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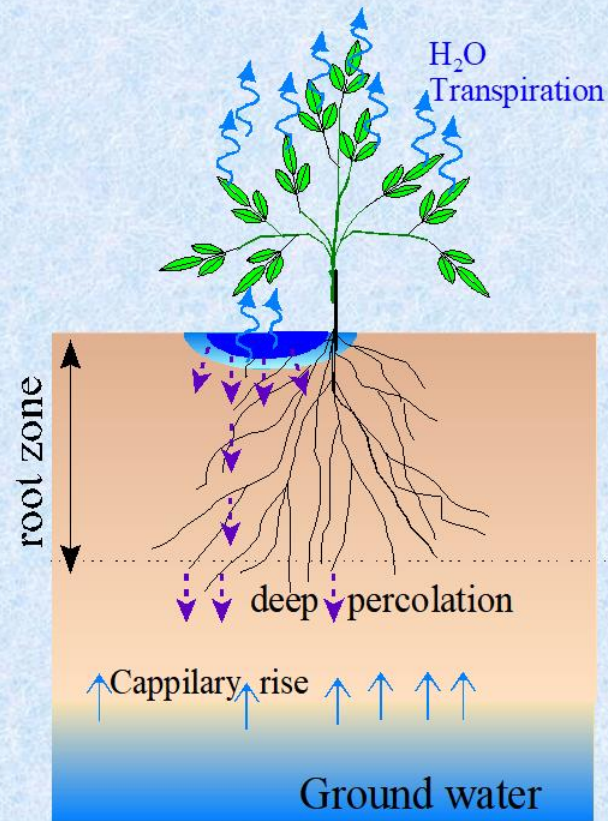
in Agro-hydrological Monitoring and Management (INAMM)

Department of Irrigation Engineering, Faculty of Engineering at Kamphaeng Saen, Kasetsart University

Soil-Water-Plant Relationship

Ekasit Kositsakulchai

Training on Climate Smart Irrigation Technology, 22 May 2018



Source:

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Soil Water

Soil properties

Water retention in soil

Infiltration

Soil Properties

Definition, soil components, soil profile and soil horizon,
soil texture, soil structure, soil density and soil specific gravity,
pore space



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Soil

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For other uses, see [Soil \(disambiguation\)](#).

Soil is a mixture of [organic matter](#), [minerals](#), gases, liquids, and organisms that together support life. The Earth's body of soil is the [pedosphere](#), which has four important functions: it is a medium for plant growth; it is a means of [water storage](#), supply and purification; it is a modifier of [Earth's atmosphere](#); it is a habitat for organisms; all of which, in turn, modify the soil.



soil¹

/sɔɪl/ (·)

noun

the upper layer of earth in which plants grow, a black or dark brown material typically consisting of a mixture of organic remains, clay, and rock particles.

"blueberries need very acid soil"

synonyms: [earth](#), [loam](#), [dirt](#), [clay](#), [gumbo](#); [ground](#)

"acid soil"

- the territory of a particular nation.

"the stationing of U.S. troops on Japanese soil"

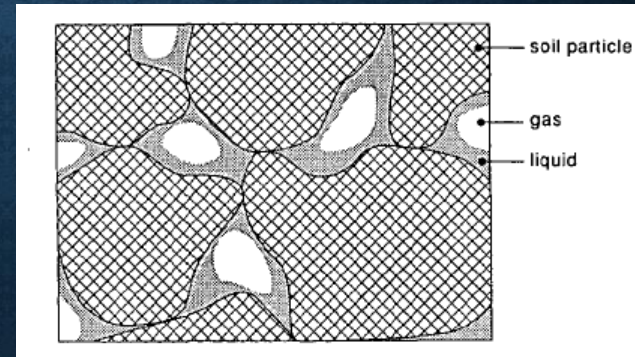
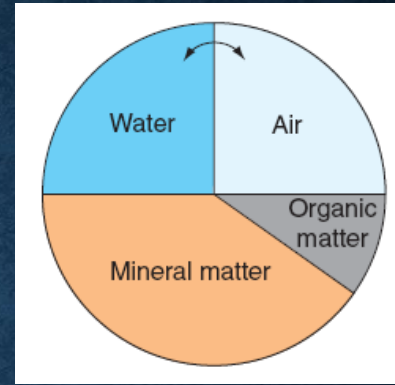
synonyms: [territory](#), [land](#), [domain](#), [dominion](#), [region](#), [country](#)

"Canadian soil"

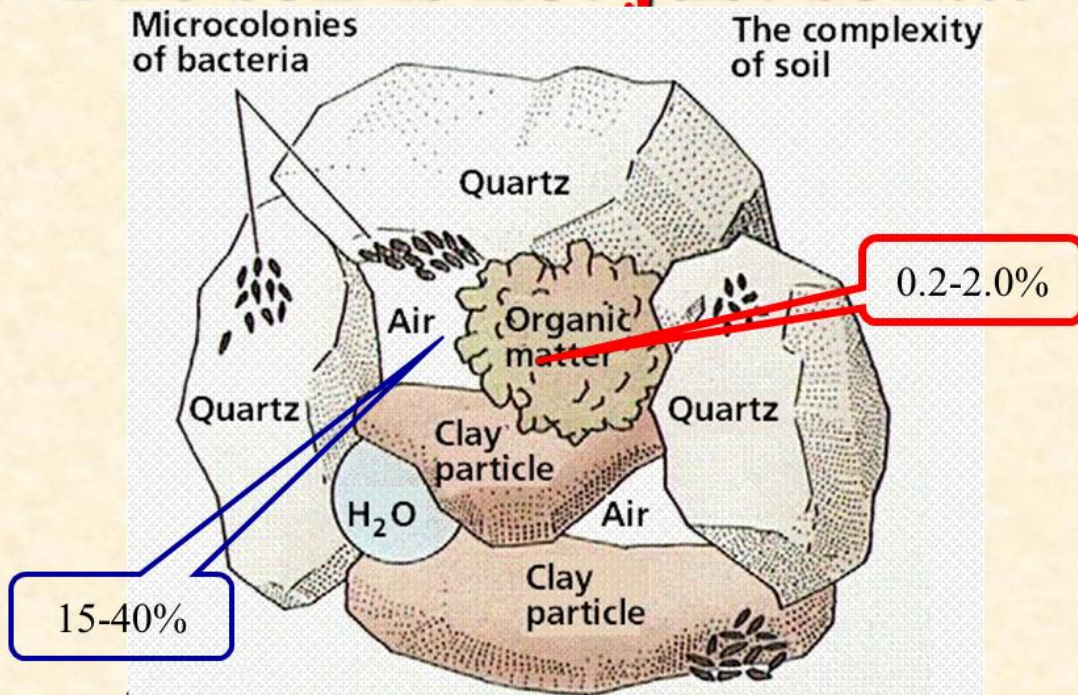
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Soil Components

- Soil as a three-phase system
- Solid
 - Inorganic materials
 - Organic materials
- Liquid
 - Water
 - Solution
- Gas
 - Soil pores



The soil is not just soil...



Shlomo Kramer

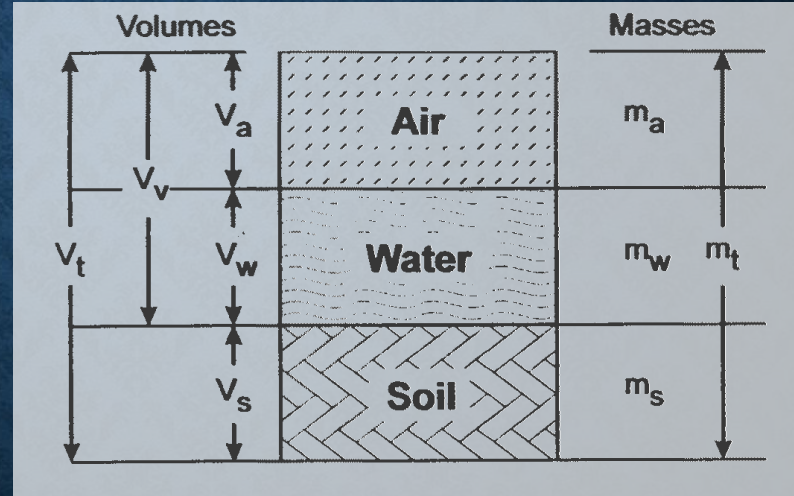
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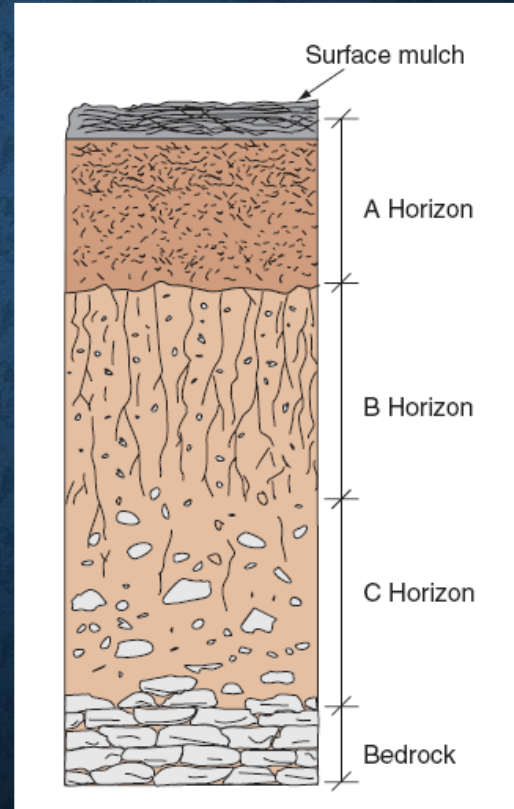
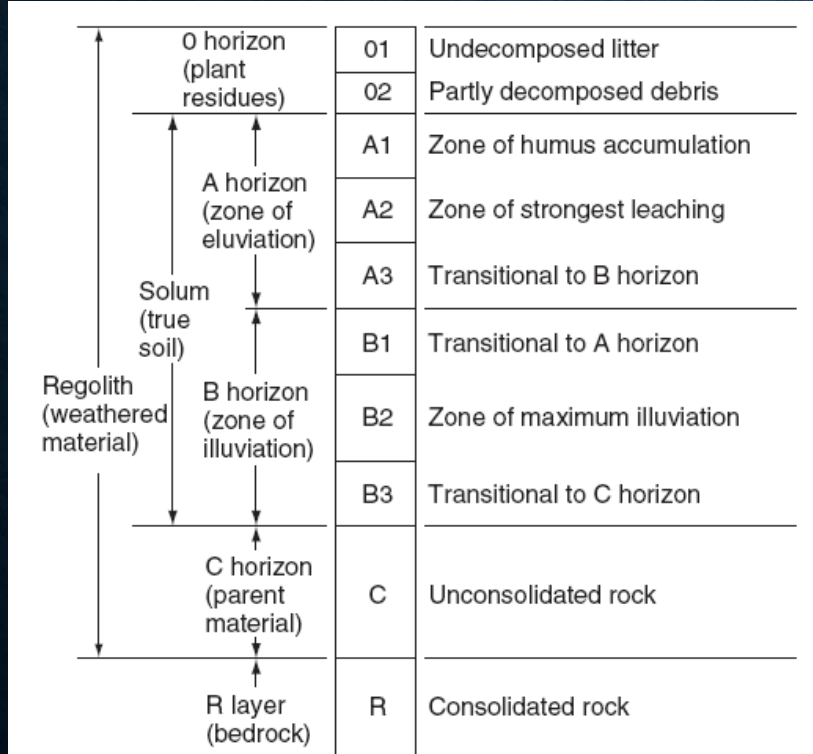
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Soil Component

- V_t : total volume
 - V_v : void volume
 - V_a : air volume
 - V_w : water volume
 - V_s : soil particle volume
- m_t : total mass
 - m_a : air mass
 - m_w : water mass
 - m_s : soil particle mass



Soil Profile





horizons

Comparison of two soil profile from different climatic region



Semi arid zone



Rainy region



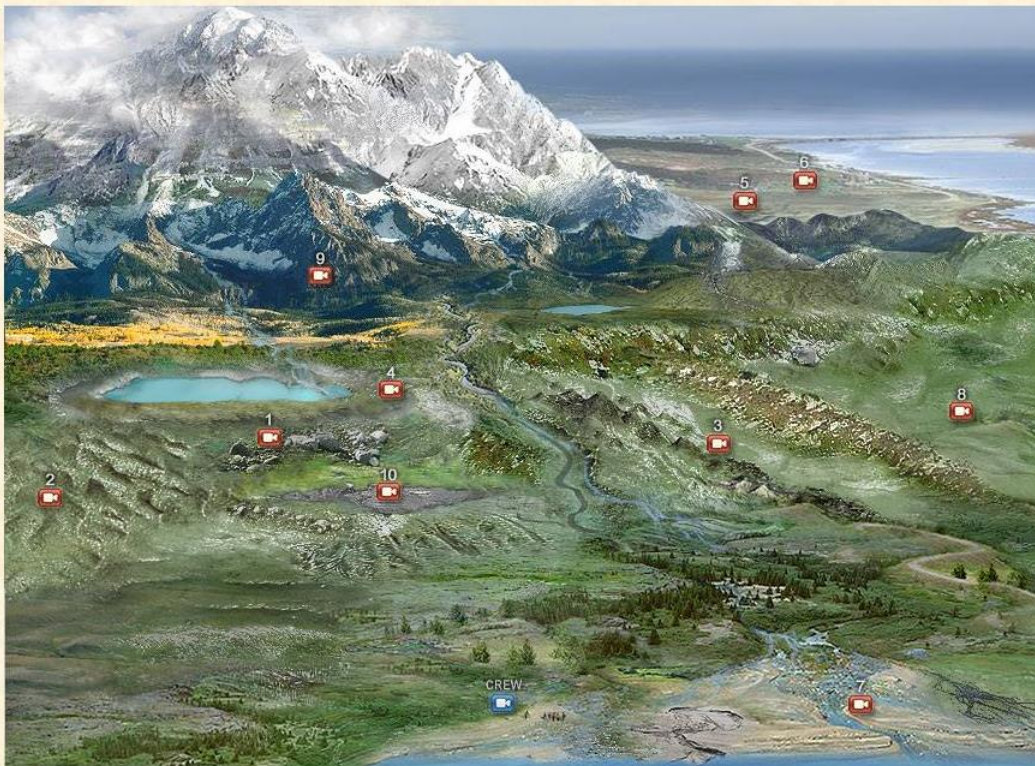
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Soil Formation



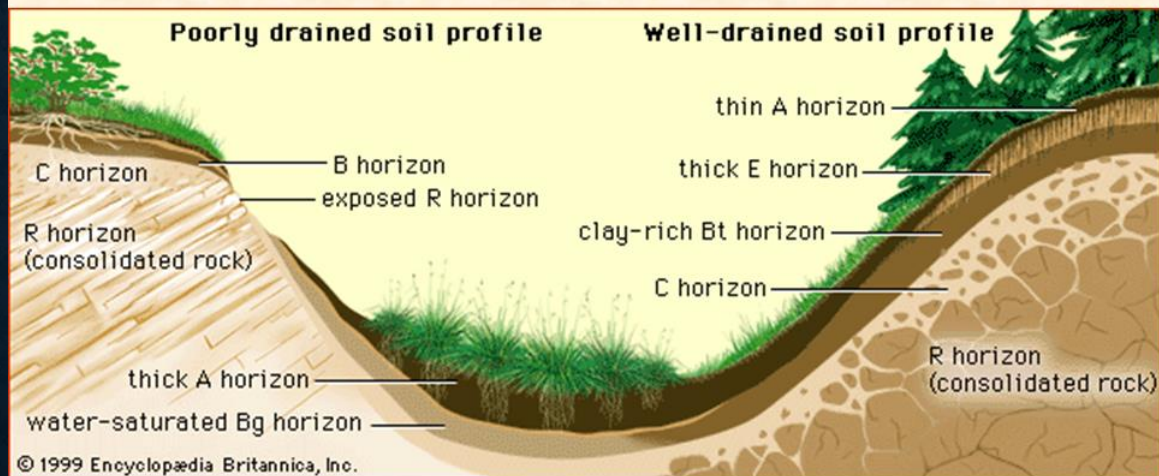
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Soil Formation



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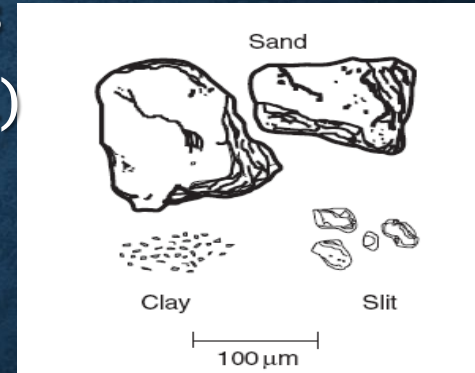
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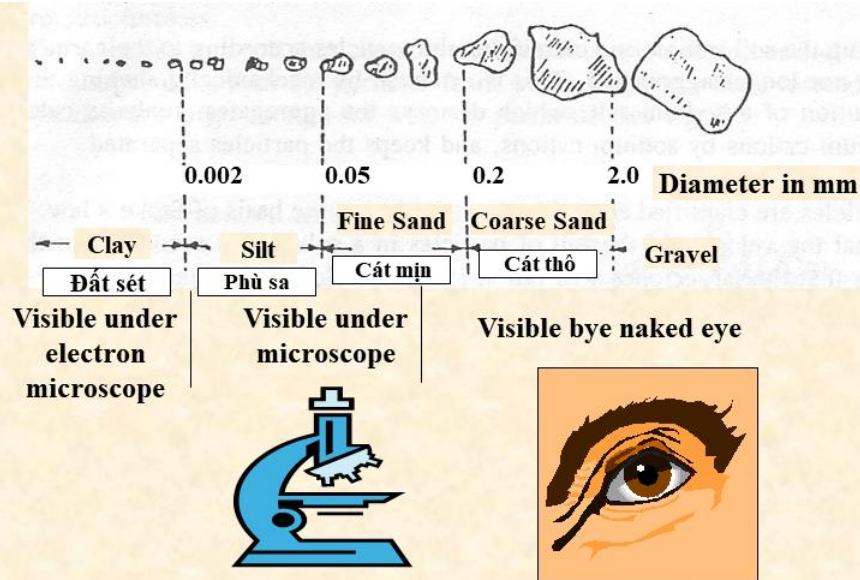
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Soil Texture

- A physical property of soil
- Defined from fraction of mass of soil particle (smaller 2 mm)
 - Sand: 0.05 - 2.00 mm
 - Silt: 0.002 - 0.05 mm
 - Clay: < 0.002 mm



The size fractions in the soil



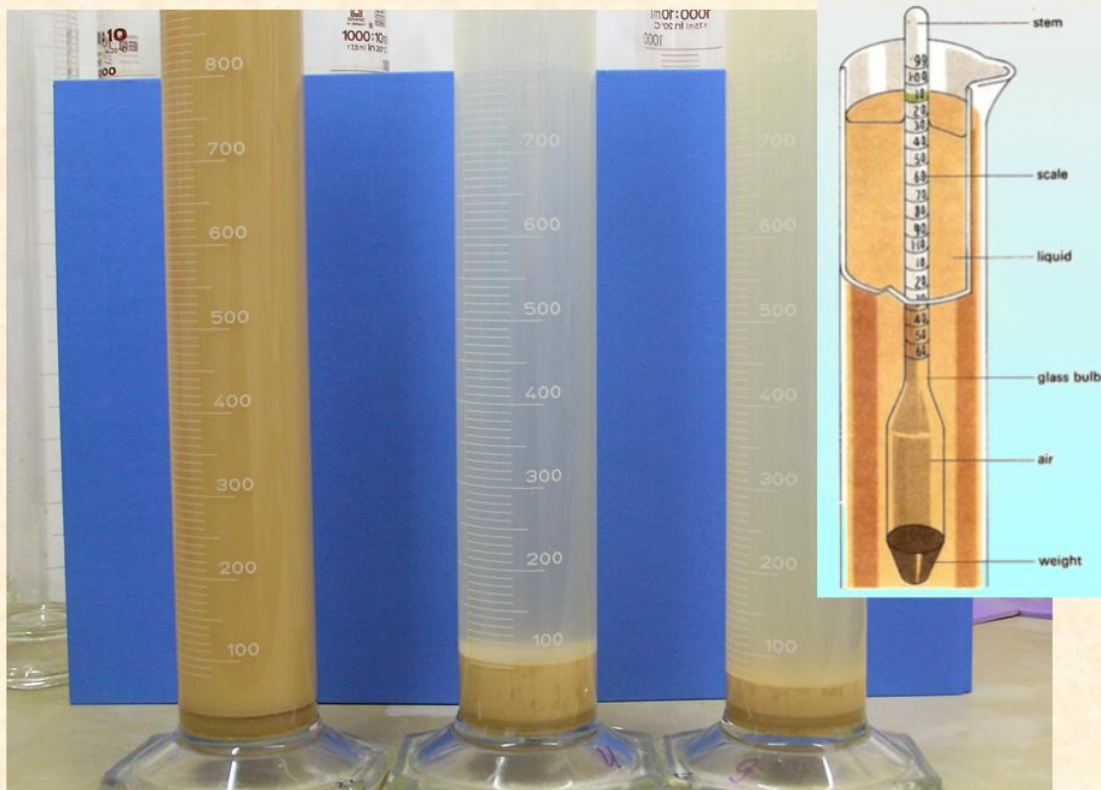
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Source:

Soil texture analysis (hydrometer method)



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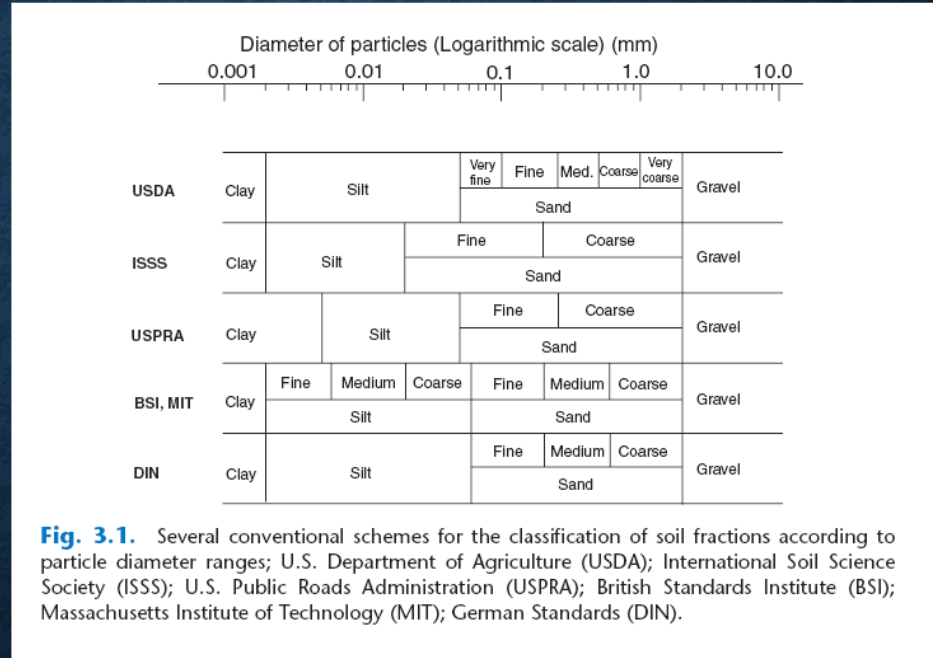
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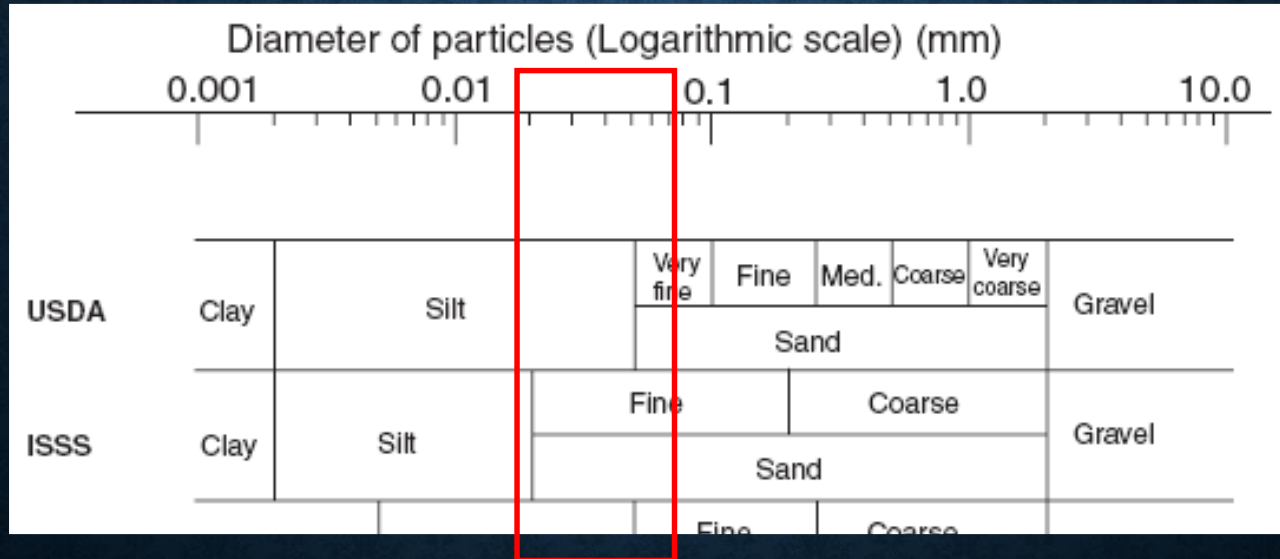
Soil particle classification system

- USDA
- USPR
- BSI, MIT
- ISSS
- DIN



Soil texture classification

- USDA – U.S. Department of Agriculture
- ISSS – International Soil Science Society



Soil texture classification

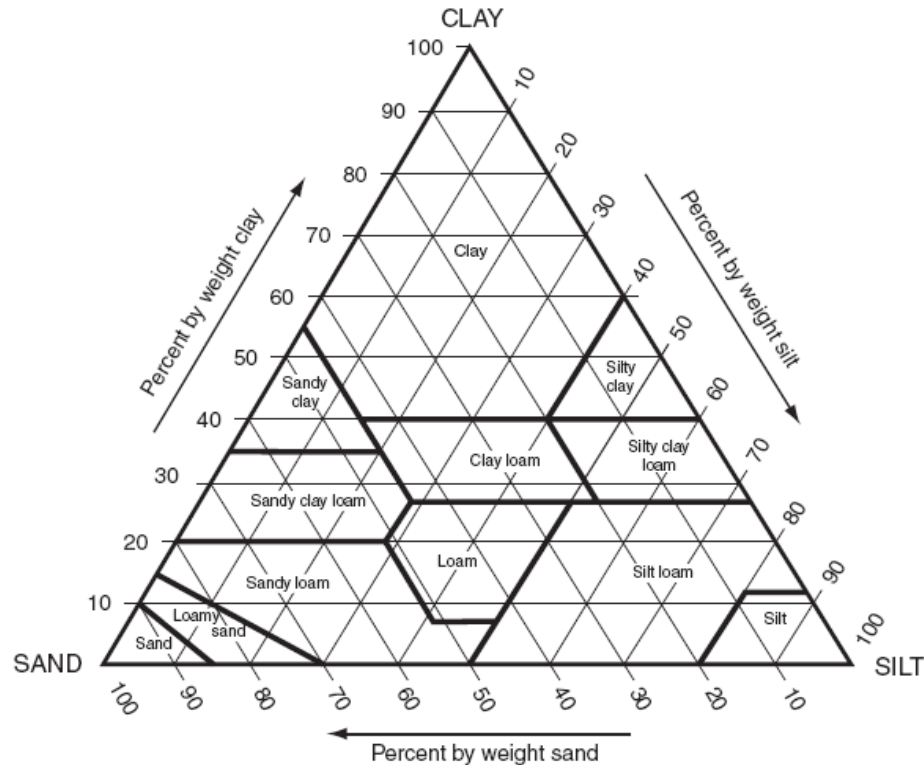
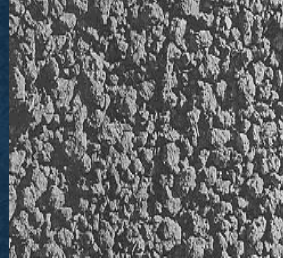
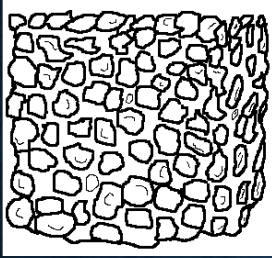
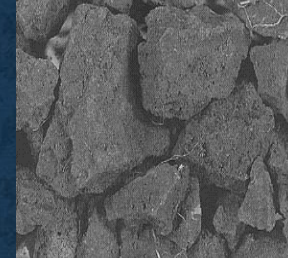
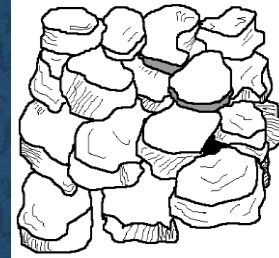


Fig. 3.3. Textural triangle, showing the percentages of clay (below 0.002 mm), silt (0.002–0.05 mm), and sand (0.05–2.0 mm) in the conventional soil textural classes.

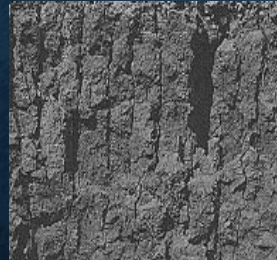
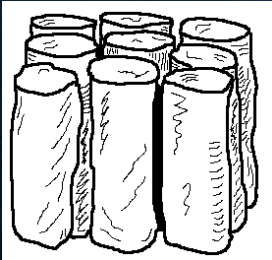
Soil Structure



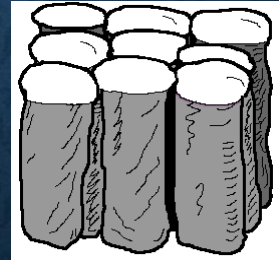
Granular



Blocky

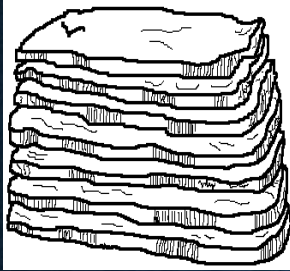


Prismatic



Columnar

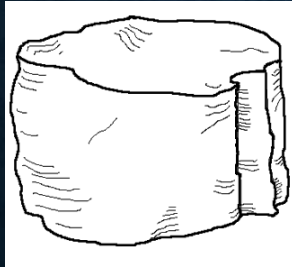
Soil Structure



Platy

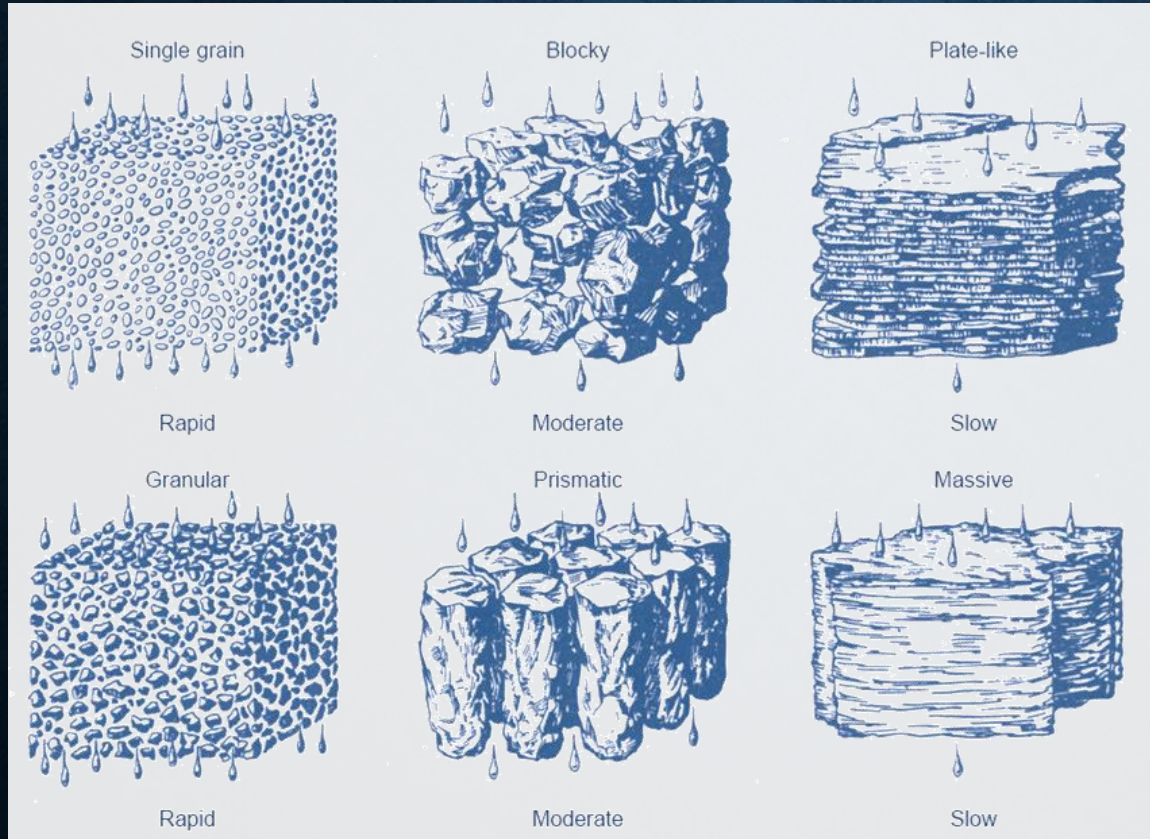


Single grained



Massive

Influence of soil structure on soil water flow



Soil Density and Soil Specific Gravity

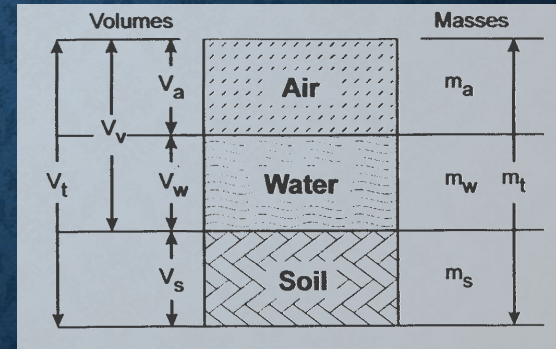
Soil density

- particle density

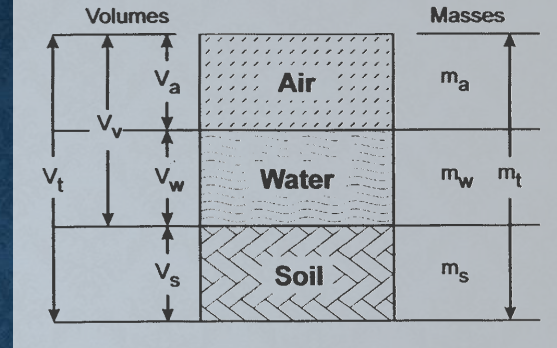
$$\rho_s = \frac{m_s}{V_s}$$

- bulk density

$$\rho_b = \frac{m_s}{V_t}$$
$$= \frac{m_s}{V_a + V_w + V_s}$$



Specific gravity



- real specific gravity

$$R_s = \frac{\rho_s}{\rho_w} = \frac{m_s}{V_s \times \rho_w}$$

- apparent specific gravity

$$A_s = \frac{\rho_b}{\rho_w} = \frac{m_s}{V_t \times \rho_w}$$

Pore Space

Porosity

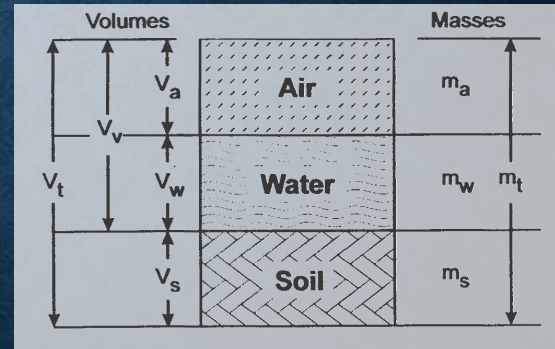
Void ratio

Pore space

- Liquid or gas components between soil particle

- $$n = \frac{V_v}{V_t}$$

- $$e = \frac{V_v}{V_s}$$



Porosity of soil

เนื้อดิน	ความพรุน (%)	
	ช่วงค่าปกติ	ค่าเฉลี่ย
Sand	32 – 42	38
Sandy Loam	40 – 47	43
Loam	43 – 49	46
Clay Loam	47 – 51	49
Silty Clay	49 – 53	51
Clay	51 - 55	53

Soil Water

Soil properties

Water retention in soil

Infiltration

Water Retention in Soil

Soil Water Content

- Gravimetric water content
- Volumetric water content
- Degree of saturation

Soil Water Content

- Soil moisture by mass

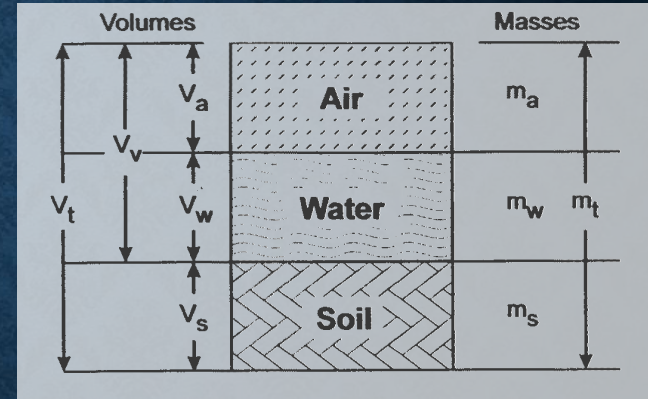
$$\theta_m = \frac{m_w}{m_s}$$

- Soil moisture by volume

$$\theta_v = \frac{V_w}{V_t}$$

- Degree of saturation

$$s = \frac{V_w}{V_v}$$



Soil core sampler



$$\rho_w \theta_v = \rho_b \theta_m$$

$$\theta_v = \frac{\rho_b}{\rho_w} \theta_m$$

$$\theta_v = A_s \theta_m$$

- Water content by mass vs by volume

$$d = \theta_v D$$

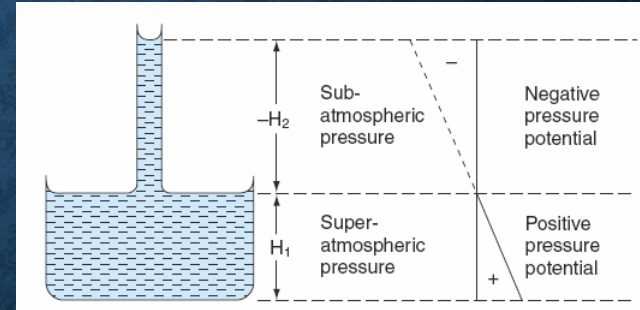
$$= \theta_m A_s D$$

- Depth of water in soil column

Potential Energy of Water in Soil

Soil water potential

- Gravitational potential
- Osmotic potential
- Matric potential
- Hydrostatic pressure potential

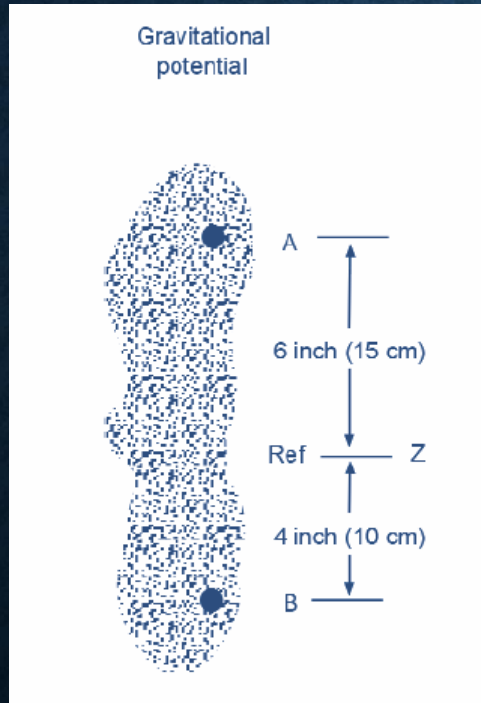


Unit

หน่วย	สัญลักษณ์	ชื่อ	มิติ	หน่วย (CGS)	หน่วย (SI)
พลังงาน/มวล	μ_T	Chemical potential	L^2/T^2	g^{-1}	$J\ kg^{-1}$
พลังงาน/ปริมาตร	ψ_T	Soil water potential	M/LT^2	cm^{-3}	$J\ m^{-3} = N\ m^{-2} = Pa$
พลังงาน/น้ำหนัก	h_T	Soil water potential head	L	cm	$J\ kg^{-1}\ m^{-1}\ s^{-2} = m$

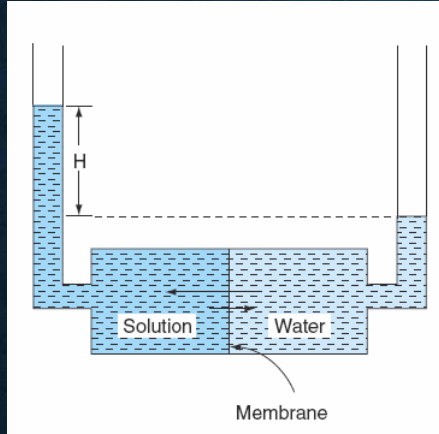
- งานทางด้านชลประทาน/แหล่งน้ำ นิยมใช้
 - พลังงานต่อน้ำหนัก (น้ำ) => เฮด (head)

Gravitational potential

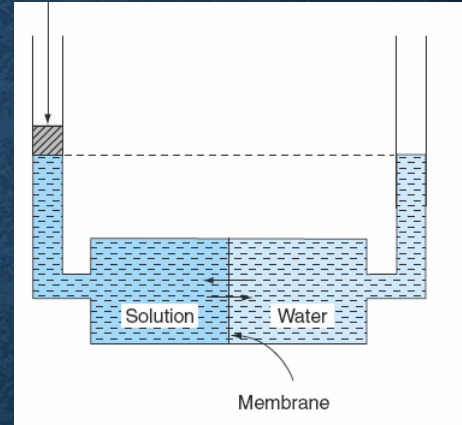


- Gravitational potential

Osmotic potential

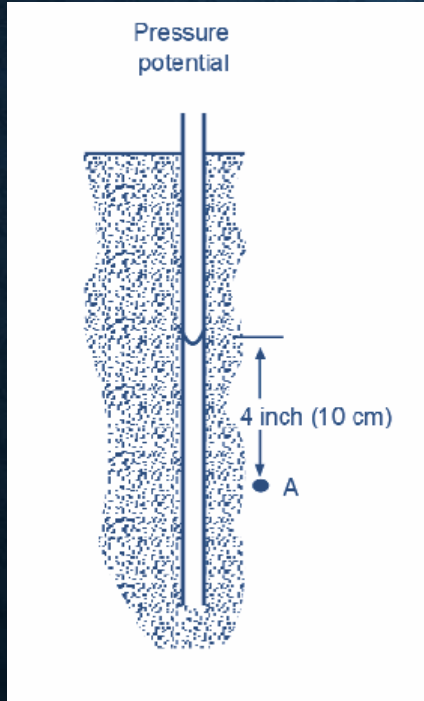


■ **Osmosis**



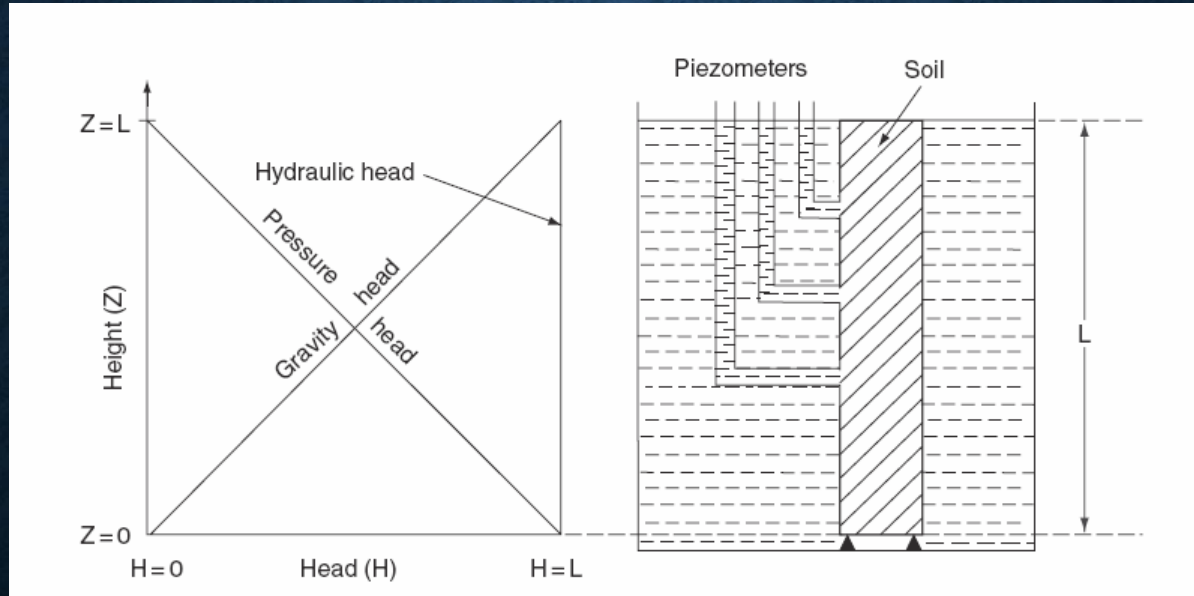
• **Osmotic pressure**

Pressure potential



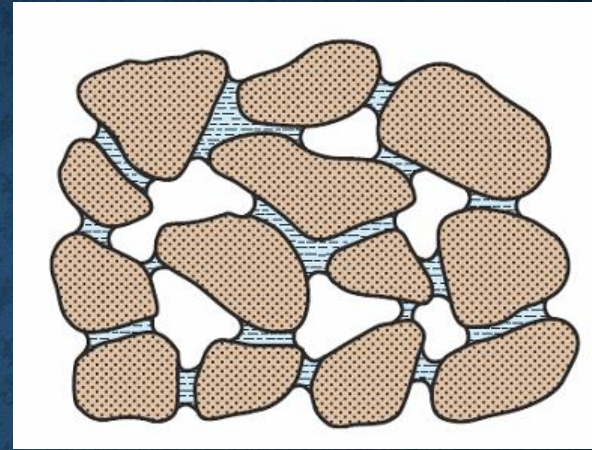
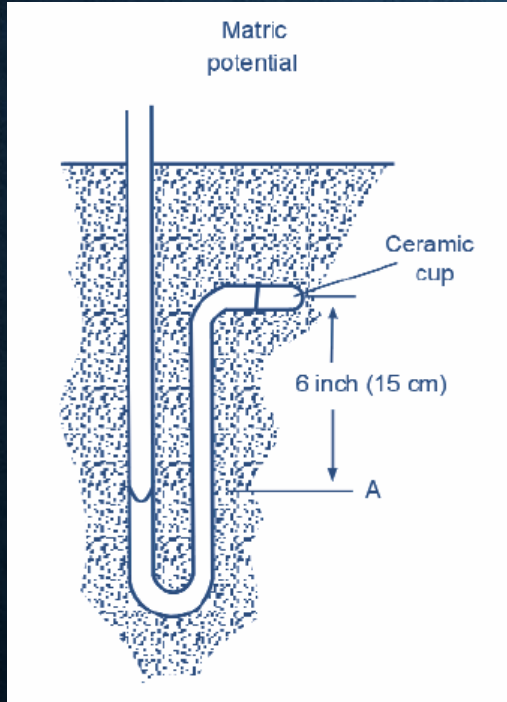
- Pressure potential
- In case of saturated soil

Pressure potential in saturated soil



- Pressure head
- Gravitational head

Unsaturated soil



- Matric potential

Soil water potential

- **soil water potential**

- Energy/volume

$$\psi_T = \psi_z + \psi_s + \psi_m + \psi_p + K$$

- **head**

- Energy/weight (of water)

$$h_T = z + s + h + p + K$$

- Saturated soil

$$h_T = z + s + p$$

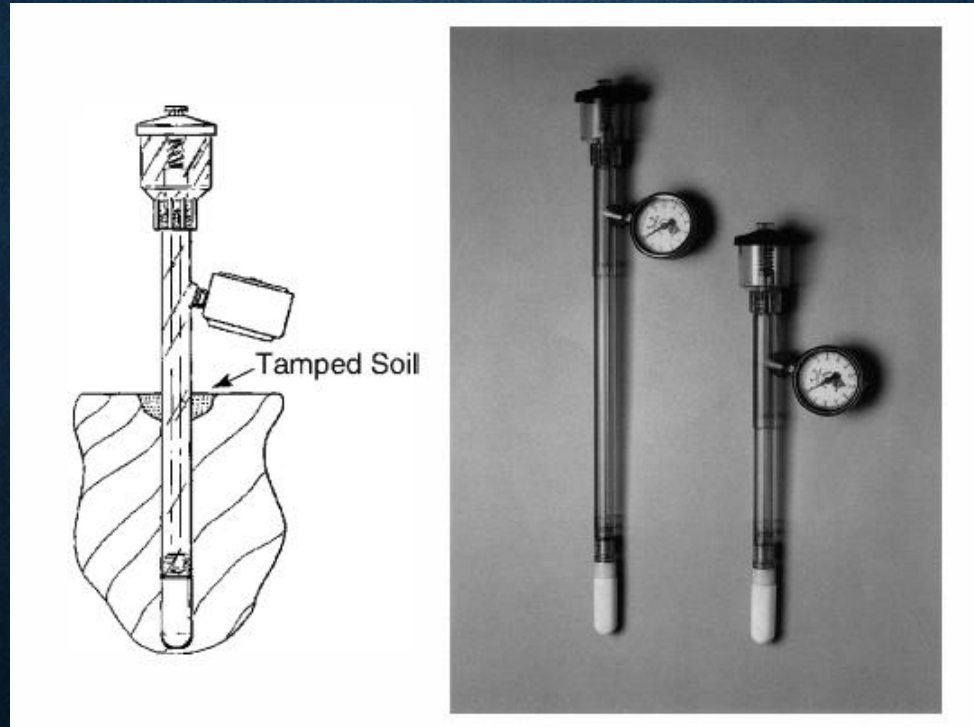
- Unsaturated soil

$$h_T = z + s + h$$

Soil Moisture Tension

- Sometimes called “suction”
- Unit of measurement
 - Pascal (Pa) or N/m^2
 - bar
 - Head or depth of water in m (or cm)

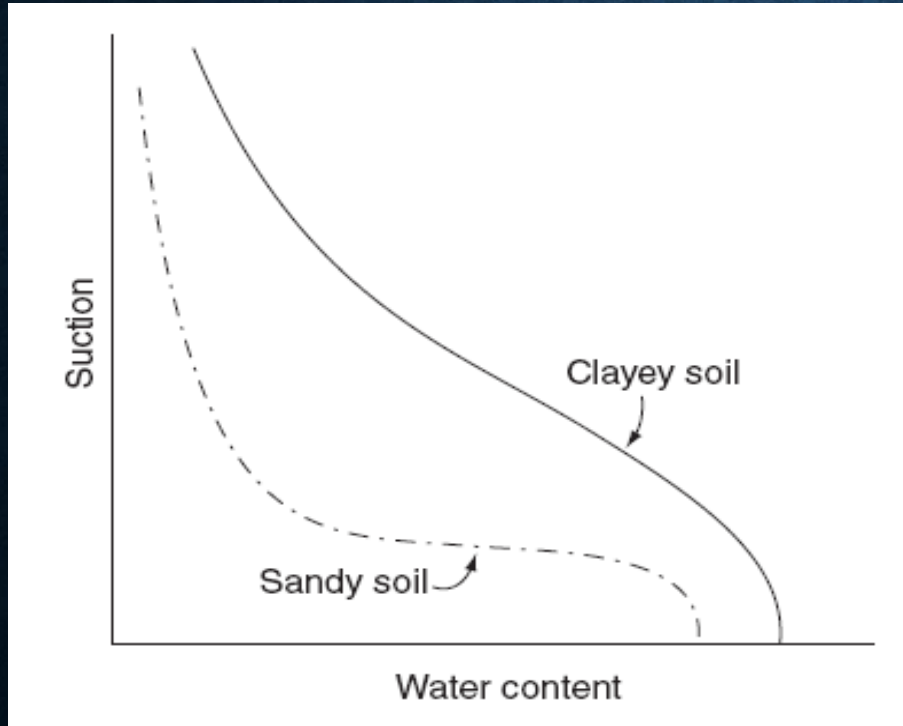
Tensiometer





Soil-Moisture Characteristic Curve

Soil-Moisture Characteristic Curve



- Relation between (volumetric) water content and matrix potential (h)



Stages of Water Content in Soil

Water content at field capacity (FC)

Water content at permanent wilting point (PWP)

Available water

- TAW: total available water
- RAW: readily available water

Stages of Water Content in Soil

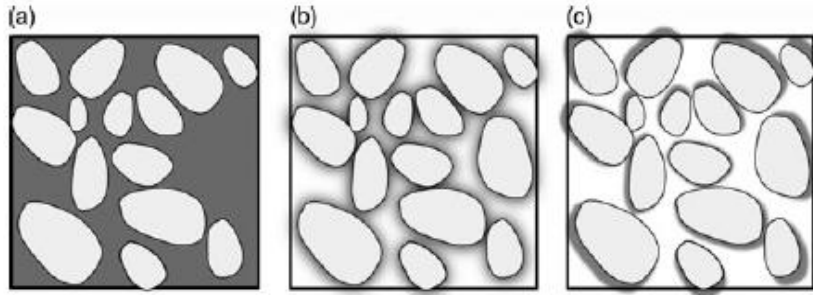
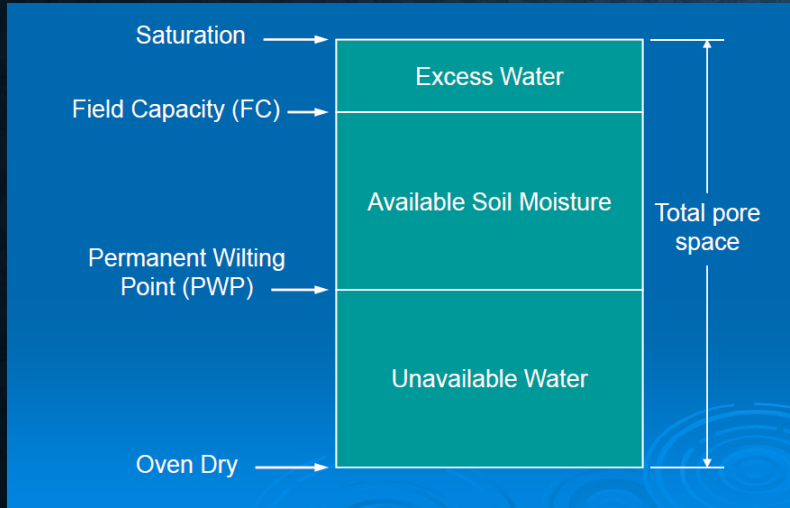


Fig. 5.4. Soil moisture at different stages of moisture content. (a) Saturation – all pores filled with water, little or no air; this situation occurs during and immediately following irrigation or rainfall. (b) Field capacity – water is held in the soil after surplus has drained away under gravitational forces. (c) Permanent wilting point – water attached by surface tension forces to soil particles, cannot be removed by plant root suction.

- From an irrigation point of view, there are different levels of water content in the soil, and four terms are used to identify these water content levels:
 - saturation
 - field capacity
 - permanent wilting point
 - available soil water

Saturation

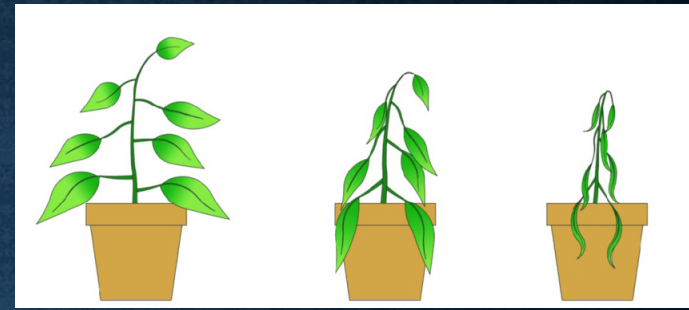


- During and immediately after irrigation **all the pore space in the soil is filled with water** and the soil is saturated.
- There is little air in the soil, and for most crops (other than rice) if the soil stays saturated the crop will be damaged due to this lack of air for the roots to breathe.
- If there are no drainage problems, **the water in the soil will drain away** under gravity following irrigation, leaving space for air in the soil's pore space

Field Capacity, FC

- Field capacity is **the quantity of water held in the soil once the water has drained away from the saturated soil.**
- This water is held to the soil particles by **surface tension forces**, and much of it is available for taking up by the plant's roots.
- The volume of water held by the soil at field capacity depends primarily on its **texture** and **structure**.
- The forces holding the water in the soil against the gravitational pull are surface tension forces. Soils with small particle size, such as silts and clays, have a large surface area and thus can hold more water.

Permanent Wilting Point, WP

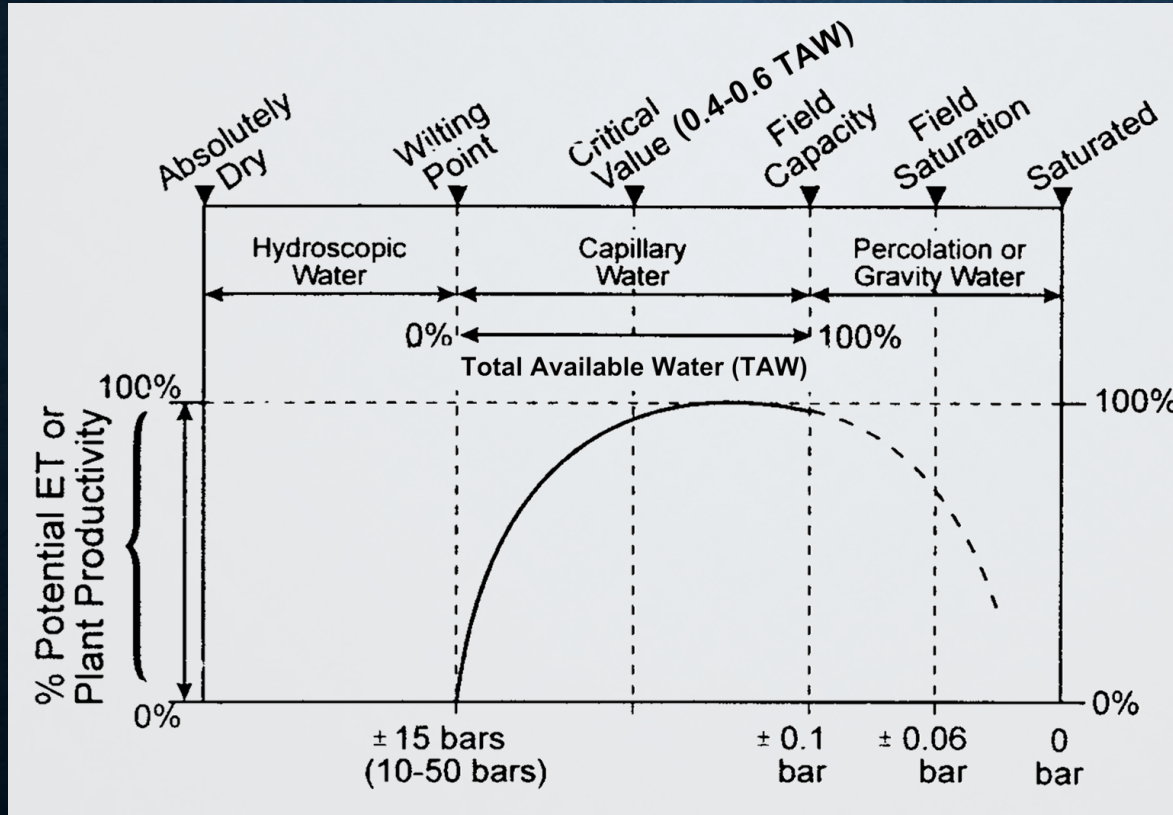


- Water can be removed from the soil by the plant's roots exerting a greater pull or tension than the surface tension holding the water to the soil particle's surface.
- At some point, termed the permanent wilting point, **the suction exerted by the plant's roots is not sufficient to remove the water from around the soil's particles.**
- At this point, the crop will become stressed, the yield will be reduced and the crop may perish. At permanent wilting point a crop's leaves may droop or wilt; in some crops, there will be a change in appearance in the leaf color.
- The permanent wilting point is affected by the soil texture in the same way as with field capacity, thus for fine-textured soils the moisture content at permanent wilting point is higher than for coarse-textured soils.

Available Soil Moisture (FC - WP)

- The water available to the plant is **the difference between the moisture content at field capacity and that at the permanent wilting point**.
- Though there may still be water in the soil at the permanent wilting point it cannot be removed by the plant, and is thus unavailable.
- **The objective of irrigation is to allow the soil moisture to reduce to a safe limit** (above the permanent wilting point) and then to irrigate the soil to bring it back to field capacity.
- The interval between irrigation will thus depend on the available moisture in the soil and the rate at which the soil water is abstracted by the crop

Soil water content vs ET/Productivity



Soil Water

Soil properties

Water retention in soil

Infiltration

Infiltration

Definition

Infiltration equations

Infiltration in Irrigation

- **saturation zone**

- เริ่มจากส่วนที่อยู่ใกล้กับผิวดิน
- จะมีความลึกเพิ่มขึ้นเรื่อยๆ

- **transmission zone**

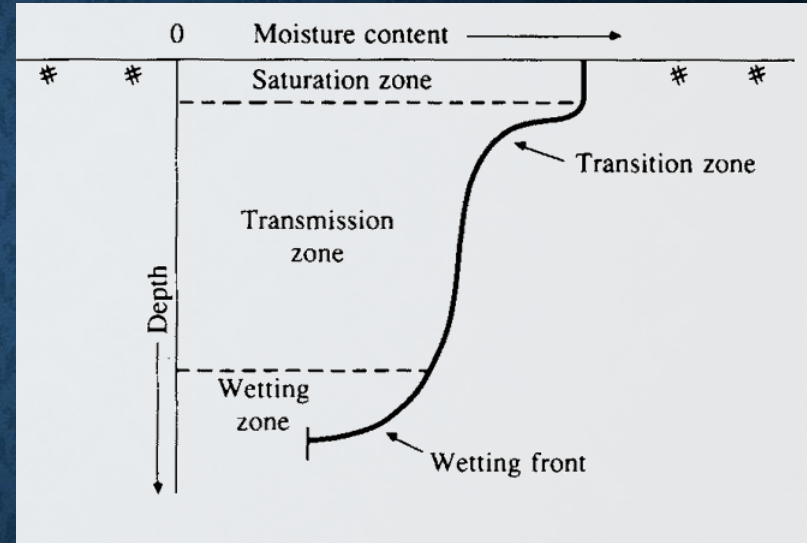
- เป็นส่วนที่น้ำไหลผ่านชั้นดินที่ยังไม่อิ่มตัว
- ปริมาณความชื้นตลอดหน้าตัดใกล้เคียงกัน

- **wetting zone**

- เป็นส่วนที่ความชื้นกำลังเพิ่มขึ้นอย่างรวดเร็ว
- ในชั้นดินที่ลึกลงไป ในช่วงเริ่มต้นยังมีความชื้นน้อย

- **wetting front**

- เป็นหน้าตัดที่เริ่มเปียกน้ำและกำลังมีการเปลี่ยนแปลงความชื้นอย่างรวดเร็ว
- ดินมีความชื้นแตกต่างกันมากจนแยกระหว่างดินเปียกกับดินแห้งได้อย่างชัดเจน

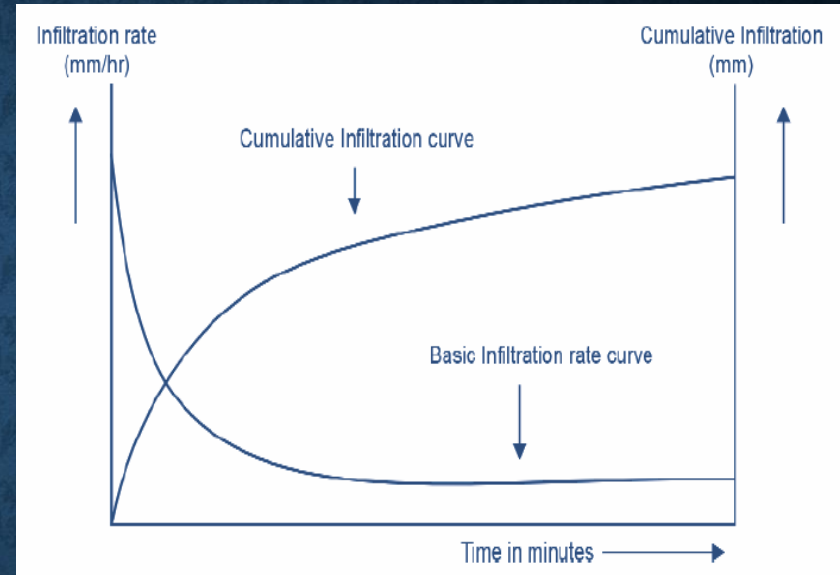


• Infiltration rate (f)

- อัตราการซึมมีค่าสูงในช่วงแรก
- ค่อย ๆ ลดลงเมื่อเวลาผ่านไปจนกระทั่งคงที่

• Cumulative infiltration (F)

- ในขณะเริ่มต้น ปริมาณน้ำที่ซึมผ่านผิวดินจะเป็นศูนย์
- มีค่าเพิ่มขึ้นตามเวลา
- โดยในช่วงแรก โค้งปริมาณการซึมผ่านผิวดินมีความชันมาก
- เมื่อเวลาผ่านไป ความชันของโค้งจะลดลง
- ในที่สุด กราฟปริมาณการซึมผ่านผิวดินจะเป็นเส้นตรง เนื่องจาก อัตราการซึมผ่านผิวดินคงที่



Relation between infiltration rate and cumulative infiltration

$$F(t) = \int_0^t f(t) dt$$

$$f(t) = \frac{dF(t)}{dt}$$

- อินทิเกรต สมการอัตราการซึมผ่านผิวดิน (**f**)
ได้ สมการปริมาณการซึมผ่านผิวดิน (**F**)
- หาอนุพันธ์ สมการปริมาณการซึมผ่านผิวดิน (**F**)
ได้ สมการอัตราการซึมผ่านผิวดิน (**f**)

Infiltration equation

$$F(t) = \gamma t^a$$

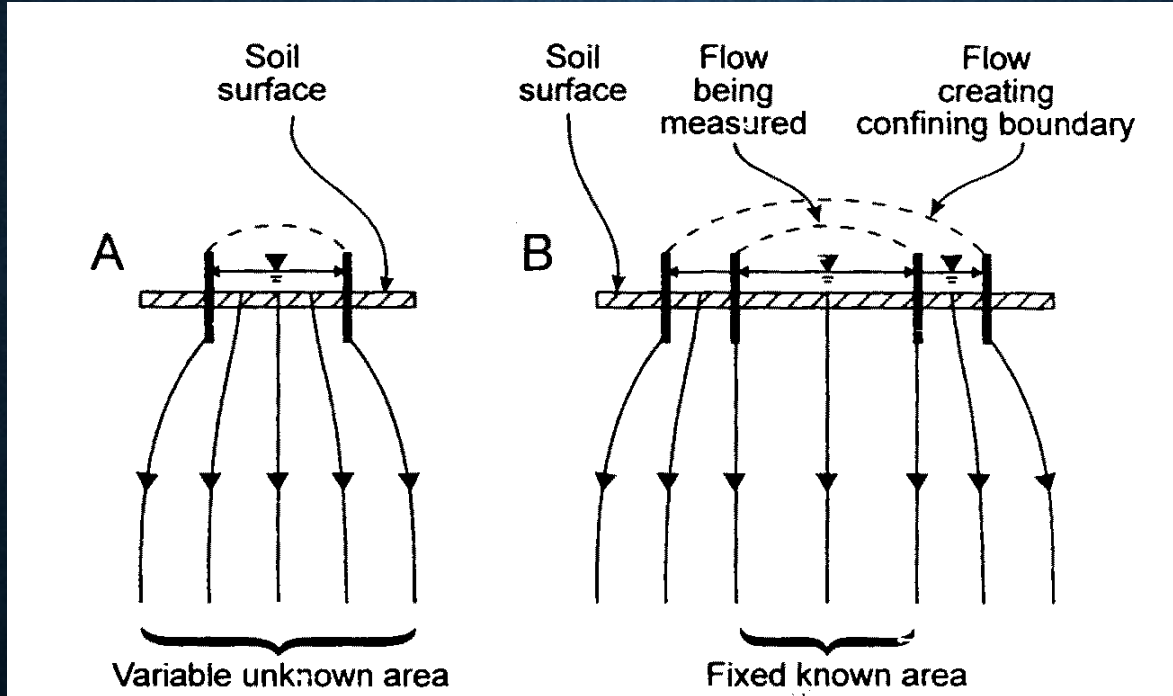
$$f(t) = a\gamma t^{a-1}$$

- Lewis's equation or Kostiakov's equation

Double-ring infiltrometer

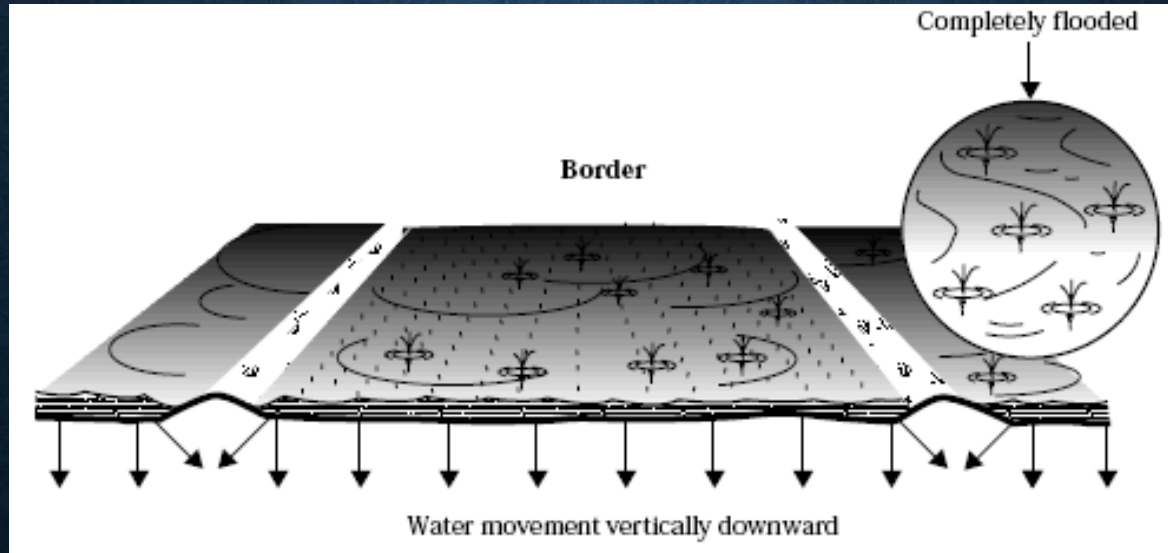


Infiltration measurement by double-ring infiltrometer

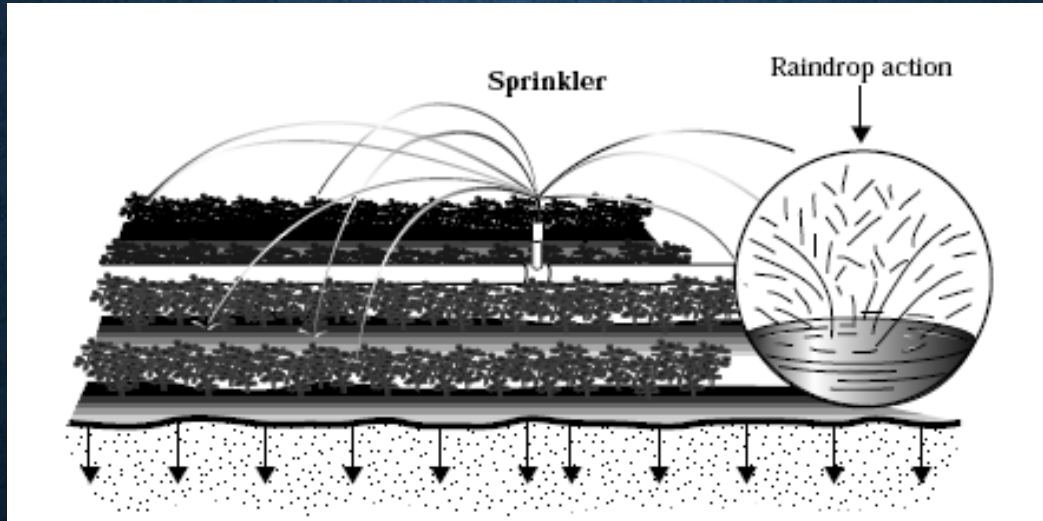


Infiltration in Irrigation

Infiltration in border irrigation

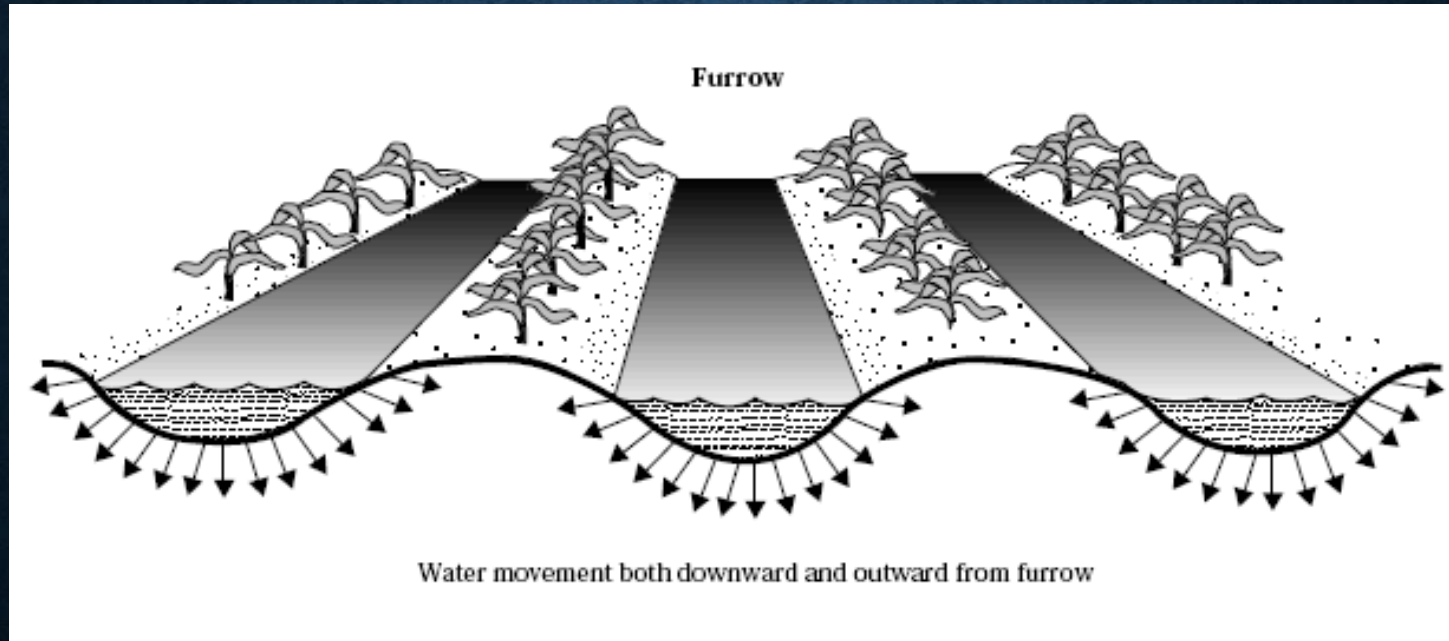


Infiltration in sprinkler irrigation

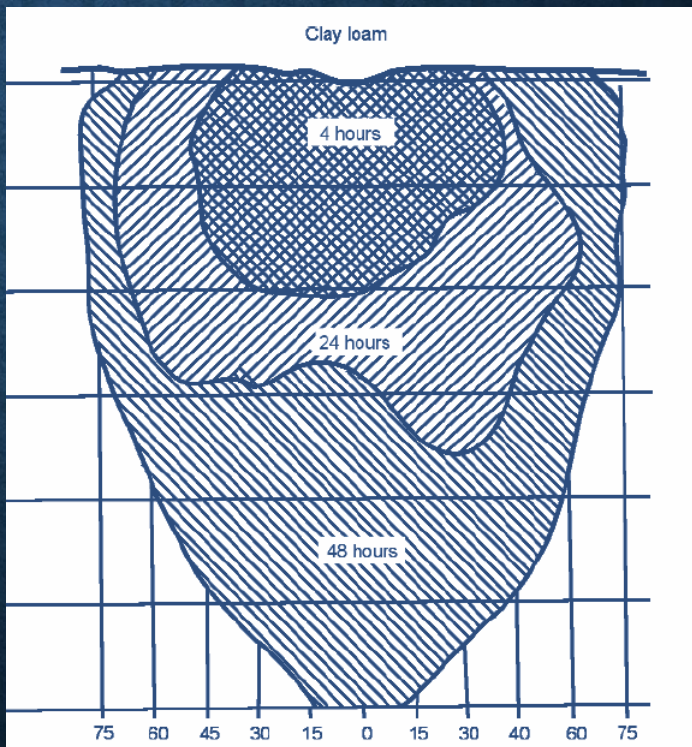
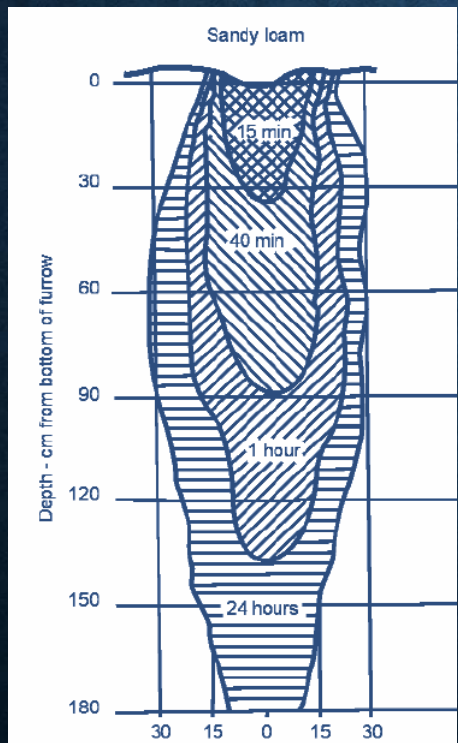


- น้ำซึมทางดิ่งอย่างเดียว
- อัตราการให้น้ำต้องไม่เกินอัตราการซึมผ่านผิวดิน

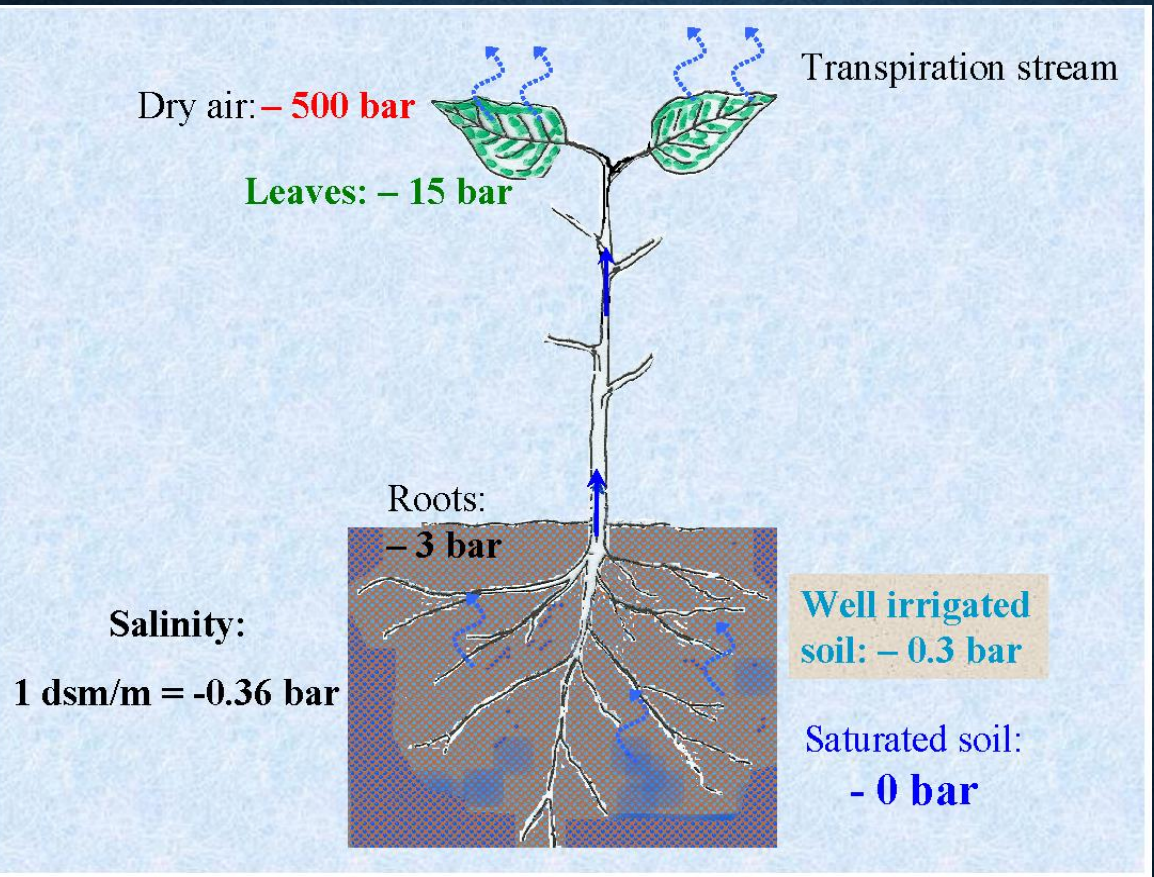
Infiltration in furrow irrigation



■ น้ำซึมทั้งทางตั้งและทางราบ

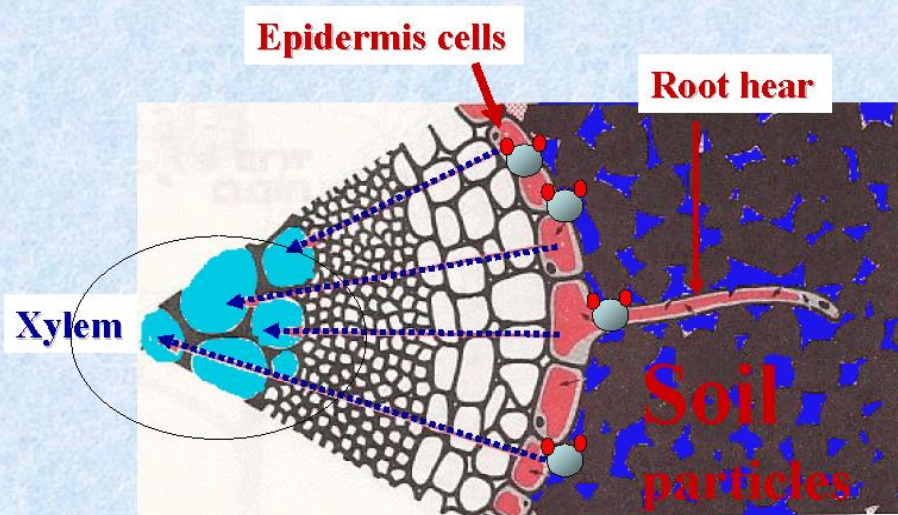


Water Flow in Plant



Shlomo Kramer
 Irrigation & Fertilization Consultant
 Tel: 972 50 6241483 Shlomo@arava.co.il

Source:



Water passing by osmosis from cell to cell till arriving to the xylem tubes

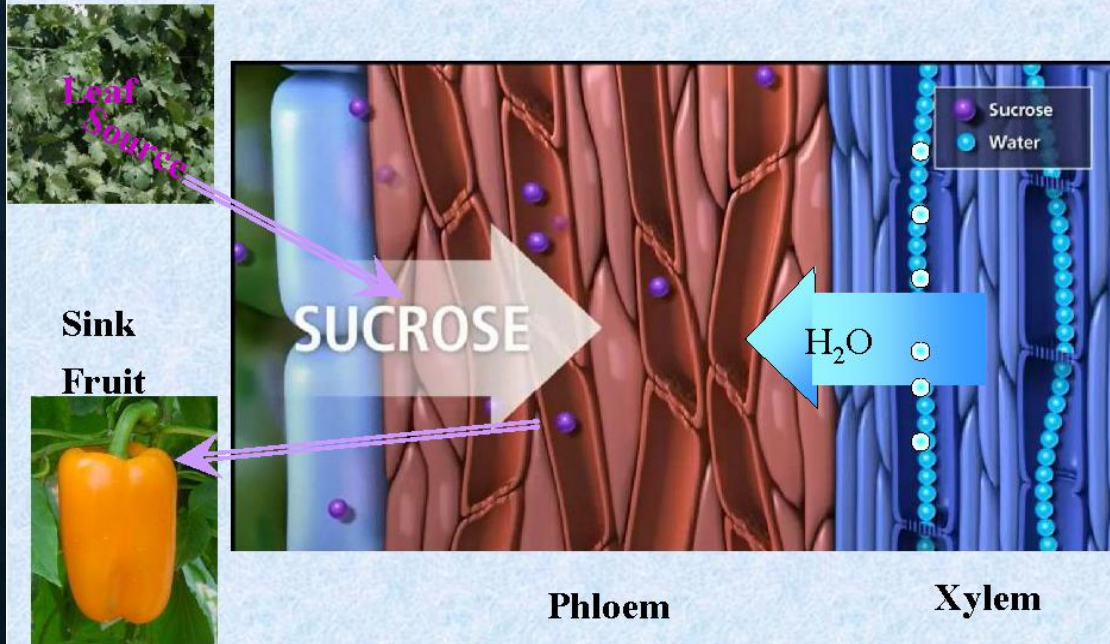
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Water movement and transport

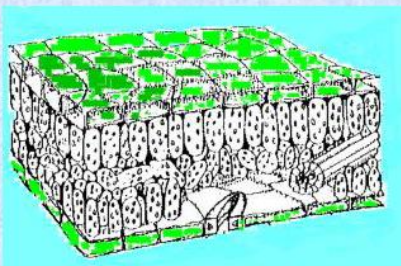


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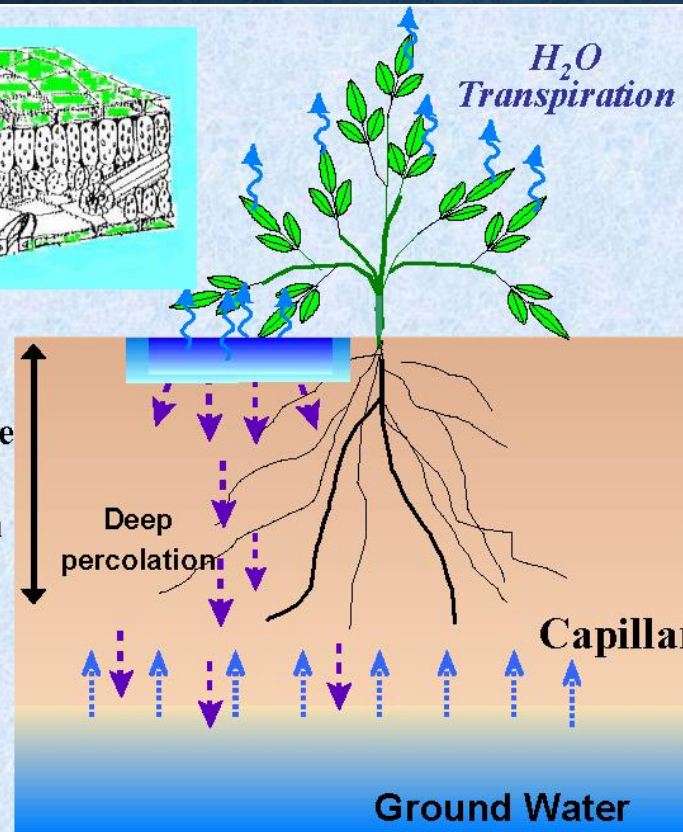
H_2O
Transpiration

Active
roots
depth

Deep
percolation

Capillary rise

Ground Water



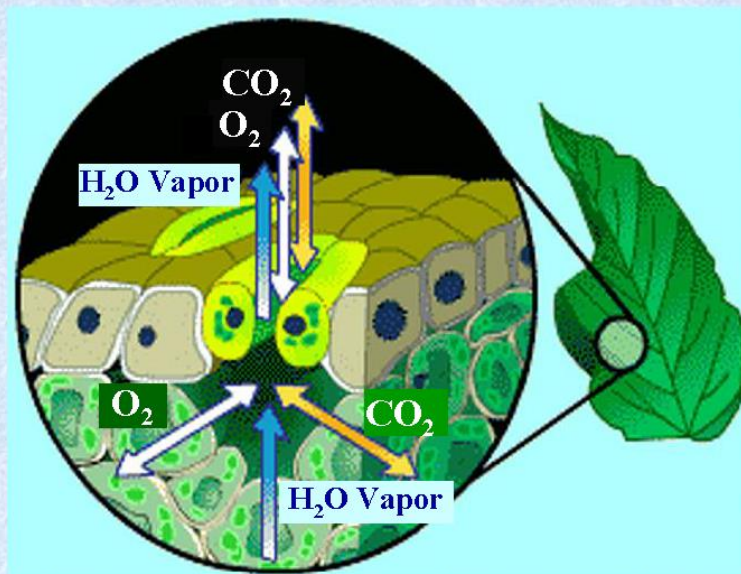
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Gas exchange through the Stomata opening



Shlomo Kramer

Irrigation & Fertilization Consultant

Source:

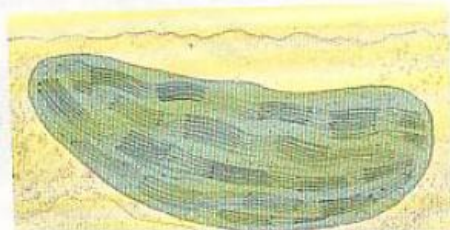
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Stomata

Photosynthesis occur in chloroplasts of the leaf cells

A diagram showing a cross-section of a leaf. A green arrow points to a small opening on the leaf's surface labeled 'Stomata'. A larger orange arrow points from the leaf's interior towards the middle section of the diagram.

Cells with chloroplasts

A diagram showing several rectangular leaf cells. Inside each cell, there are numerous small, oval-shaped structures representing chloroplasts. An orange arrow points from these cells towards the magnified chloroplast.

Chloroplast (x10,000)

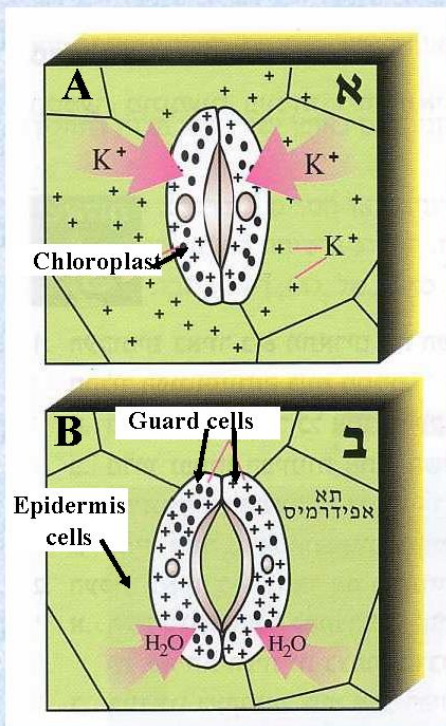
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Stomata opening - closing



CO_2 required for photosynthesis diffuse into the leaf through the open stomata.

Water molecules diffuse out in transpiration process.

Factors affect the opening – closing process:

- Light intensity
- Water status in the plant.
- CO_2 concentration in the leaf
- Opening at light time,
- * Closing at dark, or when the plant is in stress situation

Light + low CO_2 > K^+ entering into guard cells > osmotic pressure increased > water osmosis to guard cell, turgor become higher > stomata open

Dark + high CO_2 > K^+ > stomata close

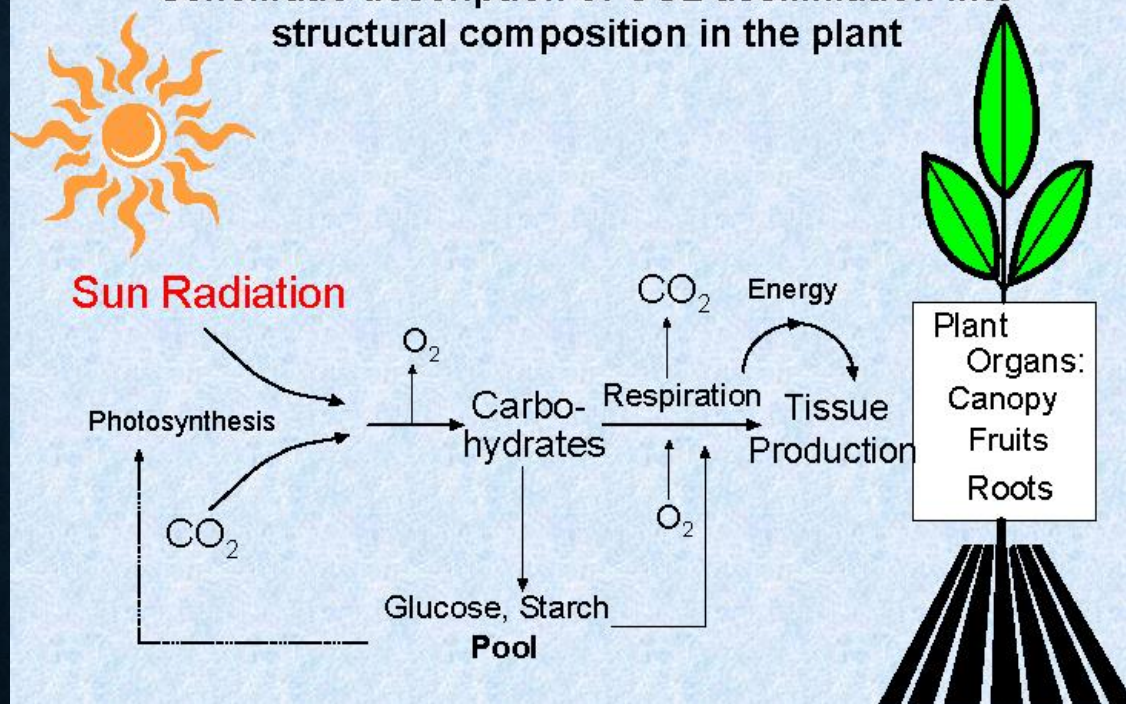
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Schematic description of CO₂ assimilation into structural composition in the plant



Kenig & Kramer 1995

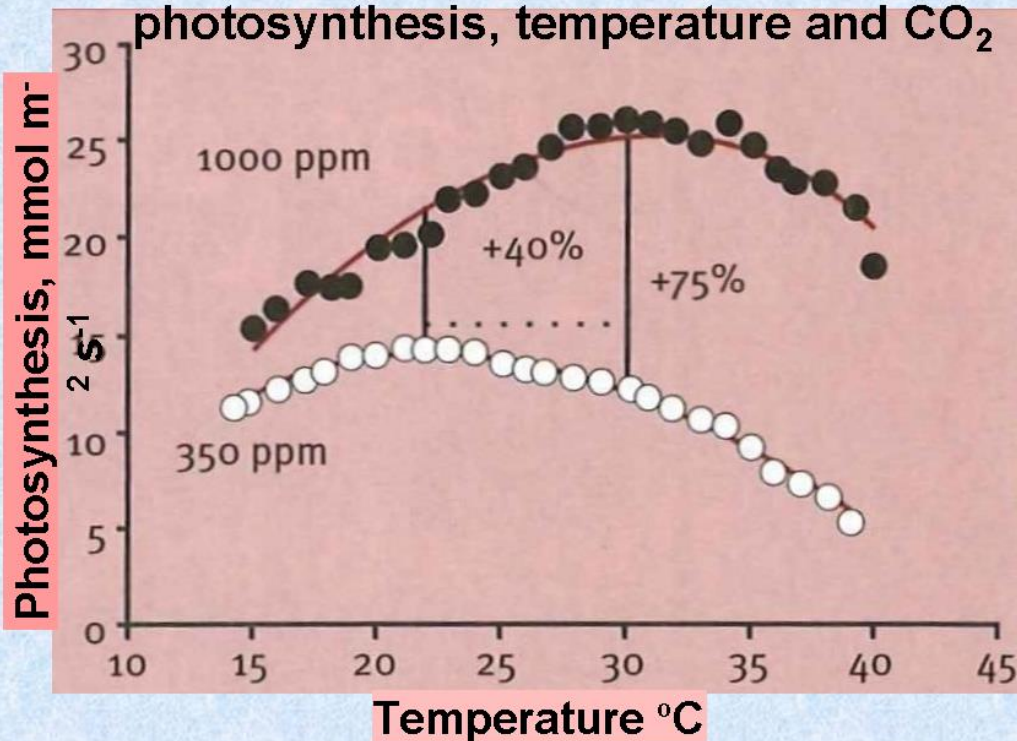
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The relationship between photosynthesis, temperature and CO₂



After: Peter van Weel, PPO greenhouse horticulture, Wageningen, the Netherlands

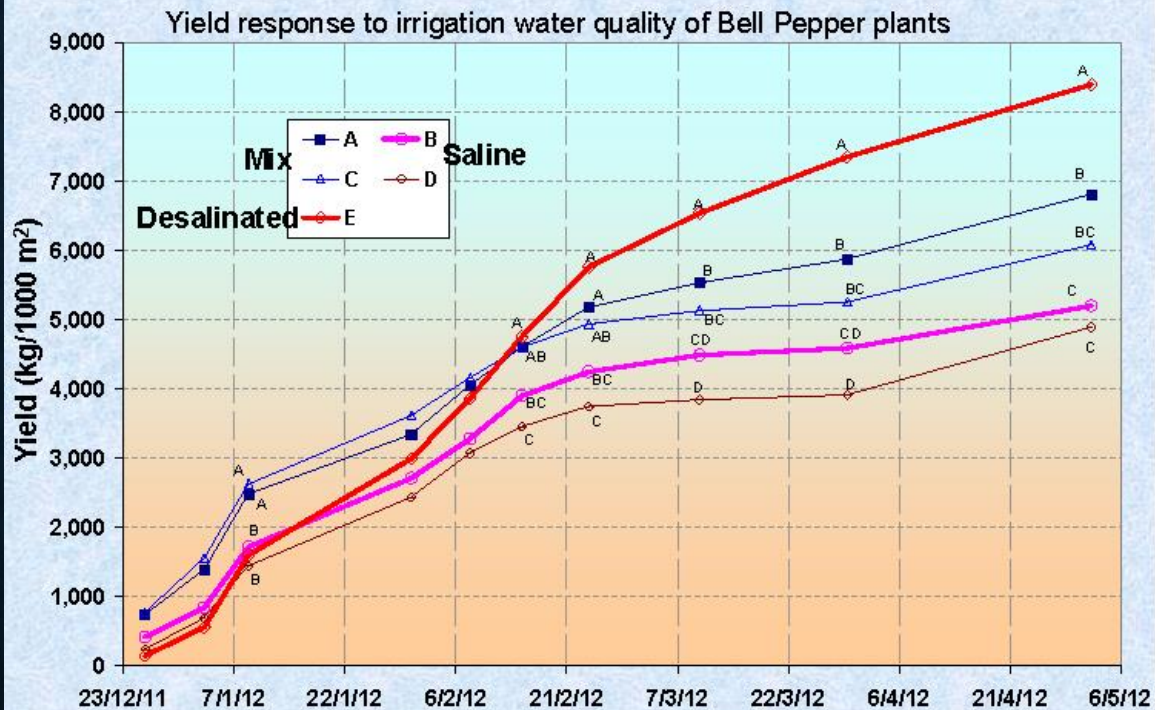
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Source:

Salinity Impact on crop production



Shlomo Kramer

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Source:

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Thank you