness and a pH <5.5 in some or all of the B horizons ...... Orthic Dystric Turbic Cryosol BBG Other Turbic Cryosols ...... Regosolic Turbic Cryosol

BCA. Static Cryosols that have a gleyed layer similar to soils of the Gleysolic order
Gleysolic Static Cryosol
BCB. Other Static Cryosols that are >15 cm thick , have at least one O horizon in the upper 1 m,
and have a pH ≥5.5 in some or all of the B horizonsHistic Eutric Static Cryosol
BCC. Other Static Cryosols that are >15 cm thick, have at least one O horizon in the upper 1 m,
and have a pH <5.5 in some or all of the B horizons Histic Dystric Static Cryosol
BCD. Other Static Cryosols that are >15 cm in thickness, and have at least one O horizon in the
upper 1 m, and have no B horizons Histic Regosolic Static Cryosol
BCE. Other Static Cryosols that have an eluvial horizon and a Bty horizon ≥10 cm in thickness  Luvisolic Static Cryosol
BCF. Other Static Cryosols that have a Bm horizon ≥10 cm in thickness and a pH ≥5.5 in some or
all of the B horizons Brunisolic Eutric Static Cryosol
BCG. Other Static Cryosols that have a Bm horizon ≥10 cm in thickness and a pH<5.5 in some or
all of the B horizons Brunisolic Dystric Static Cryosol
BCH. Other Static Cryosols that have a Bm horizon <10 cm in thickness and a pH ≥5.5 in some or
•
all of the B horizons
BCI. Other Static Cryosols that have a Bm horizon <10 cm in thickness and a pH <5.5 in some or
all of the B horizonsOrthic Dystric Static Cryosol
BCJ. Other Static Cryosols
CA. FOLISOL
CAA. Folisols that have an O horizon >10 cm in thickness below the F or H horizons .
CAB. Other Folisols that have F or H horizons composed primarily of Woody materials
Lignic Folisol
CAC. Other Folisols that are composed primarily of moderately decomposed F horizon within the control section
CAD. Other Folisols that are composed primarily of well-decomposed H horizon within the control sectionHumic Folisol
CB. FIBRISOL
CBA. Fibrisols that have a hydric layerHydric Fibrisol
CBB. Other Fibrisols that have a terric layer at least 30 cm in thickness beneath the surface tier
and a humic layer >12 cm in thickness within the control section Terric Humic Fibrisol
CBC Other Fibrisols that have a terric layer at least 30 cm in thickness beneath the surface tier
and a mesic layer >25 cm in thickness within the control section Terric Mesic Fibrisol
CBD Other Fibrisols that have a terric layer at least 30 cm in thickness beneath the surface tier
CBE Other Fibrisols that have a limnic layer >5 cm in thickness beneath the surface tier
Limnic Fibrisol
CBF Other Fibrisols that have more than 5 cm combined thickness of cumulic layer or layers
beneath the surface tier
CBG Other Fibrisols that have a humic layer >12 cm in thickness in the middle or bottom tier
Humic Fibrisol

CBH Other Fibrisols that have a mesic layer >25 cm thick in the middle or bottom tier	ı
CBI Other Fibrisols	
CC MESISOL	
CCA Mesisols that have a hydric layer	
CCE Other Mesisols that have a limnic layer >5 cm in thickness beneath the surface tierLimnic Mesiso	, I
CCF Other Mesisols that have more than 5 cm combined thickness of cumulic layer or layers beneath the surface tier	1
CCH Other Mesisols that have a fibric layer >25 cm in thickness in the middle or bottom tier  Fibric Mesisol	
CCI Other Mesisols Typic Mesisol	
CD. Humisol	
CDA. Humisols that have a hydric layer	
CDB. Other Humisols that have a terric layer at least 30 cm in thickness beneath the surface tier and a fibric layer >12 cm in thickness within the control	
sectionTerric Fibric Humisol	
CDC. Other Humisols that have a terric layer at least 30 cm in thickness beneath the surface tier	
and a mesic layer >25 cm in thickness within the control sectionMesic Humisol CDD. Other Humisols that have a terric layer at least 30 cm in thickness beneath the surface tier	
CDE. Other Humisols that have a limnic layer >5 cm in thickness beneath the surface tier	
CDF. Other Humisols that have more than 5 cm combined thickness of cumulic layer or layers beneath the surface tier	
CDH. Other Humisols that have a mesic layer >25 cm in thickness in the middle or bottom tier	
CDI. Other Humisols	
DA. VERTISOL  DAA. Vertisols that have a horizon with a g suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface  Gleysolic Vertisol	

DAB. Other Vertisols that have a horizon with a gj suffix within	
surface	•
DAC. Other Vertisols	Ortnic vertisoi
CB. Humic Vertisol	
CBA. Humic Vertisols that have a horizon with a g suffix within	
CBB. Other Humic Vertisols that have a horizon with a gj suffix surface	x within 50 cm of the mineral soil
CBC. Other Humic Vertisols	•
DA. HUMIC PODZOL	
DAA. Humic Podzols that have an ortstein horizon at least 3 c	
DAB. Other Humic Podzols that have a placic horizon within the	he control section
DAC. Other Humic Podzols that have a duric horizon within th	e control section
DAD. Other Humic Podzols that have a fragipan within the con	ntrol section Fragic Humic Podzol
DAE. Other Humic Podzols	Orthic Humic Podzol
DB. FERRO-HUMIC PODZOL	
DBA. Ferro-Humic Podzols that have an ortstein horizon at least horizon with a gj suffix within 1 m of the mineral soil surface .	
DBB. Other Ferro-Humic Podzols that have an ortstein horizon	n at least 3 cm in thickness
DBC. Other Ferro-Humic Podzols that have a placic horizon wi	ithin the control section
DBD. Other Ferro-Humic Podzols that have a duric horizon wi	thin the control section
DBE. Other Ferro-Humic Podzols that have a fragipan within t	he control section
DBF. Other Ferro-Humic Podzols that have a Bt horizon with i	ts upper boundary more than 50
cm from the mineral soil surface	
DBG. Other Ferro-Humic Podzols that have an Ah horizon ≥10	
horizon with a gj suffix within 1 m of the mineral soil surface	
DBH. Other Ferro-Humic Podzols that have an Ah horizon ≥10	cm in thickness
DBI. Other Ferro-Humic Podzols that have a horizon with a gj surface	suffix within 1 m of the mineral soil
DBJ. Other Ferro-Humic Podzols	•

## DC. HUMO-FERRIC PODZOL DCA. Humo-Ferric Podzols that have an ortstein horizon at least 3 cm in thickness and have distinct to prominent mottles within 1 m of the mineral soil surface ...... DCB. Other Humo-Ferric Podzols that have an ortstein horizon at least 3 cm in thickness DCC. Other Humo-Ferric Podzols that have a placic horizon within the control section DCD. Other Humo-Ferric Podzols that have a duric horizon within the control section DCE. Other Humo-Ferric Podzols that have a fragipan within the control section . . . . . ...... Fragic Humo-Ferric Podzol DCF. Other Humo-Ferric Podzols that have a Bt horizon with its upper boundary more than 50 cm from the mineral soil surface ...... Luvisolic Humo-Ferric Podzol DCG. Other Humo-Ferric Podzols that have an Ah horizon ≥10 cm in thickness and distinct to prominent mottles within 1 m of the mineral soil surface DCH. Other Humo-Ferric Podzols that have an Ah horizon ≥10 cm in thickness ...... DCI. Other Humo-Ferric Podzols that have distinct to prominent mottles within 1 m of the mineral soil surface ......Gleved Humo-Ferric Podzol DCJ. Other Humo-Ferric Podzols ...... Orthic Humo-Ferric Podzol EA. LUVIC GLEYSOL EAA. Luvic Gleysols that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mineral soil surface EAB. Other Luvic Gleysols that have a solonetzic B horizon .. Solonetzic Luvic Gleysol EAC. Other Luvic Gleysols that have a fragipan within or below the Btg horizon . . . . . . .....Fragic Luvic Gleysol EAD. Other Luvic Gleysols that have a mineral-organic surface horizon that meets the requirements of the Ah or Ap horizon of Humic Gleysols ......Humic Luvic Gleysol EAE. Other Luvic Gleysols that have either a Bgf horizon ≥10 cm in thickness, as well as a Btg horizon, or a Btgf horizon ......Fera Luvic Gleysol EAF. Other Luvic Gleysols ...... Orthic Luvic Gleysol EB. HUMIC GLEYSOL EBA. Humic Gleysols that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mineral soil surface . . . . . . ......Vertic Humic Gleysol EBB. Other Humic Gleysols that have a solonetzic B horizon EBC. Other Humic Gleysols that have a Bgf horizon ≥10 cm in thickness ...... ...... Fera Humic Gleysol EBD. Other Humic Gleysols that lack a B horizon ≥10 cm in thickness ............ Rego Humic Gleysol EBE. Other Humic Gleysols ......Orthic Humic Gleysol

EC. GLEYSOL
ECA. Gleysols that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mineral soil surface .
Vertic Gleysol
ECB. Other Gleysols that have a solonetzic B horizon Solonetzic Gleysol
ECC. Other Gleysols that have a Bgf horizon ≥10 cm in thickness Fera Gleysol
ECD. Other Gleysols that lack a B horizon ≥10 cm in thickness Rego Gleysol
ECE. Other GleysolsOrthic Gleysol
FA. VERTIC SOLONETZ
FAA. Vertic Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry, a chroma usually >1.5 dry, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
FAB. Other Vertic Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry and
a chroma usually >1.5 dryBrown Vertic Solonetz
FAC. Other Vertic Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5 dry,
a chroma usually >1.5 dry, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil
surfaceGleyed Dark Brown Vertic Solonetz
FAD. Other Vertic Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5 dry
and a chroma usually > 1.5 dryDark Brown Vertic Solonetz
FAE. Other Vertic Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value <3.5 dry, a
chroma usually <1.5 dry, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil
surface
FAF. Other Vertic Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value <3.5 dry and a
chroma usually >1.5 dryBlack Vertic Solonetz
FB. SOLOD
FBA. Solods that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry, a chroma usually
>1.5, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
Gleyed Brown Solod
FBB. Other Solods that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry and a chroma
usually >1.5 Brown Solod
FBC. Other Solods that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5 dry, a
chroma usually >1.5, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface .
Gleyed Dark Brown Solod
FBD. Other Solods that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5 dry and a
chroma usually >1.5
FBE. Other Solods that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value <3.5 dry, a chroma
usually >1.5, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
FBF. Other Solods that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value <3.5 dry and a chroma
usually >1.5
FBG. Other Solods that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5 dry, a
chroma usually <2, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil
surface

FBH. Other Solods that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5 dry and a
chroma usually <2
FBI. Other Solods that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry, a chroma
usually <2, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil
surface
FBJ. Other Solods that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry and a chroma
usually <2 Gray Solod
FC. SOLODIZED SOLONETZ
FCA. Solodized Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry, a chroma usually >1.5, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
FCB. Other Solodized Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry
and a chroma usually >1.5Brown Solodized Solonetz
FCC. Other Solodized Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5
dry, a chroma usually >1.5, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surfaceGleyed Dark Brown Solodized Solonetz
FCD. Other Solodized Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5 dry and a chroma usually >1.5 Dark Brown Solodized Solonetz
FCE. Other Solodized Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value <3.5 dry, a
chroma usually >1.5, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
FCF. Other Solodized Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with
a color value <3.5 dry and a chroma usually >1 Black Solodized Solonetz
FCG. Other Solodized Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5
dry, a chroma usually <2, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
FCH. Other Solodized Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5
dry and a chroma usually <2
FCI. Other Solodized Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry, a
chroma usually <2, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil
surface Gleyed Gray Solodized Solonetz
FCJ. Other Solodized Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry
and a chroma usually <2 Gray Solodized Solonetz
FD. Solonetz
FDA. Solonetzs that have a strongly alkaline A horizon with pH (H <sub>2</sub> O) ~8.5 Alkaline Solonetz
FDB. Other Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry, a chroma
usually >1.5, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
FDC. Other Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value >4.5 dry and a
chroma usually >1.5 or an exposed solonetzic B horizon Brown Solonetz
FDD. Other Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5 dry, a
chroma usually >1.5, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface.
Gloved Dark Prown Solonetz

FDE. Other Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value of 3.5-4.5 dry and a chroma usually >1.5 or an exposed solonetzic B horizon
FDG. Other Solonetzs that have an Ah, Ahe, or Ap horizon with a color value <3.5 dry and a chroma usually >1.5
GA. Brown Chernozem
GAA. Brown Chernozems that have a slickenside horizon (ss) within 1 m of the mineral soil surface and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface  Gleyed Vertic Brown Chernozem
GAB. Other Brown Chernozems that have a slickenside horizon (ss) within 1 m of the mineral soil surface
GAC. Other Brown Chernozems that have a Bnj, Bnjtj, or Btnj horizon and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
GAD. Other Brown Chernozems that have a Bnj, Bnjtj, or Btnj HorizonSolonetzic Brown Chernozem
GAE. Other Brown Chernozems that have an eluvial horizon or horizons (Ahe, Ae, or Aej) at least 2 cm in thickness, usually underlain by a Btj or Bt horizon, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
GAH. Other Brown Chernozems that have a Bmk horizon at least 5 cm in thickness
GAI. Other Brown Chernozems that either lack a B horizon or have a B horizon <5 cm in thickness and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
GAJ. Other Brown Chernozems that either lack a B horizon or have a B horizon <5 cm in thickness
GAK. Other Brown Chernozems that have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
GAL. Other Brown Chernozems
GB. Dark Brown Chernozem
GBA. Dark Brown Chernozems that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mineral soil surface and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
GBB. Other Dark Brown Chernozems that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mineral soil surface Vertic Dark Brown Chernozem

GBC. Other Dark Brown Chernozems that have a Bnj, Bnjtj, or Btnj horizon and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
GBD. Other Dark Brown Chernozems that have a Bnj, Bnjtj, or Btnj horizon
GBE. Other Dark Brown Chernozems that have an eluvial horizon or horizons (Ahe, Ae, or Aej) at least 2 cm in thickness, usually underlain by a Btj or Bt horizon, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface Gleyed Eluviated Dark Brown Chernozem GBF. Other Dark Brown Chernozems that have an eluvial horizon or horizons (Ahe, Ae, or Aej) at least 2 cm in thickness, usually underlain by a Btj or Bt horizon Eluviated Dark Brown Chernozem
GBG. Other Dark Brown Chernozems that have a Bmk horizon at least 5 cm in thickness and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface Gleyed Calcareous Dark Brown Chernozem
GBH. Other Dark Brown Chernozems that have a Bmk horizon at least 5 cm in thickness
GBI. Other Dark Brown Chernozems that either lack a B horizon or have a B horizon <5 cm in thickness and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
GBJ. Other Dark Brown Chernozems that either lack a B horizon or have a B horizon <5 cm in thickness
GBK. Other Dark Brown Chernozems that have a horizon with a gj suffix mottles within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
GBL. Other Dark Brown Chernozems Orthic Dark Brown Chernozem
GC. Black Chernozem
GCA. Black Chernozems that have a slickenside (ss) horizon within 1 m of the mineral soil surface and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
GCB. Other Black Chernozems that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mineral soil surface
GCC. Other Black Chernozems that have a Bnj, Bnjtj, or Btnj horizon and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
Solonetzic Black Chernozem GCE. Other Black Chernozems that have an eluvial horizon or horizons (Ahe, Ae, or Aej) at least 2 cm in thickness, usually underlain by a Btj or Bt horizon, and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
GCH. Other Black Chernozems that have a Bmk horizon at least 5 cm in thickness

act. Other Black Chernozems that lack a B norizon or have a B norizon <5 cm in thickness ave a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface	
Gleyed Rego Black Cher	
GCJ. Other Black Chernozems that lack a B horizon or have a B horizon <5 cm in thickness	
CK. Other Black Chernozems that have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mine oil surface	eral
CL. Other Black Chernozems Orthic Black Cher	
GD. Dark Gray Chernozem	
DA. Dark Gray Chernozems that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mineral soil urface and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface	
DB. Other Dark Gray Chernozems that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mine urfaceVertic Dark Gray Cher	ral soil
DC. Other Dark Gray Chernozems that have a Bnj, Bnjtj, or Btnj horizon and have a horizo	on
vith a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surfaceGleyed Solonetzic Dark Gray Cher GDD. Other Dark Gray Chernozems that have a Bnj, Bnjtj, or Btnj horizon 	
DE. Other Dark Gray Chernozems that have a Bmk horizon at least 5 cm in thickness and	
orizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface	
DF. Other Dark Gray Chernozems that have a Bmk horizon at least 5 cm in thickness	
GDG. Other Dark Gray Chernozems that either lack a B horizon or have a B horizon <5 cm	in
hickness and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface	
Gleyed Rego Dark Gray Cherno	
6DH. Other Dark Gray Chernozems that either lack a B horizon or have a B horizon <5 cm	
hickness Rego Dark Gray Cherno iDI. Other Dark Gray Chernozems that have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the	ozem
nineral soil surface	em
GDJ. Other Dark Gray Chernozems Orthic Dark Gray Chernoz	
IA. Gray Brown Luvisol	
IAA. Gray Brown Luvisols that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mineral soil su	rface
nd have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface 	uvisol
IAB. Other Gray Brown Luvisols that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mineral urfaceVertic Gray Brown Lu	
IAC. Other Gray Brown Luvisols that have a Podzolic B horizon ≥10 cm in thickness in the	upper
olum, a Bt horizon with its upper boundary within 50 cm from the mineral soil surface, a	
ither have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface or a horizon suffix at depths of 50-100 cm	

HAD. Other Gray Brown Luvisols that have a Podzolic B horizon ≥10 cm in thickness in the upper solum and a Bt horizon with its upper boundary within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
HAE. Other Gray Brown Luvisols that have in the upper solum either a Bm horizon 25 cm in thickness with a chroma ≥3, or a Bf horizon <10 cm in thickness that does not extend below 15 cm of the mineral soil surface, and either have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface or a horizon with a g suffix at depths of 50-100 cm
HAF. Other Gray Brown Luvisols that have in the upper solum either a Bm horizon ≥5 cm in thickness with a chroma ≥3, or a Bf horizon <10 cm in thickness that does not extend below 15 cm of the mineral soil surface
HB. Gray Luvisol
HBA. Gray Luvisols that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mineral soil surface and have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
HBB. Other Gray Luvisols that have a slickenside horizon within 1 m of the mineral soil surface
HBC. Other Gray Luvisols that have a fragipan either within or below the Bt horizon and have either distinct mottles within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface or a horizon with a g suffix at depths of 50-100 cm
HBD. Other Gray Luvisols that have a fragipan either within or below the Bt horizonFragic Gray Luvisol
HBE. Other Gray Luvisols that have a Podzolic B horizon ≥10 cm in thickness in the upper solum, a Bt horizon with its upper boundary within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface, and either distinct mottles within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface or a horizon with a g suffix at depths of 50-100 cm
HBF. Other Gray Luvisols that have a Podzolic B horizon ≥10 cm in thickness in the upper solum and a Bt horizon with its upper boundary within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface
HBG. Other Gray Luvisols that have an Ah or Ahe horizon 25 cm in thickness and have either a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface or a horizon with a g suffix at depths of 50-100 cm
HBI. Other Gray Luvisols that have a Btnj horizon and either distinct mottles within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface or a horizon with a g suffix at depths of 50-100 cm
HBJ. Other Gray Luvisols that have a Btnj horizon

HBL. Other Gray Luvisols that have in the upper solum either a Bm with a chroma ≥3, or a Bf horizon <10 cm in thickness that does no mineral soil surface	t extend below 15 cm of the Brunisolic Gray Luvisol x within 50 cm of the mineral Gleyed Gray Luvisol
IA. Melanic Brunisol	
IAA. Melanic Brunisols that have an Ae or Aej horizon ≥2 cm in thich horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface or a depths of 50-100 cm	a horizon with a g suffix at ed Eluviated Melanic Brunisol in thickness
IAC. Other Melanic Brunisols that have either a horizon with a gj sumineral soil surface or a horizon with a g suffix at depths of 50-100	uffix within 50 cm of the
IAD. Other Melanic Brunisols	•
IB. EUTRIC BRUNISOL	
IBA. Eutric Brunisols that have an Ae or Aej horizon ≥2 cm in thickr with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface or a horizor 50-100 cm	n with a g suffix at depths of
IBB. Other Eutric Brunisols that have an Ae or Aej horizon ≥2 cm in	
IBC. Other Eutric Brunisols that have either a horizon with a gj suffisoil surface or a horizon with a g suffix at depths of 50-100 cm IBD. Other Eutric Brunisols	ix within 50 cm of the mineral Gleyed Eutric Brunisol
IC. SOMBRIC BRUNISOL	
ICA. Sombric Brunisols that have a duric horizon within the control	
ICB. Other Sombric Brunisols that have an Ae or Aej horizon ≥2 cm horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface or a depths of 50-100 cmGley ICB. Other Sombric Brunisols that have an Ae or Aej horizon ≥2 cm	in thickness and have either a a horizon with a g suffix at ed Eluviated Sombric Brunisol
	Eluviated Sombric Brunisol
ICC. Other Sombric Brunisols that have either a horizon with a gj su mineral soil surface or a horizon with a g suffix at depths of 50-100	cm
ICD. Other Sombric Brunisols	

## ID. DYSTRIC BRUNISOL

IDA. Dystric Brunisols that have a duric horizon within the control section . Duric Dystric Brunisol

IDB. Other Dystric Brunisols that have an Ae or Aej horizon ≥2 cm in horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface or a depths of 50-100 cm	horizon with a g suffix at
IDC. Other Dystric Brunisols that have an Ae or Aej horizon $\geq$ 2 cm in	
IDD. Other Dystric Brunisols that have either a horizon with a gj suff mineral soil surface or a horizon with a g suffix at depths of 50-100 c	ix within 50 cm of the
	Gleyed Dystric Brunisol
IDE. Other Dystric Brunisols	Orthic Dystric Brunisol
JA. Humic Regosol	
JAA. Humic Regosols that either have layers below the Ah horizon are or more units, or have organic matter contents that vary irregularly horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface Gle JAB. Other Humic Regosols that either have layers below the Ah hor by one or more units, or have organic matter contents that vary irre	with depth and have a yed Cumulic Humic Regosol izon and vary in color value
	_
JAC. Other Humic Regosols that have a horizon with a gj suffix within surface	
JAD. Other Humic Regosols	Orthic Humic Regosol
JB. Regosol	
JBA. Regosols that either have layers below the Ah horizon and vary more units, or have organic matter contents that vary irregularly wit a gj suffix within 50 cm of the mineral soil surface JBB. Other Regosols that either have layers below the Ah horizon an or more units, or have organic matter contents that vary irregularly	th depth and a horizon with Gleyed Cumulic Regosol d vary in color value by one with depth
JBC. Other Regosols that have a horizon with a gj suffix within 50 cm	of the mineral soil surface .
JBD. Other Regosols	, .

## **COMMON PHASES FOR CANADIAN SOILS**

## MINERAL SOILS

Secondary carbonates in A or B horizon ((e.g. Ahca, Bca)
Primary or secondary salts in A, B, or C horizons (e.g. Ahsa, Bms, Cks)Saline phase
Physical disruption (u suffix) in A, B, or C horizonTurbic phase
Volcanic ash layer presentAndic phase
Surface horizon of 15—40 cm of folic material presentFolic phase
Surface horizon of 15—60 cm of fibric organic material or 15—40 cm of mesic or humic material presentPeaty phase
A non-permafrost soil with one or more cryoturbated layersCryoturbated phase
Any non-cryoturbated mineral or organic soil with permafrost below 1 m depth or a cryoturbated mineral soil with permafrost below 2 m depth

## ANTHROPIC SOILS

The assignment of phases for Anthroposols can provide important information to end users. See the Visual Soil Key for Anthropic horizons for more detail.