

FAO/Unesco, WRB	Characteristics	Parent material	Environment	USDA, Soil Taxonomy
Fluvisols	genetically young, azonal soils in alluvial deposits.	recent, fluvial, lacustrine or marine deposits.	periodically flooded areas (unless empoldered) of alluvial plains, river fans, valleys and (tidal) marshes.	Entisols
Gleysols	wetland soils that, unless drained, are saturated with groundwater for long enough periods to develop a characteristic "gleyic colour pattern".	unconsolidated materials, mainly fluvial, marine and lacustrine sediments of Pleistocene or Holocene age, with basic to acidic mineralogy.	depression areas and low landscape positions with shallow groundwater.	Entisols
Histosols	soils formed in 'organic soil material'. These vary from soils developed in (predominantly) moss peat in boreal, arctic and subarctic regions, via moss peat, reeds/sedge peat and forest peat in temperate regions to mangrove peat and swamp forest peat in the humid tropics.	incompletely decomposed plant remains, with or without admixtures of sand, silt or clay.	Histosols occur extensively in boreal, arctic and subarctic regions. Elsewhere, they are confined to poorly drained basins, depressions, swamps and marshlands with shallow groundwater, and highland areas with a high precipitation/evapotranspiration ratio.	Histosols
Lixisols	strongly weathered soils in which clay has washed out of an eluvial horizon down to an argic subsurface horizon that has low activity clays and a moderate to high base saturation level.	unconsolidated, strongly weathered and strongly leached, finely textured materials.	regions with a tropical, subtropical or warm temperate climate with a pronounced dry season, notably on old erosional or depositional surfaces.	Alfisols