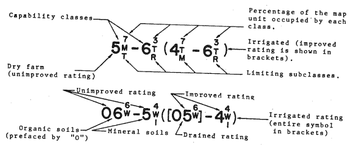
SPRINGBROOK BIO-PHYSICAL

BIO-PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES FOR AGRICULTURE

There are 7 capability classes for agriculture with 1 representing the highest class and 7 representing the lowest. In some areas of the province, two ratings are shown: one for dry farming and a second for irrigated or drained (improved) conditions. The irrigated ratings are shown enclosed in round brackets while the drained ratings appear in square brackets. In all cases improved ratings have precedence over dry farm ratings.

Example Classifications



The agriculture capability classes are determined on the relative range of crops the land can produce.

a) Capability Classes

Class 1 - widest range of crops
Class 2)
Class 3) reduced range of crops caused by a number of limiting
Class 4) factors (subclasses)
Class 5 - only permanent pasture or forage
Class 6 - natural grazing
Class 7 - no productivity

b) Limiting Subclasses

C - adverse climate
D - undesirable soil structure
E - erosion
F - low fertility
I - inundation (flooding)
M - moisture deficiency (droughtiness)
N - salts
P - stoniness
R - bedrock near the surface
T - topography (slope)
W - excess water
X - combination of soil factors

Tree fruit and grape growing areas: these crops are tolerant of soil conditions that limit field crops. Steep and stonier soils in suited climates have been upgraded to accommodate the expanded range of crops. e.g. A class 5T soil dry farmed becomes a 3T irrigated in an area climatically suited to tree fruits.

Note: A more detailed 16 page manual entitled Soil Capability Classification for Agriculture is available from the Lands Directorate, Lands Forests and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3.

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