Site code¹

Location

Weerite (Princes Highway), Camperdown district, south-west Victoria

Landform

Gently undulating basalt plains

Geology

Quaternary Newer Volcanics: tuff rings, pyroclastic base surge and fall deposits consisting of ash, lapilli, scoria; well bedded and sorted, moderately consolidated

Element Flat

Profile morphology

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Horizon	Depth (cm)	Description						
A1	0–25	Very dark greyish brown (10YR3/2); clay loam; strong coarse granular structure; weak consistence (moderately moist); sharp boundary to:						
B21	25–50	Very dark grey (10YR3/1) with brown (10YR4/6) mottles; medium clay; strong coarse blocky structure; gradual boundary to:						
B22	50–65	Very dark greyish brown (10YR3/2) with brown (10YR4/6) mottles; heavy clay; strong coarse blocky structure; boundary to:						
B23	65+	Dark greyish brown (2.5Y4/2); heavy clay; strong coarse blocky structure.						

ASC: Melanic, Mottled-Subnatric, Black Sodosol

Analytical data²

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Site MM309	Sample depth	pН		EC	NaCl	Ex Ca	Ex Mg	Ex K	Ex Na	Ex Al	Ex acidity
Horizon	cm	H ₂ O	CaCl ₂	dS/m	%	cmolc/kg	cmolc/kg	cmolc/kg	cmolc/kg	mg/kg	cmolc/kg
A1	0–25	5.5	N/R	0.08	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
B21	25–50	6.1	N/R	0.08	N/R	7.3	13	0.38	1.8	N/R	6.9
B22	50–65	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
B23	65+	7.2	N/R	0.11	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R

Site MM309	Sample	FC	PWP	KS	FS	Z	С	Org C	Bulk
	depth	(-10kPa)	(-1500kPa)						density
Horizon	cm	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	t m-3
A1	0–25	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
B21	25-50	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
B22	50-65	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
B23	65+	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R

Management considerations

Strong texture contrast between the surface soil and the subsoil is a very important soil feature. This can have a major effect by reducing and/or redirecting the internal drainage and restricting root growth beyond the upper horizons. Options include reduced tillage, improving organic matter content and altering the subsoil through artificial drainage (ripping, mole drainage) and/or chemical amelioration (gypsum) to improve structure.

Mottled subsoils are common and are an indication of periodic waterlogging, particularly if the mottles are pale (low oxygen conditions). Some brighter mottling may be due to past soil mixing and clay alluviation. Improved drainage, with the application of gypsum for sodic subsoils may be beneficial.

¹ Source: Maher JM, Martin JJ 1987 Soils and landforms of south-western Victoria. Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. Research Report No. 40.

² Source: Government of Victoria, State Chemistry Laboratory.