Horizon Encyclopedia Article

Horizon

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Layers in the **soil** develop because of the additions, losses, translocations, and transformations that take place as the soil ages. The soil layers occur as a result of water percolating through the soil and **leaching** substances downward. The layers are parallel to the soil surface and are called horizons. Horizons will vary from the surface to the **subsoil** and from one soil to the next because of the different intensities of the above processes. Soils are classified into different groups based on the characteristics of the horizons.