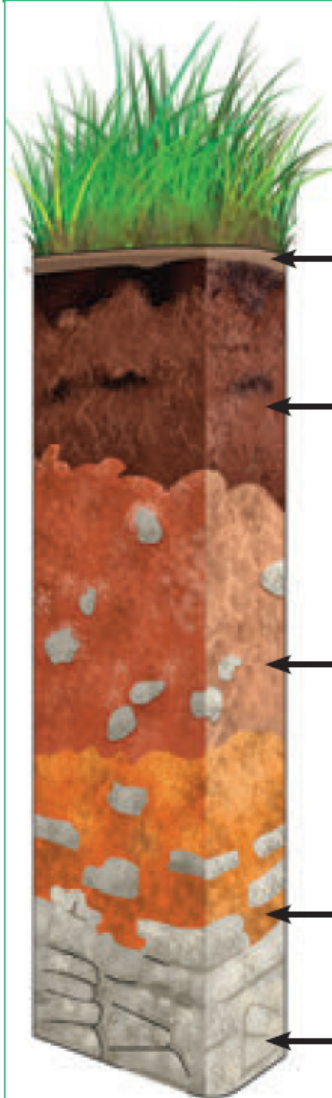


Soil Profile

Soil is commonly stratified into horizons at different depth. These layers differ in their physical, chemical and biological properties. This succession of super-imposed horizons is called soil profile.



Horizon	Description
O-Horizon (Organic horizon) Humus	It consists of fresh or partially decomposed organic matter. O1 – Freshly fallen leaves, twigs, flowers and fruits O2 – Dead plants, animals and their excreta decomposed by micro-organisms. Usually absent in agricultural and deserts.
A-Horizon (Leached horizon) Topsoil - Often rich in humus and minerals.	It consists of top soil with humus, living creatures and in-organic minerals. A1 – Dark and rich in organic matter because of mixture of organic and mineral matters. A2 – Light coloured layer with large sized mineral particles.
B-Horizon (Accumulation horizon) (Subsoil-Poor in humus, rich in minerals)	It consists of iron, aluminium and silica rich clay organic compounds.
C - Horizon (Partially weathered horizon) Weathered rock Fragments - Little or no plant or animal life.	It consists of parent materials of soil, composed of little amount of organic matters without life forms.
R - Horizon (Parent material) Bedrock	It is a parent bed rock upon which underground water is found .