

Site code¹ BD1



Red volcanic soils near Dunnstown

Location Dunnstown
Landform Gently undulating rises
Geology Quaternary basalt
Element Hillslope
Slope 8–12%

Horizon	Depth (cm)	Description
A1	0–46	Dark reddish brown (5YR3/2); clay loam; strong structure; friable; pH 6.0; gradual boundary to:
B2	46–100+	Dark reddish brown (5YR3/3); light clay; strong structure; friable; pH 7.0.

Management considerations

This soil is suitable for growing almost any temperate crop, given adequate water. These soils are also used for growing cereals, oil seeds, peas, potatoes, fodder crops, pastures and lucerne. Several successive crops can be grown with little deterioration in soil structure or fertility.

The good physical structure makes this soil ideal for irrigation, and the good drainage results in excellent winter growth of crops and pastures. However, this soil does dry out rather more quickly than grey soils and, as a result, spring growth finishes a little earlier than on grey soils. Because of this, some perennial pasture species (especially white clover and perennial ryegrass) may not persist well without irrigation. Subterranean clover and lucerne grow excellently on this soil.



Melanic, Eutrophic, Red Ferrosol

¹ Source: Clarkson T (unpublished) Soils collected in the Ballarat district. DNRE