

Rangeland Productivity and Plant Composition

Douglas-Plateau Area, Colorado, Parts of Garfield and Mesa Counties

Map symbol and soil name	Ecological site	Total dry-weight production			Characteristic vegetation	Rangeland composition		
		Favorable year	Normal year	Unfavorable year				
		Lb/Ac	Lb/Ac	Lb/Ac	Pct			
55: Parachute	Mountain Loam	1,800	1,500	1,200	Letterman's needlegrass	15		
					Slender wheatgrass	15		
					Arizona fescue	10		
					Columbia needlegrass	10		
					Mountain big sagebrush	10		
					Big bluegrass	5		
					Mountain snowberry	5		
					Saskatoon serviceberry	5		
					Yellow rabbitbrush	5		
		Irigul	Loamy Slopes	1,200	900	500	Bluebunch wheatgrass	10
							Mountain big sagebrush	10
							Prairie Junegrass	10
							Saskatoon serviceberry	10
							Western wheatgrass	10

This report shows only the major soils in each map unit. Others may exist.

Map Unit Description

Douglas-Plateau Area, Colorado, Parts of Garfield and Mesa Counties

55 Parachute-Irigul complex, 5 to 30 percent slopes

Setting

Elevation: 7600 to 8800 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 18 to 22 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 36 to 40 degrees F
Frost-free period: 65 to 90 days

Composition

Parachute and similar soils: 60 percent
Irigul and similar soils: 30 percent

Description of Parachute

Setting

Landform: Mountains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Shoulder, summit
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Convex
Parent material: Residuum weathered from shale and siltstone and/or residuum weathered from sandstone and shale

Properties and Qualities

Slope: 5 to 30 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: 20 to 40 inches to Paralithic bedrock
Drainage class: Well drained
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low or moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Calcium carbonate maximum: 0 percent
Gypsum maximum: 0 percent
Available water capacity: Very low (about 2.8 inches)

Interpretive Groups

Land capability (non irrigated): 6e
Ecological site: Mountain Loam (R048AY228CO)

Typical Profile

0 to 10 inches: loam
10 to 25 inches: very channery loam, extremely channery loam
25 to 29 inches: unweathered bedrock

Description of Irigul

Setting

Landform: Hills
Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope, footslope, shoulder, summit, toeslope
Down-slope shape: Convex
Across-slope shape: Convex
Parent material: Residuum weathered from sandstone and shale

Properties and Qualities

Slope: 5 to 30 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: 5 to 20 inches to Lithic bedrock
Drainage class: Well drained
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low or moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Calcium carbonate maximum: 0 percent
Gypsum maximum: 0 percent
Available water capacity: Very low (about 1.3 inches)

Interpretive Groups

Land capability (non irrigated): 7e
Ecological site: Loamy Slopes (R048AY303CO)

Typical Profile

0 to 6 inches: channery loam

Map Unit Description

Douglas-Plateau Area, Colorado, Parts of Garfield and Mesa Counties

6 to 13 inches: very channery loam
13 to 17 inches: unweathered bedrock