

## SANDY LOAM OVER RED CLAY

**General Description:** *Sandy loam with a pale coloured A2 layer over a well structured red clay, calcareous with depth*

**Landform:** Gently undulating rises.

**Substrate:** Veneer of calcified clay over calcrete.

**Vegetation:** Euc. cneorifolia / Euc. diversifolia.



<b>Type Site:</b>	Site No.:	CK019	1:50,000 mapsheet:	6426-4 (Kingscote)
	Hundred:	Haines	Easting:	745950
	Section:	233	Northing:	6033200
	Sampling date:	25/5/95	Annual rainfall:	540 mm average

Crest of rise, 1.5% slope. Firm surface with 2-10% calcrete (60-200 mm).

### Soil Description:

Depth (cm)	Description
0-9	Very dark greyish brown soft massive fine sandy loam. Abrupt to:
9-14	Pale brown loose loamy fine sand.
14-25	Yellowish red hard medium heavy clay with strong coarse angular blocky structure. Clear to:
25-45	Yellowish red and olive brown hard medium heavy clay with moderate coarse angular blocky structure. Clear to:
45-60	Light olive brown very hard medium heavy clay with weak coarse prismatic structure. Clear to:
60-110	Pale yellow and dark brown firm highly calcareous light medium clay with more than 50% fine carbonate segregations and 10-20% calcrete fragments. Clear to:
110-130	Calcrete.



**Classification:** Mottled, Hypercalcic, Red Chromosol; medium, slightly gravelly, loamy / clayey, deep



## Summary of Properties

**Drainage:** Moderately well drained. Subsoil clay perches water, saturating the upper profile for up to a week following heavy or prolonged rainfall.

**Fertility:** Inherent fertility is moderate, as indicated by the exchangeable cation data. Surface nutrient retention capacity relies on organic matter. Concentrations of all tested elements are adequate at the sampling site.

**pH:** Neutral to slightly acidic at the surface, alkaline in the lower subsoil.

**Rooting depth:** 110 cm in pit.

### Barriers to root growth:

**Physical:** Clayey subsoil restricts root growth to some extent. Calcrete at 110 cm effectively prevents deeper root growth.

**Chemical:** High subsoil aluminium levels, and possibly subsoil trace element deficiencies prevent optimal root growth.

**Waterholding capacity:** Approximately 110-120 mm in the rootzone.

**Seedling emergence:** Satisfactory, provided that surface condition is maintained.

**Workability:** Firm surface is easily worked.

### Erosion Potential:

**Water:** Low.

**Wind:** Low.

## Laboratory Data

Depth cm	pH H <sub>2</sub> O	pH CaCl <sub>2</sub>	CO <sub>3</sub> %	EC1:5 dS/m	ECe dS/m	Org.C %	Avail. P mg/kg	Avail. K mg/kg	SO <sub>4</sub> mg/kg	Boron mg/kg	Trace Elements mg/kg (DTPA)			CEC cmol (+)/kg	Exchangeable Cations cmol(+)/kg				ESP	Ext Al mg/kg	React Fe mg/kg
											Cu	Mn	Zn		Ca	Mg	Na	K			
Paddock	6.7	6.0	<1	0.13	1.0	2.2	36	260	7.8	1.6	0.69	14	1.5	5.8	5.69	1.00	0.20	0.68	3.4	<1	1000
											*1.1	-	*1.7								
0-9	6.4	5.6	<1	0.09	0.5	2.3	8	220	6.5	1.2	-	-	-	9.9	7.26	1.36	0.24	0.50	2.4	<1	723
9-14	6.2	5.4	0	0.09	0.6	1.3	3	160	7.9	1.2	-	-	-	9.1	6.90	1.41	0.27	0.43	3.0	<1	641
14-25	6.7	6.0	1	0.13	0.4	1.1	2	540	4.8	1.4	-	-	-	29.5	21.6	4.58	0.78	1.71	2.6	1.9	980
25-45	7.0	6.2	2	0.13	0.4	0.7	2	610	4.5	0.9	-	-	-	34.7	24.9	4.35	0.94	1.98	2.7	32	1237
45-60	8.0	7.4	5	0.30	0.4	0.5	2	660	5.4	0.2	-	-	-	40.5	32.9	3.74	1.05	2.16	2.6	8.0	908
60-110	8.5	7.8	6	0.33	1.1	0.6	2	330	12	0.3	-	-	-	23.2	20.3	2.52	1.36	0.85	5.9	1.0	552
110-130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Note:** Paddock sample bulked from cores (0-10 cm) taken around the pit.

\* EDTA trace element analyses for paddock sample.

CEC (cation exchange capacity) is a measure of the soil's capacity to store and release major nutrient elements.

ESP (exchangeable sodium percentage) is derived by dividing the exchangeable sodium value by the CEC.

**Further information:** [DEWNR Soil and Land Program](#)

