Map of Minnesota Soils

Minnesota Soils: A Mixed Bag

Map Key: Check the map, then write in the name of each region.

- Flat terrain with thick, dark topsoil formed from tall prairie grasses of glacial lake plains. Adequate moisture. Area includes Red River Valley, a major producer of wheat oats soybeans, barley, sunflowers, sugarbeets, dry beans and potatoes.

  Region:____________________

- Silty soils with thin layer of topsoil, formed in forests from deposits of loess — wind blown, silt-size particles that feel like flour or powdered sugar. This sloped area receives the most rainfall. There are few lakes, but many rivers and streams.

  Region:____________________

- Loamy soil (mixture of sand, silt, and clay) with thick topsoil formed in tall grass prairies from glacial till. Rich prairie soils, a long growing season, generally flat terrain and good moisture make this area good for corn and soybeans.

  Region:____________________

- Sandy soils with varying thicknesses of topsoil formed in forests and prairies from glacial outwash. Also loamy soil with thin topsoil formed in forests from glacial till. Lakes and hills dotted with pasture land. More than half the state’s population lives in this area.

  Region:____________________

- Mainly peat soils formed in swamps and bogs of glacial lake plains, with thin top layer of decaying leaves, twigs and stems and no underlying topsoil. Forests, streams, wetlands and marshes, clear deep lakes and mineral deposits make this a popular recreation area. Limited farming.

  Region:____________________