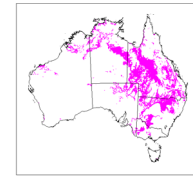


VERTOSOLS: Shrink and swell clay soils



- Clay soils that shrink and swell, and crack as the soil dries.
- Australia has the largest area and greatest variety of Vertosols, including deep forms (up to 6 m or more).
- Largest single area occurs in the arid and semi-arid interior of the continent.
- Used for grazing of native and improved pastures, extensive dryland agriculture where rainfall is adequate and irrigated agriculture (wheat, sorghum, cotton and oilseeds).
- Problems of water entry are usually related to tillage practices and adverse soil physical conditions at least partly induced by high sodium in the upper part of many profiles.

