Subsoil Encyclopedia Article

Subsoil

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Subsoil

The portion of the **soil** that is below the surface. The subsoil is often referred to as the B **horizon**. Subsoils are generally lower in organic matter, lighter in color, denser, and often have a higher clay content than surface soils. Subsoils are generally not as productive as surface soils for plant growth. Thus, if surface soils are eroded, future productivity is reduced when the subsoil is used for crop production.