Site code[1] **BD4**

Red volcanic soils on gently undulating rises

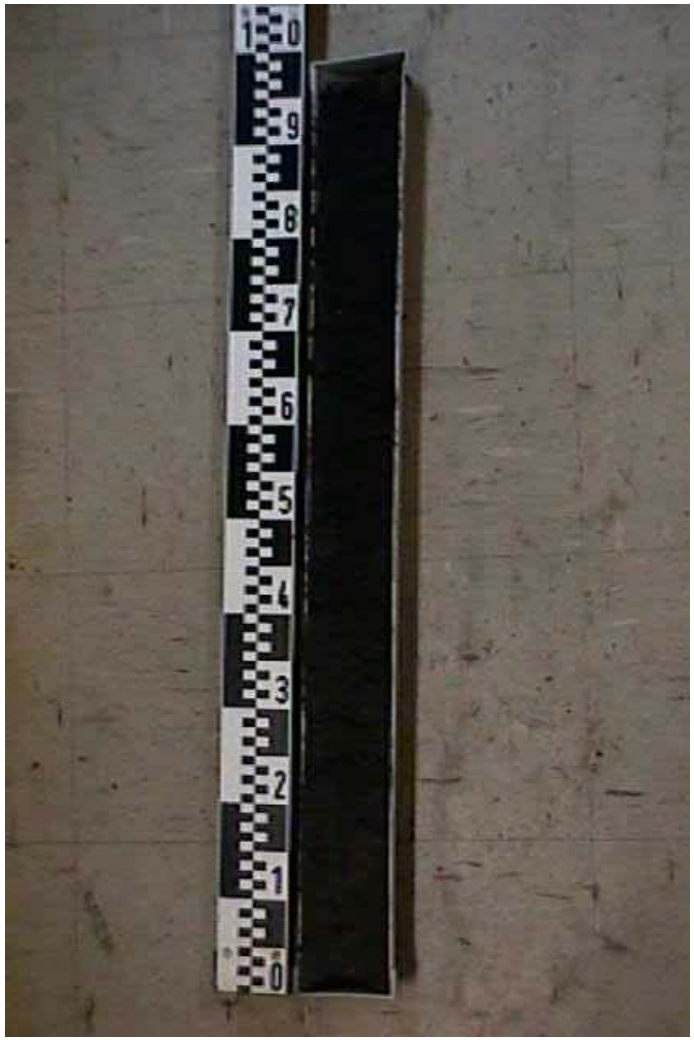
Location Dunnstown

Landform Gently undulating rises

Geology Quaternary basalt

Element Hillslope

Slope 3–6%



Haplic, Eutrophic, Red Ferrosol

Horizon	Depth (cm)	Description
A1	0–33	Dark reddish brown (5YR3/4); clay loam; strong structure; friable; pH 5.5; diffuse boundary to:
B2	33–82	Dark reddish brown (5YR3/3); medium clay; moderate structure; friable; pH 7.0.

Management considerations

This soil is suitable for growing almost any temperate crop, given adequate water, but in the district is 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.

[1] Source: Clarkson T (unpublished) Soils collected in the Ballarat district.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

Analytical data[2]

Site BD4	Sample depth	pH		EC	NaCl	Ex Ca	Ex Mg	Ex K	Ex Na	Ex Al	Ex Acidity	FC –10kPa	PWP –1500kPa	KS	FS	Z	C
Horizon	cm	H_2O	$CaCl_2$	dS/m	%	$cmol_c/kg$	$cmol_c/kg$	$cmol_c/kg$	$cmol_c/kg$	mg/kg	$cmol_c/kg$	%	%	%	%	%	%
A1	0–10	6.0	5.3	0.10	N/R	7.3	2.4	0.34	0.35	<10	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R

[2] Source: Government of Victoria State Chemistry Laboratory.