

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
		Lb/Ac				
		Favorable year	Normal year	Unfavorable year		
56:						
Parachute	Brushy Loam	3,000	2,000	1,500	Saskatoon serviceberry	15
					Elk sedge	10
					Mountain brome	10
					Western wheatgrass	10
					Columbia needlegrass	5
					Letterman's needlegrass	5
					Mountain big sagebrush	5
					Mountain snowberry	5
Irigul	Loamy Slopes	1,200	900	500	Bluebunch wheatgrass	10
					Bottlebrush squirreltail	10
					Mountain big sagebrush	10
					Prairie Junegrass	10
					Saskatoon serviceberry	10
					Western wheatgrass	10
Rhone	Brushy Loam	3,000	2,000	1,500	Saskatoon serviceberry	15
					Elk sedge	10
					Mountain brome	10
					Nodding brome	10
					Slender wheatgrass	10
					Letterman's needlegrass	5
					Mountain snowberry	5
					Rose	5

Map Unit Description

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

56 Parachute-Irigul-Rhone association, 25 to 50 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 80 days

Composition

Parachute and similar soils: 35 percent
Irigul and similar soils: 30 percent
Rhone and similar soils: 20 percent

Description of Parachute

Setting

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

Properties and Qualities

Slope: 25 to 50 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): 7e
Ecological site: Brushy Loam (R048AY238CO)

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: 25 to 50 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

Map Unit Description

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

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

Description of Rhone

Setting

Landform: Hills, mountains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope, footslope, shoulder, summit
Down-slope shape: Concave
Across-slope shape: Concave
Parent material: Colluvium derived from sandstone and shale and/or residuum weathered from sandstone and shale

Properties and Qualities

Slope: 25 to 50 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: 40 to 60 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: Moderate (about 7.5 inches)

Interpretive Groups

Land capability (non irrigated): 7e
Ecological site: Brushy Loam (R048AY238CO)

Typical Profile

0 to 10 inches: loam
10 to 39 inches: channery loam
39 to 55 inches: very channery loam
55 to 59 inches: unweathered bedrock