

Site Code ¹ SW96



General landscape view from SW96

Location Steiglitz road, north west of junction with Geelong-Ballan road
Landform Undulating rises
Geology Quaternary Volcanics: *basalt*
Element Upper slope
Slope 3%
Aspect West



Vertic (& Sodic), Hypercalcic, Black DERMOSOL

Horizon	Depth (cm)	Description
Ap	0-15	Greyish brown (10YR5/2 moist); loam; hardsetting; pH 5.6; gradual boundary to:
B21tg	15-40/70	Very dark grey (10YR3/1 moist) to greyish brown (2.5Y5/2 moist); fine to medium yellowish brown (10YR5/8 moist) mottles in centre of peds; mottles increase with depth; light clay; medium angular blocky structure; some slickensides (<100 mm); pH 8.1 clear boundary to:
B22k/R	40/70+	Calcareous clay and rock matrix; basalt ranging from massive, fractured to rounded.

Management considerations

This shallow rocky soil is a feature of many parts of the Victorian Volcanic Plain. The hard-setting surface soil can form surface seals when left bare (e.g. when cultivated or over grazed) which reduce infiltration and encourage surface runoff. The sodic clay subsoil is dispersive and has high shrink-swell behaviour which can restrict water movement through the profile. This soil is prone to waterlogging. Acidity is an issue in the topsoil.

Analytical data²

Site SW#96	Sample depth cm	pH		EC dS/m	NaCl %	Ex Ca cmolc/kg	Ex Mg cmolc/kg	Ex K cmolc/kg	Ex Na cmolc/kg	Ex Al mg/kg	Ex Acidity cmolc/kg	FC -10kPa %	PWP -1500kPa %	KS %	FS %	Z %	C %
		H ₂ O	CaCl ₂														
A	0-15	5.6	4.9	0.15	N/R	5.8	5	1.1	0.59	<10	12	22.8	12.4	21.2	36.7	10.5	27.5
Btg	25-40	8.1	7.1	0.14	N/R	12	12	0.74	1.8	N/R	N/R	40	21.3	16.1	26.6	9	42

¹ Source: MacEwan & Imhof, South West Gas Pipeline Soil Assessment 1999. (in preparation)

² Source: Government of Victoria State Chemistry Laboratory.