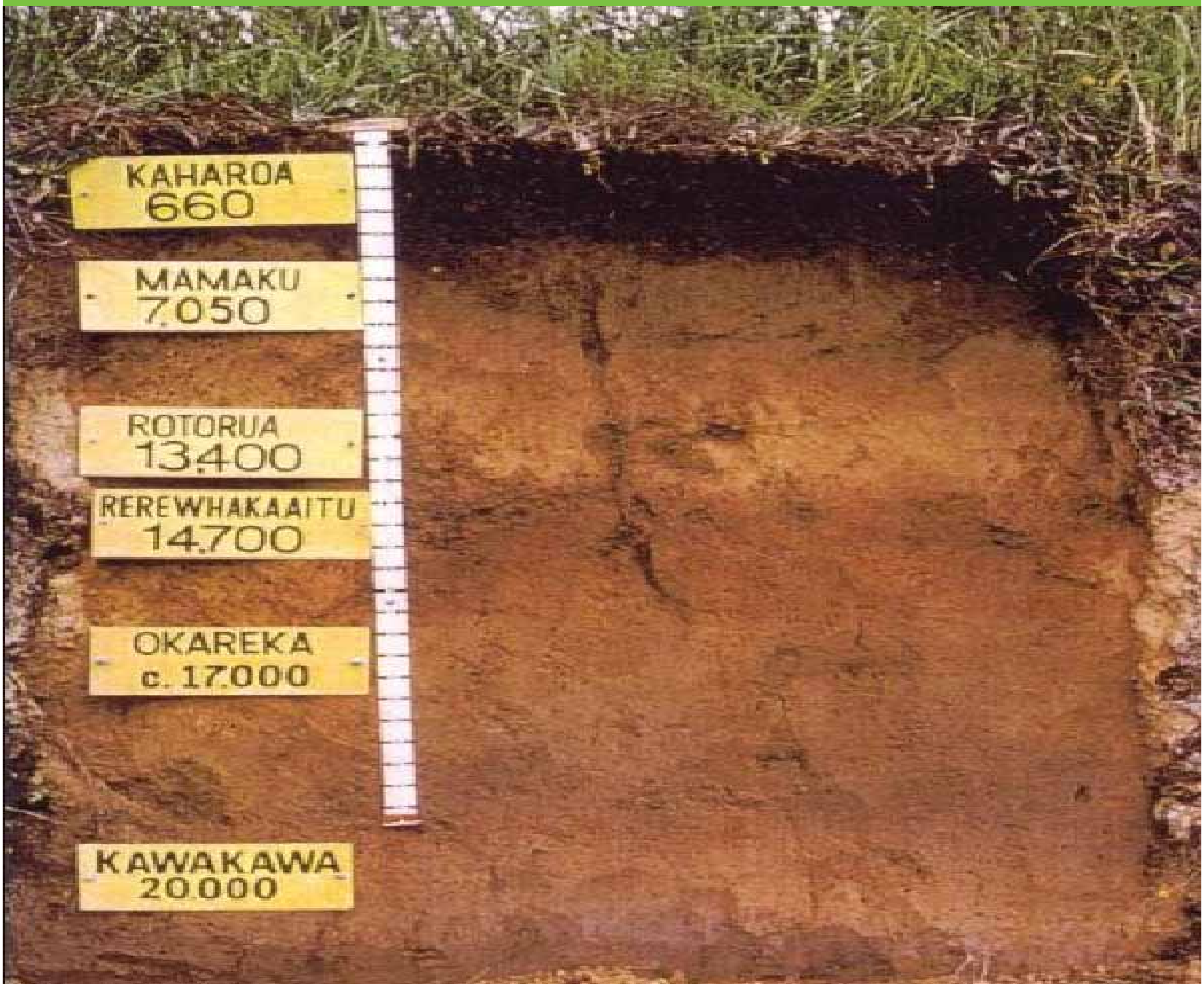
Soils of the Bay of Plenty Volume 1

Western Bay of Plenty



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Preface

Soil is a resource, a living, breathing entity that, if treated properly, will maintain itself.

It's our lifeline for survival. When it has finally been depleted, the human population will disappear.

Project your imagination into the soil below you next time you go into the garden. Think with compassion of the life that exists there. Think, the drama, the harvesting, and the work that carries on ceaselessly. Think about the meaning of being a steward for the earth.

Marjorie Harris, In the Garden (1995)

For as long as I can remember I have been intrigued and fascinated by landscapes and soils of New Zealand, in particular of the Bay of Plenty where I spent a good deal of my career mapping soils. A landscape to me is a puzzle, a closed book, and to be able to open that book, to solve the puzzle by finding out what soils are in the landscape and what are the possibilities for good land use, is a joy we scientists call pedology – the science of soils. It is well developed in New Zealand, as befits a nation which traditionally earned so much of its wealth from the export of produce from the land. We are lucky in that respect that soils of the whole of the Bay of Plenty have now been mapped at a common scale of 1:50,000.

The general public can be excused for thinking that scientists are too pre-occupied with fine details of analysing soils for chemical and physical properties. We classify the soils, map their distribution and indicate their suitability for land use. Much of this knowledge was published by the Soil Bureau of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) or, later, Landcare Research in reports, many of which are not available to the land user. This three-volume publication aims to make a major part of what we know about the soils of the Bay of Plenty available to farmers, foresters, horticulturists, farm consultants, and the general public.

We are lucky that Environment Bay of Plenty has the insight to finance the project of producing these soil books, and thus communicate soil knowledge to land users. I have enjoyed writing these books and call myself fortunate working with my colleague Dani Guinto who did more than his share producing these books. I hope that many of you will use this soil information to your advantage and getting the best from your land whilst realising your stewardship of the earth.

Wim Rijkse

Acknowledgements

Many of the soil property data were derived from Landcare Research's S-map system, and we are grateful for that. Several photographs were taken from the soil survey of the Te Puke District, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand (unpublished) by W. E. Cotching. Acknowledgement goes to Simon Stokes of Environment Bay of Plenty for initiating this soil guide. The authors thank the many farmers and landowners in the Bay of Plenty for permission to enter their properties and to examine and photograph their soils.

Contents

Preface i

Acknowledgements iii

Part 1: Introduction 1

Part 2: The soil-forming environment 3

2.1 Climate 3

2.2 Parent materials 3

2.2.1 Airfall tephra and flow tephra 4

2.2.2 Alluvium and colluvium 10

2.2.3 Organic materials 10

2.2.4 Wind-blown sand 10

2.3 Topography 10

2.4 Vegetation 11

2.5 Time 11

Part 3: Soil landscapes 13

Part 4: Soil classification 15

4.1 Soil orders in the Bay of Plenty 15

4.1.1 Allophanic soils 15

4.1.2 Anthropic soils 15

4.1.3 Brown soils 16

4.1.4 Gley soils 16

4.1.5 Organic soils 16

4.1.6 Podzols 16

4.1.7 Pumice soils 17

4.1.8 Raw soils 17

4.1.9 Recent soils 17

4.2 Soil horizons 18

Part 5: Key soil management considerations 19

5.1 Soil water retention and availability 19

5.2 Soil aeration and drainage 20

5.3 Irrigation 21

5.4 Leaching 22

5.5 Erosion 24

5.5.1 Surface erosion 25

5.5.2 Fluvial erosion 25

5.5.3 Mass movement erosion 25

5.6 Compaction 26

Part 6: Guide to the soil series descriptions 29

6.1 Soil series name 29

6.2 Overview 29

6.3 Physical properties 29

6.4 Chemical properties 33

6.5 Soil types/variations 33

6.5.1 Associated and similar soils 34

6.5.2 General land use suitability ratings 34

6.5.3 Management practices to improve suitability 34

6.5.4 Soil photos 34

Part 7: Soils of Western Bay of Plenty 35

Part 8: Glossary 159

Part 9: References 167

Part 10: Index to Western Bay of Plenty soil series 171

Part 1: Introduction

The Bay of Plenty region covers approximately 21,836 km^2 (comprising 12,253 km^2 of land and 9,583 km^2 of coastal marine area) extending roughly from Katikati in the west to Cape Runaway in the east, and Rotorua District and parts of the Taupo District in the south.

Major landforms include:

- The low-lying Rangitaiki Plains, the plains near Cape Runaway on which river sediments have been laid down. Other flat coastal areas are located near Te Puke and Opotiki. Land use on the versatile soils on these landforms includes dairying, dry stock and horticulture.
- Much of the coastal land is on terrace-like flattish country on which thick layers of tephra occur. Land use includes dairying, dry stock and horticulture (kiwifruit, citrus, etc).
- The Rotorua Caldera was formed by large ignimbrite eruptions in the past. Land use on the tephric soils includes dry stock, dairying and horticulture, but much of the land is either residential or subdivided into small blocks.
- The Rotorua Caldera is flanked by the Mamaku Plateau where tephra overlies the ignimbrite which erupted out of the caldera. Land use consists of dry stock, some dairying and forestry.
- The Kaingaroa Plateau where tephra overlies ignimbrite. Land use is forestry.
- The Galatea Basin through which the Rangitaiki River flows consists chiefly of terrace-like surfaces covered by tephra. Land use consists of dairying and dry stock.
- Hill country forms much of the background of much of the above landforms.
- Steeplands (lands on slopes greater than 25 degrees) occur throughout the area covered with tephra, and dry stock and dairying are the main land uses. Large areas occur in the Urewera National Park and surrounding area. Much of this land is in indigenous forest or cut-over bush. Elsewhere, the steeplands are used for dry stock farming.

Most previous soil mapping work in the Bay of Plenty was carried out by staff of the former Soil Bureau, a division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. In later years some less published work was carried out by staff of Landcare Research. Publications of detailed soil survey work are listed in the References section.

Environment Bay of Plenty has combined all the major soil surveys and came up with a soil map of the whole region at a scale of 1:50,000 through Landcare Research's S-map system. This resource is available on the Internet and consists of a soil map and soil fact sheets (or soil reports) describing the physical and chemical properties of the soils. Access is through Environment Bay of Plenty's website (http://www.envbop.govt.nz/Environment/Soil-Information.aspx).

This publication is a companion resource to complement the soil information available online. In this publication, the soil information for the Bay of Plenty is provided in three volumes which describe the soils of Western, Central and Eastern Bay of Plenty. Figure 1.1 shows the three soil "sub-region" boundaries.

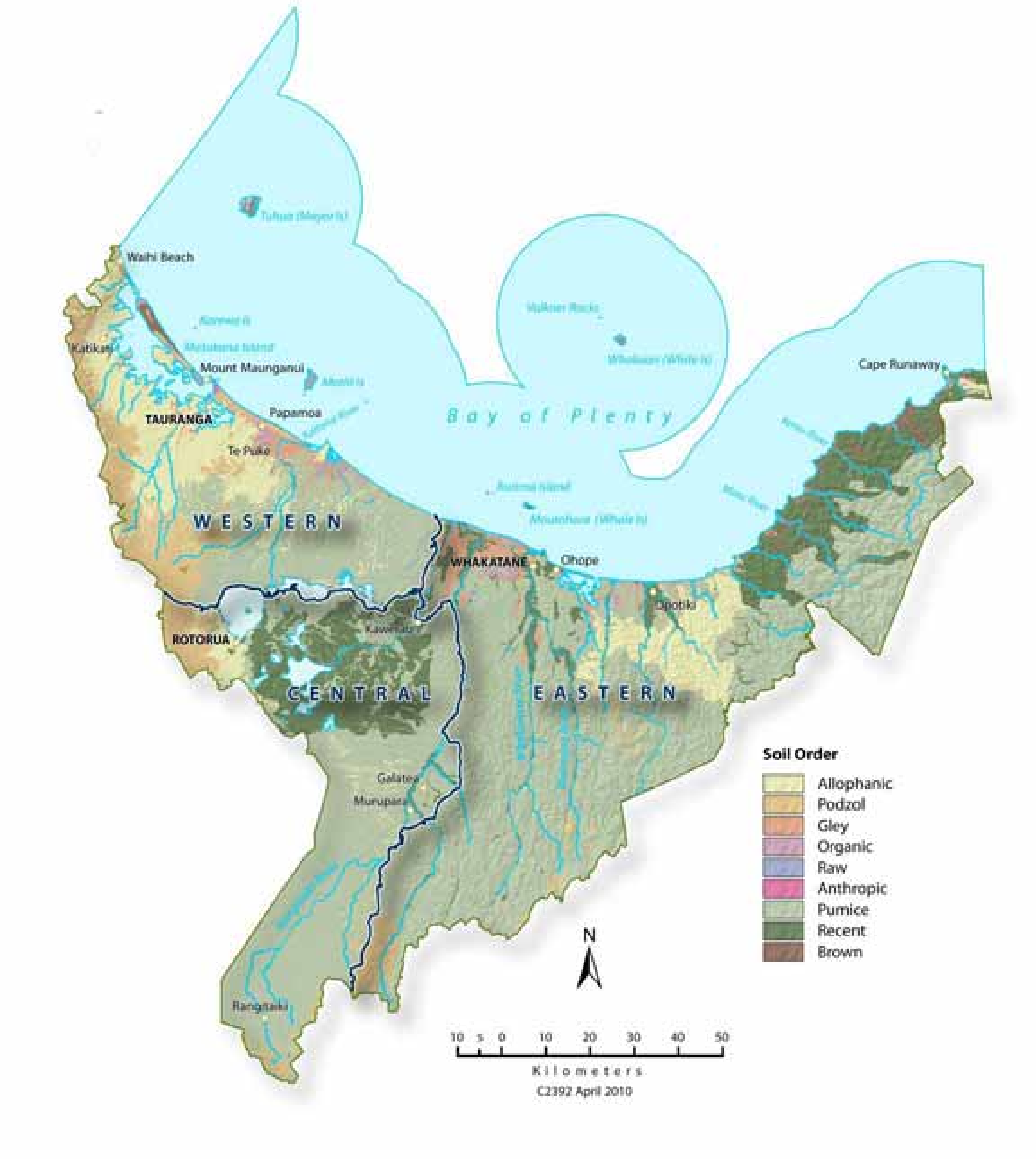


Figure 1.1 General soil map of the Bay of Plenty showing the soil orders and the sub-regional soil boundaries.

These boundaries were drawn to minimise the occurrence of soil series common to two or three sub-regions (i.e. they are not based on district council boundaries). Where such overlaps occur (e.g. Matahina soil series occur in all three sub-regions), each soil series entry is repeated in each volume so that if readers are interested in one sub-region only, but their lands or properties of interest are at or close to the boundaries, they need not refer to the remaining volumes. When in doubt, however, it is advisable to consult all three volumes.

Part 2: The soil-forming environment

The interactions among the principal factors of soil formation (parent material, climate, topography, vegetation and time) and soil-forming processes have given the soils of the Bay of Plenty their distinctive characters.

Parent materials range from thick layers of volcanic ash mantling the surface, to alluvium derived from greywacke, sandstone, mudstone and volcanic ash, to peat and wind-blown sand.

The climate of the Bay of Plenty varies from warm and moist in coastal areas to cool and moist in the uplands of Urewera National Park, the Mamaku Plateau and the Kaimai Range. It is probably the most important factor influencing present-day land use.

The influence of topography is somewhat subdued in a landscape mantled by tephra; however, strong dissection of hill country and steepland country influences the layers of tephra remaining on the slopes, and induces erosion and deposition of material on valley floors.

Vegetation has also played an important role in soil development. Changes in vegetation since the commencement of farming and commercial forestry have had considerable effects on properties such as soil stability.

Some of the principal environmental factors and their relationship to the soil pattern are discussed in greater detail below.

2.1 Climate

The Bay of Plenty is somewhat sheltered from the prevailing winds by the high country of the North Island. Consequently, the Bay of Plenty has a sunny climate with dry spells, but may have prolonged heavy rainfall periods.

Annual rainfall ranges from about 1,200 mm at the coast to over 2,000 mm inland at higher elevations, but decreases again in inland basins such as near Murupara.

Rainfall plays an important part in the development of soils. Broadly speaking, the higher the rainfall the stronger the leaching that takes place in the soil and, at annual rainfall over 1,800 mm, podzolisation processes are evident in the subsoil (redder subsoil).

Over 45% of the annual rainfall is recorded in the months from May to August. The driest period is from November to February. Seasonally, winter is generally the wettest and summer the driest part of the year (NZ Meteorological Service, 1973). Days with more than 1.0 mm rainfall range from around 110 a year at the coast to around 130 inland at Minginui Forest.

2.2 Parent materials

Basement rocks in southern parts of the Bay of Plenty consist chiefly of Urewera greywacke, argillite and basal massive, green volcanic sandstone of Jurassic and lower Cretaceous age with Pleistocene sandstone and siltstones south of Awakeri to Taneatua and west of Ruatoki, as well as south of Ohope as far as Waimana and east as far as the Raukokore River south of Cape Runaway. Past and present erosion resulted in generally shallow soils over angular, shattered greywacke, although tephra persists on stable ridges, crests and spurs. Little or no tephra remains on the steep slopes.

In western parts, ignimbrite and rhyolite form the main basement rocks, changing to andesite in the larger Katikati area.

Tertiary mudstones, siltstones, sandstones and gravels occur east of Waihau Bay. The northern part, east of Cape Runaway, is occupied by a large area of basalt.

Generally, these rocks are mantled by volcanic ash, and they are therefore not soil parent materials. However, especially on steep and very steep slopes, the kind of basement rock often determines the pattern and severity of erosion, and base rocks form an important component of the parent material of alluvium in areas such as the Rangitaiki Plains, the Opotiki flood plains and the flood plains near Cape Runaway.

The parent materials of the soils of the Bay of Plenty can be further divided into:

Airfall tephra and flow tephra
Alluvium and colluvium
Peat
Wind-blown sand

2.2.1 Airfall tephra and flow tephra

Volcanic eruptions occurred at different times from sources in Rotorua and Taupo Districts, and these eruptions were commonly violent, depositing coarse volcanic material called lapilli and blocks over the Bay of Plenty. Finer material or ash was usually deposited during the final stages of an eruption at greater distances away from the volcano. The general term used for all unconsolidated clastic volcanic material is tephra, and ash and lapilli refer to the grade or size only, as shown below:

fine ash	less than 0.25 mm
coarse ash	0.25 – 2.0 mm
lapilli	2 – 64 mm
blocks	more than 64 mm

Table 2.1 Volcanic ash showers in the Bay of Plenty.

Ash shower	^{14}C age in years before 1950 and volcanic centre	Occurrence and distribution	Characteristics
Tarawera Ash and Lapilli	64 Mt Tarawera	Western parts of Eastern Bay of Plenty and north of Kopuriki, thickness varies from 70 cm (Tarawera Forest) to 3 cm (near Whakatane).	Very dark greyish brown to dark grey sand and lapilli, lapilli varies in size from about 1 cm in Tarawera Forest to 1 mm near Whakatane.
Rotomahana Mud	64 Lake Rotomahana	Chiefly west and south of Mount Tarawera as far as Lake Rotorua and North towards the coast.	Greyish sandy loam to loamy sand layer at the surface.
Kaharoa Tephra	770 ± 20 Mt Tarawera	10 – 50 cm thick deposits in the northern part of southern and to the west of eastern Bay of Plenty.	Black sandy topsoils overlying pale yellow to white hard lapilli.
Taupo Tephra Taupo Ignimbrite	– Taupō	10 – 60 cm thick in the northern part of southern and to the west of eastern Bay of Plenty; the lower part of the horizon is rich in rhyolite.	Yellowish brown to pale yellow compact sand with few to many soft highly vesicular and fibrous lapilli and some dark grey rhyolite towards the base.
Taupō Lapilli	1850 ± 10 Taupō	Throughout the Bay of Plenty except towards Cape Runaway, varying in thickness from 60 – 70 cm in the southern parts to traces of lapilli in the north-east.	Pale yellow to strong brown uneven sized soft highly vesicular and fibrous lapilli.
Rotongaio Ash	– Taupō	Thin band in southern Bay of Plenty.	Dark grey to grey thin band which serves as a marker bed to indicate lower limit of Taupo lapilli. Not soil-forming.
Hatepe Lapilli	1,900 ± 60 Taupo	2 – 20 cm thick deposits in southern Bay of Plenty.	Light grey evenly sorted loose sand, not soil-forming but useful marker bed.
Waimihia Tephra Waimihia Ash	3,280 ± 20 Taupō	20 – 50 cm around Murupara and increasing in thickness south of Murupara.	Dark brown to dark yellowish brown, greasy gravelly sand to loamy sand.

Ash shower	^{14}C age in years before 1950 and volcanic centre	Occurrence and distribution	Characteristics
Waimihia Lapilli	Taupō		Yellowish brown to dark yellowish brown, greasy gravelly sand, fine pumice gravel or sand, many fine lapilli. Strong brown colours at high altitudes.
Whakatane Tephra	4,830 ± 20 Ōkataina	50 – 60 cm thick through southern Bay of Plenty and western part of eastern Bay of Plenty, soil-forming in north-east and eastern parts of eastern Bay of Plenty.	Strong brown to yellowish brown slightly greasy loamy sand to sand with few to many pale yellow to yellowish brown medium lapilli.
Tuhua Tephra	6,130 ± 30 Mayor Island	30 – 40 cm below the topsoil, mostly north of Tauranga.	Yellowish brown sandy loam to silt loam.
Rotomā Tephra	8,530 ± 10 Ōkataina	Widespread in Bay of Plenty. About 200 cm at Matahina thinning out to 20 – 30 cm in Minginui Forest.	Yellowish brown greasy loamy sand, mostly in the lower subsoil.
Waiohau Tephra	11,850 ± 60 Ōkataina	Similar to Rotoma Tephra.	Yellowish brown greasy sandy loam to loamy sand in the subsoil.
Kawakawa Tephra	22,590 ± 230 Taupō	Various thickness but widespread in Northern Whakatane District.	Yellowish brown greasy sandy loam to loamy sand in the lower subsoil some andesitic ash (Tongariro) included in Southern Whakatane District.
Omataroa Tephra Mangaone Tephra Hauparu Tephra	28 220 ± 630 Ōkataina	Various thicknesses mainly south of the Rangitaiki Plains.	Thick layers of vesicular angular pale grey to pale yellow lapilli layers at several metres depth.
Rotoehu Tephra	ca. 50,000 Ōkataina	Various thicknesses throughout Bay of Plenty.	Distinctive white sand or lapilli at several metres depth.

Various descriptions of tephra occurring in the Bay of Plenty exist (Vucetich and Pullar 1969; Howorth 1975; Froggatt and Lowe 1990). The main ones are summarised in Table 2.1. Many of the listed tephra occur at depth, and only influence the soils where they are susceptible to erosion. For example, south of Ruatoki Valley, Rotoehu Ash overlies weathered greywacke and, where forest roads cut through the tephra layers, water accumulating in Rotoehu lapilli acts as a slide and, in saturated conditions, the whole tephra column slides off the greywacke. The most frequently occurring soil-forming tephra are Tarawera Tephra, Rotomahana Mud, Kaharoa Tephra, Taupo Tephra, Waimihia Tephra, Whakatane Tephra and Tuhua Tephra (See Figures 2.1 and 2.2).

Tarawera Tephra erupted from Mount Tarawera in 1886, and it occurs in topsoils from Galatea Basin towards the coast. It is thickest in the Tarawera Forest (70 cm) and it consists of black to dark greyish-brown angular basaltic ash and lapilli. It is considered to be significant where more than 7 cm thick.

Thickness and size of scoria can be critical on hilly slopes sown in pasture where coarse lapilli erode downslope and pastures fail to establish. The separation between the coarse textured Matahina series and the finer textured Manawahe series is based on such land use differences.

Rotomahana Mud erupted from the sides of Lake Rotomahana during the Tarawera eruption in 1886. The hydrothermally altered ("precooked" by thermal activity) material is quite fertile and supports excellent pastures.

Kaharoa Ash also erupted from Mount Tarawera (about 800 years ago) and it is widespread in central Bay of Plenty, except in southern parts. It consists of ash and white almost non-vesicular lapilli.

The Taupo Pumice Formation, hereafter called Taupo Pumice, represents the products of a series of violent eruptions which occurred shortly after each other in the Taupo area.

Taupo lapilli is the most widespread member of the Formation, and it occurs throughout the Bay of Plenty varying from at least one metre in the south to a few centimetres in the Rangitaiki Plains.

In central and southern areas it overlies Rotongaio Ash, a fine sandy hydrothermally altered mud, varying in thickness from 0.5 to 5 cm. This rests on Hatepe lapilli, a uniformly-graded lapilli (sago-like).

Taupo ignimbrite, formerly called Upper Taupo Pumice, overlies Taupo lapilli in central and southern Bay of Plenty. This material, called flow tephra, was deposited at the latter stages of the Taupo eruptions as a *nuée ardente*, or "glowing avalanche", consisting of an incandescent mixture of ash and pumice moving rapidly like a gas cloud over the landscape. It left thick deposits of pumiceous sand, lapilli and blocks recognisable by poor sorting, compactness and the presence of many charred logs and pieces of charcoal. The lower part of the flow tephra contains much rhyolite, and it was formerly regarded as a separate layer called Rhyolite Block Member. Flow tephra is widespread and thick in large areas of Kāingaroa Forest south of its headquarters, and generally very thinly overlies rolling and hill country in southern Bay of Plenty.

The Waimihia Formation occurs in the subsoil of most soils in central and southern Bay of Plenty. Ash forms the upper part, and lapilli form the lower part. It is about 20 cm thick near Murupara, thickening to 100 to 200 cm in the south of the Bay of Plenty. It is a dark brown to dark yellowish brown greasy gravelly sand to loamy sand overlying yellowish brown to strong brown lapilli.

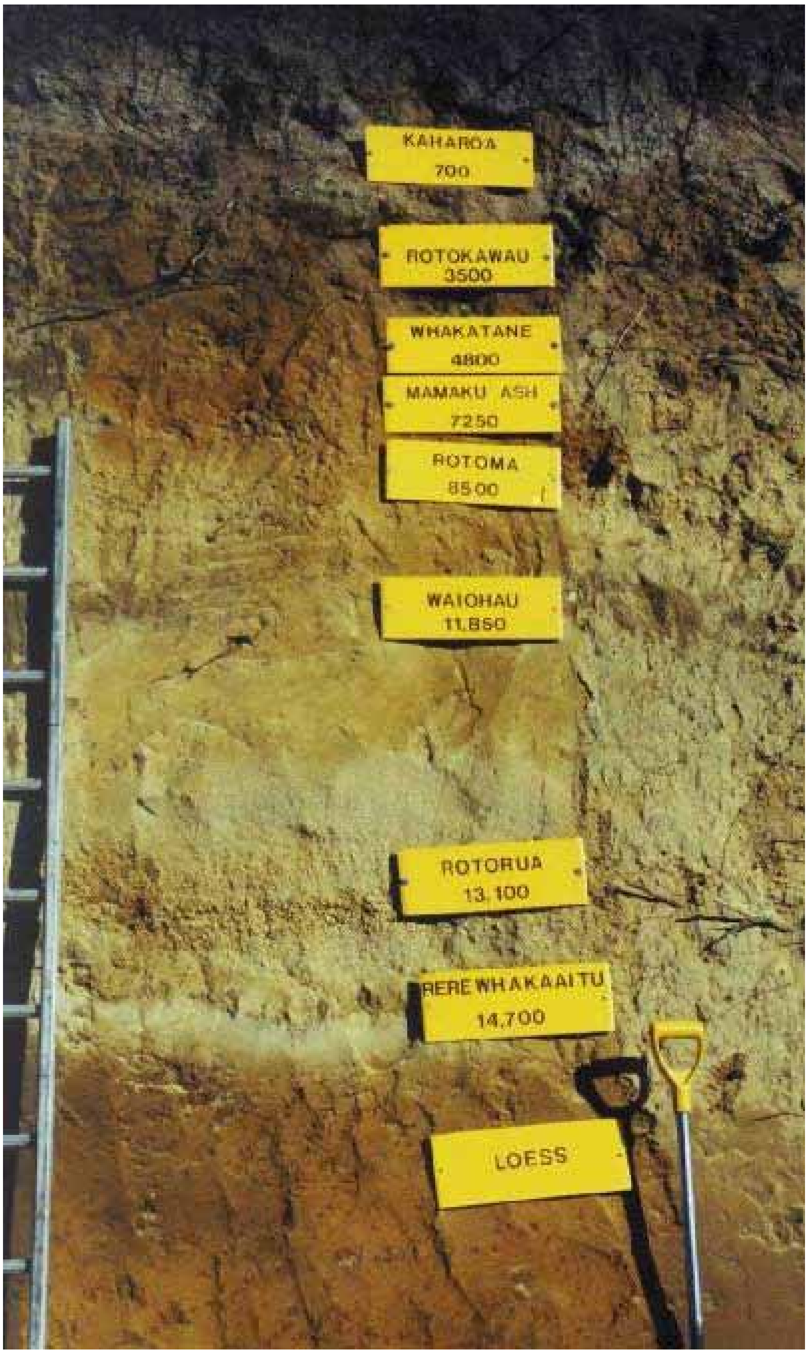


Figure 2.1 Tephra section north of Lake Rotoiti. (Note: Numbers are years before present (1950))

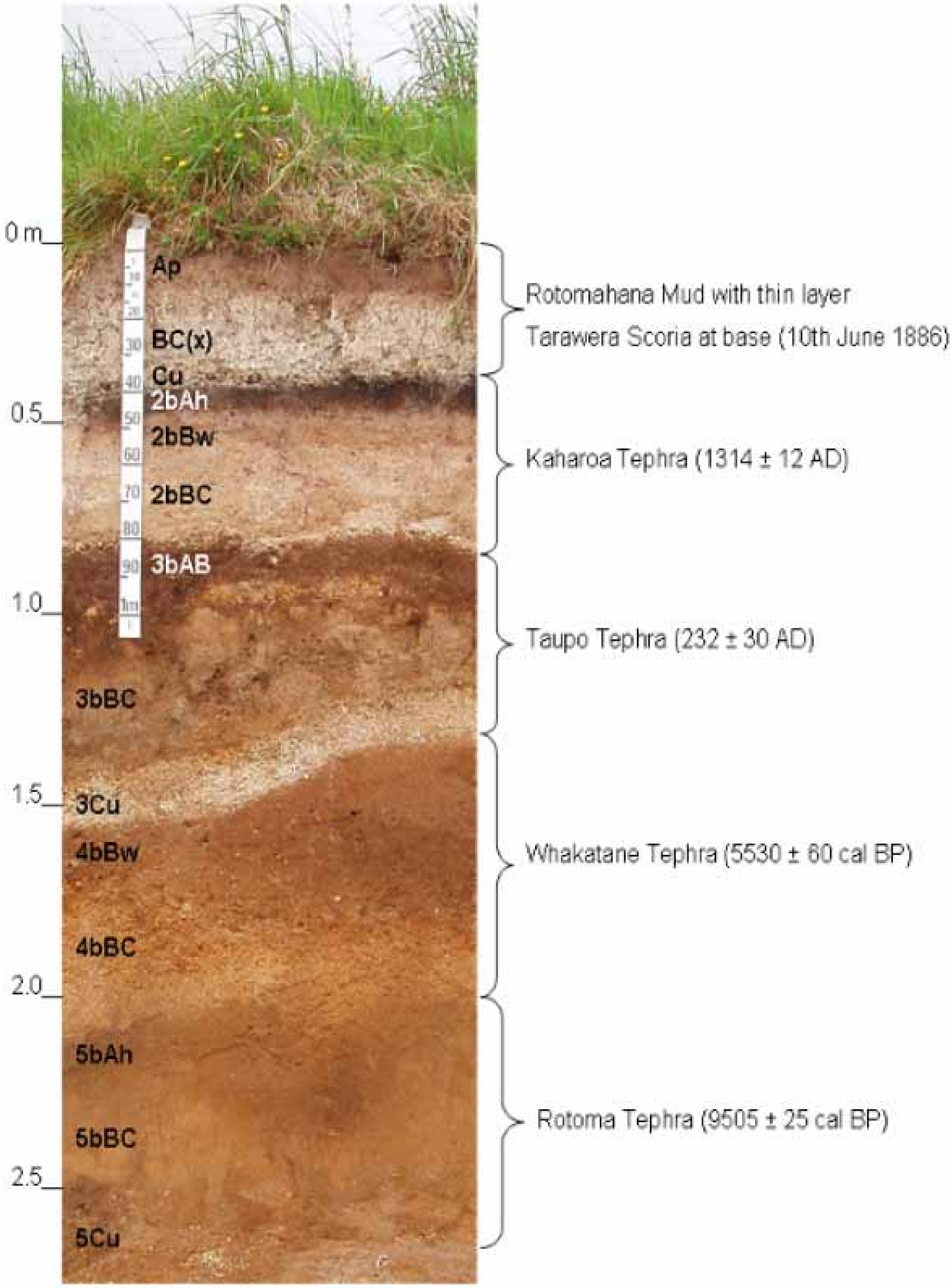


Figure 2.2 *Present-day soil (Rotomahana silt loam), buried soil horizons and tephra layers at Brett Road, Rotorua. (Source: Lowe 2006)*

Whakatane Tephra is 50 to 60 cm thick in most areas and soil-forming in northern and north-eastern parts of Whakatane District where the younger tephra are thinning out. It consists of yellowish-brown to strong brown slightly greasy loamy sand to sand with few pale yellow to yellowish-brown medium lapilli.

Below Whakatane Tephra, various older tephra (and tephric loess) occur consisting of layers of yellowish-brown to pale yellow greasy loamy sand and sand, and layers of pumice lapilli occur with varying thickness. These tephra layers are generally not soil-forming on flat to rolling land, but on hilly and steep land, where the upper tephra have eroded off, they may occur closer to the surface. The tephra are listed in Table 1 with a general description of their occurrence and appearance in the field.

2.2.2 Alluvium and colluvium

Alluvium is widespread in areas such as the Rangitaiki Plains, the Opotiki area and generally on wide flood plains of the main rivers.

Much of the alluvium consists of rounded or sub-rounded pumice re-deposited from erosion products off hills. River alluvium frequently contains large amounts of material derived from sedimentary rocks. On the Rangitaiki Plains, much of the alluvium has been derived from Kaharoa Tephra and it often appears as a fine sandy or silty material (buff layer). It forms a compact layer of about 20 cm restricting root development and natural drainage. It overlies very thin to thin airfall Kaharoa Tephra. Alluvium in the Opotiki area is derived from tephra and greywacke, and near Cape Runaway, the alluvium is derived from greywacke and tephra with some mudstone and siltstone.

Colluvium is the product of erosion from hills accumulated on fans and valley floors. It is extensive in the eastern part of the Galatea Basin and on small fans throughout the Bay of Plenty. In the field it consists of much rounded and semi-rounded lapilli, and it looks often very similar to alluvium except that it tends to be coarser, e.g. contains more lapilli.

2.2.3 Organic materials

Peat occurs in many areas of the Rangitaiki Plains, on the Te Puke flats, and in the Opotiki area where it may occur in thick or thin layers alternating with pumice alluvium and/or airfall tephra. In some small areas, thin to very thin layers of diatomaceous earth occur in the subsoil.

2.2.4 Wind-blown sand

Wind-blown sand occurs in a belt along the coast and in local areas further inland. The dunes along the Rangitaiki Plains coast are covered or mixed with Tarawera Ash and Kaharoa Tephra. The tephra cover on the dunes further inland also includes Taupo Pumice and Whakatane Tephra.

2.3 Topography

Topography influences soil formation by modifying the climatic factor. By controlling the amount of runoff, topography influences the effectiveness of rainfall and the degree to which erosion removes the soil being formed. Similarly, the effectiveness of solar radiation varies with topography since the direction and steepness of slope determine the angle of incidence of the sun’s rays. For example, in hill country, north-facing slopes generally receive more seasonal sunlight than south-facing slopes.

Low-lying areas that receive runoff retain most of the water from rainfall and are usually significantly wetter than neighbouring slopes. Variation in soil moisture regimes induced by differences in topographic positions is often the main reason for variation in soil properties over a landscape receiving a similar amount of rainfall per year. The effect of topography on the soil pattern at sub-regional level is discussed in the section on soil landscapes.

2.4 Vegetation

Evidence of pre-historic and pre-European vegetation is inferred from remnant forest pockets and buried wood and stumps. Vegetation patterns are closely related to the other soil-forming factors and soil type.

Dune lands are thought to have supported a forest of podocarp and kauri on the inland dunes and a mixture of pohutukawa and manuka on more coastal dunes. Well-drained terrace-like surfaces near the coast supported a mixed forest (rimu, tawa, kohekohe, kamahi and an occasional red beech or totara). Low-lying swampy areas supported kahikatea and pukatea swamp forest. Further inland, extensive podocarp forest (rata/tawa-rewarewa-mangeao-kamahi) changed to rimu-rata/tawa-kamahi forest where elevation and rainfall increased, such as on the Mamaku Plateau.

Today, much of the Bay of Plenty is sown into pasture or planted into subtropical fruit orchards along the coast, and pine forests further inland. Much of the indigenous forests remain, or are partly cut-over and allowed to re-grow, in the steep country of Eastern Bay of Plenty, and in the Urewera and Kaimai forests.

2.5 Time

Soil-forming factors and processes need time to produce soils. Relatively recently eroded steep slopes, and recent soils derived from alluvium or wind-blown sand, display a limited development of the subsoils. The soils tend to have low clay content, and sand particles dominate the soil matrix because of the limited time of weathering. Soil structures tend to be weakly developed and low levels of organic matter occur. On the other hand, soils derived from older parent materials such as tephra are more weathered, have greater clay content and deeper subsoil development compared with younger soils. Deposition of fresh sediments still continues today from erosion-deposition cycles on hilly slopes and along the main rivers and streams.

Although estimates of the rate of soil formation vary globally from 0.01 to 7.7 mm per year with an average of 0.1 mm per year, it is generally agreed that soil formation is a slow process (Morgan 1995). For example, most allophanic soils have taken between 10,000 and 20,000 years to form, and are clearly irreplaceable (Lowe and Palmer 2005). Thus, the importance of conserving topsoils cannot be overemphasised.

Part 3: Soil landscapes

A soil landscape is a simplified representation of a sequence or pattern of soils in a landscape with respect to landforms or topographic positions. The soil landscapes are portrayed in two-dimensional (by distance and elevation) idealised cross sections of parts of the Bay of Plenty. They are more appropriately called schematic cross sections because, in reality, one or two soils may be missing in a given area and other soils may be more extensive. This publication uses the concept of soil series which may or may not contain two or more soil types. The schematic cross sections show selected soil types as they occur in soil landscapes. In the examples that follow, soils occurring within a soil landscape will vary from place to place with respect to slope, depth, texture, drainage, and other characteristics (e.g. depth of tephra layers). These differences in characteristics are important because they affect land use and soil management.

Figure 3.1 shows a sequence of soils from the Kaimais (Whakamarama series) to the lower elevations (Katikati series) and the lowlands (Pahoia and Muriwai series). Hill soils and steepland soils are generally well-drained, while lowland soils close to Tauranga Harbour are poorly-drained.

Figure 3.2 portrays a section from east of Te Puke towards Katikati. The soils are used for kiwifruit or pasture. They commonly have deep friable subsoils without any root barriers. Paengaroa series have shallow Kaharoa Tephra forming A and B horizons. Te Puke series have very thin Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra on sandy rhyolitic tephra. Katikati series are finer textured compared with Te Puke series, and the tephra layers are thinner. B horizons are partly formed from Tuhua Tephra (erupted from Mayor Island). Finally, Waitekauri series represent soils north of Katikati where many rhyolitic tephra are thinning out and form much finer soil textures.

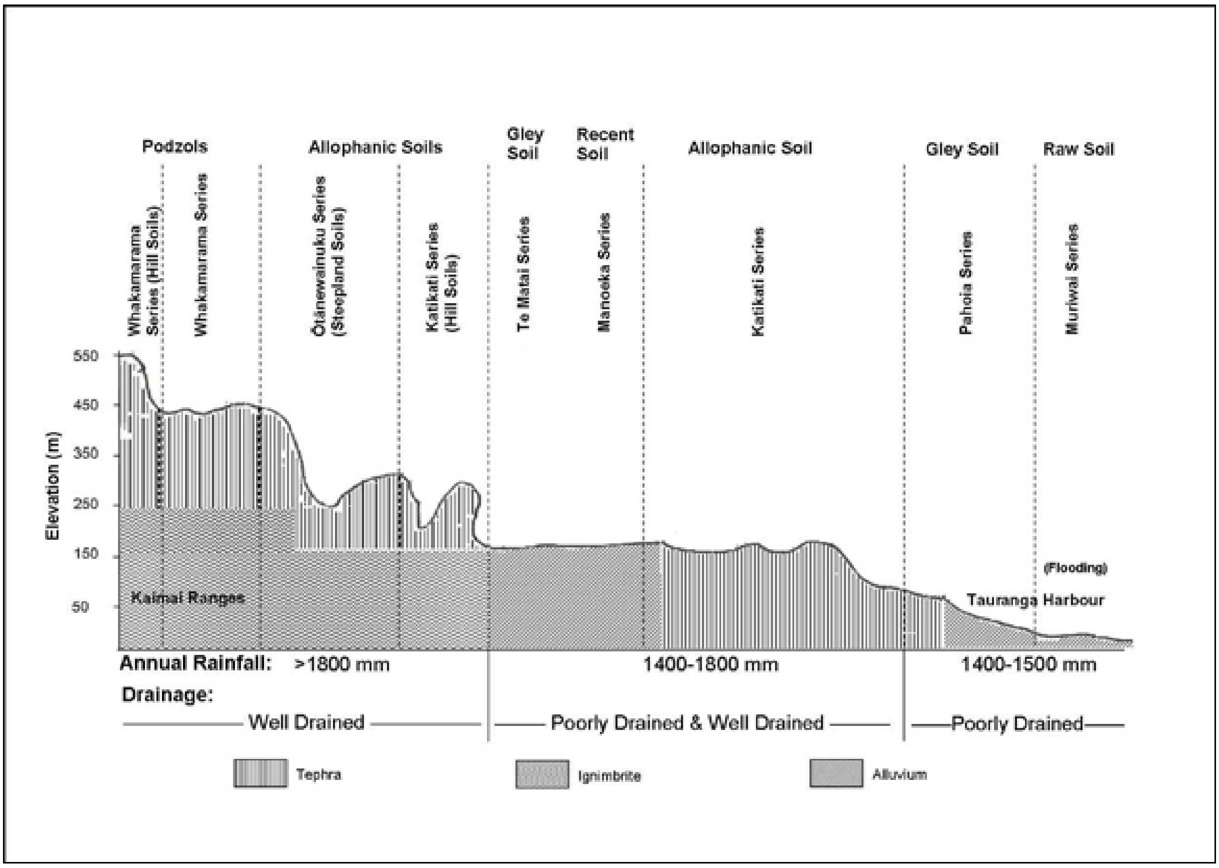


Figure 3.1 Schematic cross section of the major soils of Tauranga District. (Note: Diagram not drawn to scale)

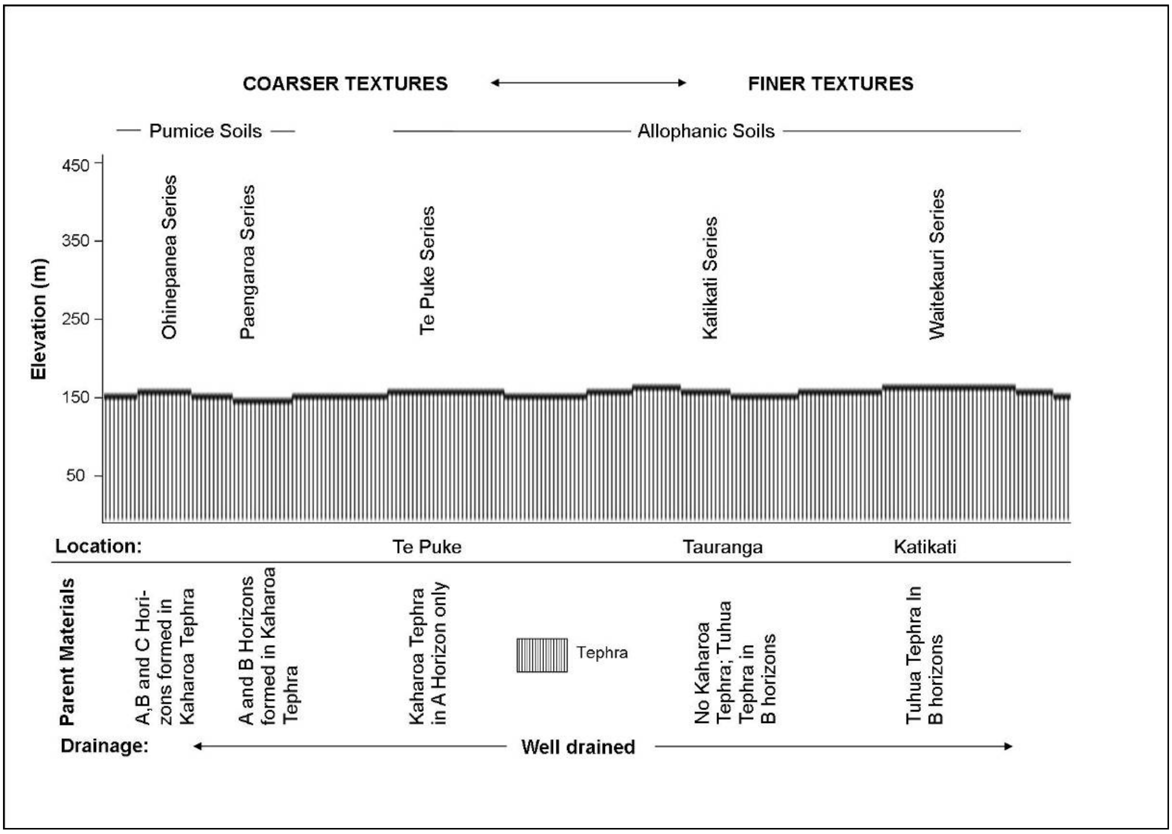


Figure 3.2 Schematic cross section of soils of the Western Bay of Plenty. (Note: Diagram not drawn to scale)

Part 4: Soil classification

The soils of the Bay of Plenty are discussed according to the New Zealand Soil Classification (Hewitt 1998a; 1998b). The classification has three categories of descending order: Order – Group – Subgroup. The series name can be regarded as a fourth level category in this classification. For example, Waitekauri series are Typic (subgroup) Orthic (group) Allophanic Soils (Order). In this publication, a classification to subgroup level is included in the overview. There are 15 soil orders in the New Zealand Soil Classification System. In the Bay of Plenty, nine soil orders are present (See Figure 1.1). These include: Allophanic Soils, Anthropic (or Man-made) Soils, Brown Soils, Gley Soils, Organic Soils, Podzols, Pumice Soils, Raw Soils and Recent Soils.

4.1 Soil orders in the Bay of Plenty

4.1.1 Allophanic soils

Allophanic soils have properties that are strongly influenced by clay minerals that are poorly crystallised or amorphous (allophane, imogolite, ferrihydrite). They have weak soil strength and are sensitive with low bulk density. The soils are formed from layers of volcanic ash that are visible near the source (Rotorua area) and telescope together further away (East Coast area). They were called yellow-brown loams in previous soil classifications.

The soils typically have dark yellowish-brown grading to yellowish-brown sandy loam to silt loam subsoils with high levels of phosphate-fixing allophane in the clay fraction. Topsoils tend to be 18 cm or more deep with weakly developed structure and black to dark brown colours. The soils have a typically greasy feel when moistened and rubbed firmly between the fingers.

Allophanic soils are generally moderately to strongly leached with low levels of exchangeable calcium, potassium, magnesium and sodium. Reserves of magnesium and potassium are low to very low. Available phosphorus is naturally low with high phosphate retention.

Allophanic soils are friable to a great depth and do not have root-restricting layers. Along coastal Bay of Plenty, these are ideal soils for deep-rooting subtropical plants such as kiwifruit, provided they are sheltered from salt-laden winds. Other uses are pasture (dairying, dry stock), or forestry on steeper slopes. Cropping, such as maize, needs careful management to preserve topsoil structure.

4.1.2 Anthropic soils

Anthropic soils or man-made soils are soils that have been altered by humans, including truncation of natural soils by earth-moving equipment, drastic mixing of natural soils so that their original character is lost, or by deposition of thick layers of organic or inorganic material.

Variation of areas thus affected is great and, in the Bay of Plenty, the worst cases are indicated on the soil maps but are not further described. Many soils were truncated in the 1980s in the kiwifruit growing areas, but such soils have not been mapped separately.

4.1.3 Brown soils

Brown soils have secondary iron oxides evenly dispersed through the soil and give a yellowish-brown colour to the upper part of the subsoil. Base saturation values are usually moderate to very low. Poorly-drained soils are excluded from the order. Summer dryness and winter logging are uncommon.

Most of the brown soils occur in Eastern Bay of Plenty, where they support pasture (dry stock, dairying), forestry and cropping (maize). There are small areas in Western Bay of Plenty on steep slopes largely in indigenous forest.

4.1.4 Gley soils

Gley soils are poorly or very poorly-drained in their natural state. Saturation occurs during prolonged periods, oxygen becomes limited, and reducing conditions occur. They were called gley soils or gleyed soils in previous soil classifications. Gley soils are essentially older wet mineral soils derived from a variety of parent materials including alluvium, colluvium and wind-blown coastal sands. They occur in valley floors, on the upper part of coastal terraces and coastal and river back swamps or former back swamps.

The soils have greyish-looking horizons, which have a lower boundary 90 cm or more from the mineral soil surface. It has low chroma (greyish) colours that occupy 50% or more of the matrix. Yellowish-brown or more reddish mottles are common. Dairying and dry stock are the main uses of gley soils. Maize is grown successfully on many gley soils.

4.1.5 Organic soils

Organic soils have horizons that consist of organic material that, within 60 cm of the soil surface, has 30 cm or more peat accumulated in wet conditions. The soils were also called organic soils in previous soil classifications.

The soils occur in low-lying depressions or former back swamps and valley floors. They are poorly-drained with fluctuating water tables. High water tables reduce the rooting depth to about 20 cm in some areas. Many areas are drained with deep open drains resulting in some shrinkage of the peat. Land use includes dairying and dry stock, but pugging can be a problem during wet winters.

4.1.6 Podzols

Podzols are strongly leached acid soils. They have a horizon of accumulation of aluminium occurring as complexes with organic matter and/or as short range minerals (typically as allophane/imogolite). The soils occur under high rainfall (generally exceeding 1,800 to 2,000 mm annually), mostly at higher elevations (exceeding 600 m), and they are usually associated with forest species which produce an acid litter, such as rimu and beech. Podzols are strongly leached and have low natural nutrient levels. The soils were called podzols or podzolised in previous soil classifications.

In the Bay of Plenty they are used for dry stock grazing and some dairying, forestry, and some cropping on the Mamaku Plateau. Large areas, such as the Urewera Range, are in indigenous forest.

4.1.7 **Pumice soils**

Pumice soils are soils that are dominated by pumice or pumice sand high in volcanic glass. They have low clay contents and the clay fraction typically contains allophane. They were called yellow-brown pumice soils in previous soil classifications. Pumice soils occur in sandy or pumiceous tephra ranging from 700 to 3,500 years in age.

Clay contents are generally less than 10% and soil strength is weak or very weak. The soils are resistant to pugging and, like the Allophanic soils, have low to very low nutrient levels. The potential for erosion by water is high, especially when the surface vegetation and thin topsoil are removed. Summer droughts occur.

Pumice soils occur throughout Central Bay of Plenty in areas such as Rotorua, Kawerau and parts of the Rangitaiki Plains. Land use includes dry stock farming, dairying, forestry and fodder cropping.

4.1.8 **Raw soils**

Raw soils lack distinctive topsoil development. They occur in environments where the development of topsoils is prevented by rockiness, active erosion, thermal activity, or deposition. They include beach sands or gravels.

The soils are mostly of medium fertility. They are well-drained with low water-holding capacity, and dry bulk densities above 1.4 tonnes per cubic metre. Main restrictions are frequent flooding, excessive drainage and extreme salinity. The soils are used for dry stock grazing or recreation.

4.1.9 **Recent soils**

Recent soils show only incipient marks of soil-forming processes because of youthfulness, truncation of an older solum (the combined surface and subsurface horizons) or, less commonly, because the soil material is resistant to alteration. Soil formation has been sufficient to develop distinct topsoils. The concept of the order relates to weak soil development rather than the length of time of soil formation.

The main properties include weak soil development, generally high base saturation, gravel or rock not strongly altered, high potential rooting depth, good drainage, low phosphate retention, high fertility, and susceptibility to erosion and/or sedimentation.

Fluvial recent soils occur on slightly elevated river terraces. These are among the most versatile soils in the Bay of Plenty and land use includes dairying, dry stock and cropping (maize, fodder crops).

Recent soils also occur on hilly or steep slopes where surfaces are renewed after erosion. Land use on such slopes is mostly dry stock or forestry, the latter restricted because of shallow profiles overlying parent rock. Many areas are in indigenous forest.

4.2 Soil horizons

Soil horizon designations are used to indicate certain properties associated with a horizon. For example a topsoil is an A horizon. If that horizon has been ploughed or worked in any way, it becomes an Ap (p=plough) horizon. The following symbols have been used in the text:

A horizon	topsoil
Ap horizon	ploughed topsoil
Ah horizon	non-ploughed horizon
E horizon	bleached horizon immediately below the topsoil, occurs in podzols
Bw horizon	weathered horizon below the A horizon
Bh horizon	subsoil horizon with accumulation of organic matter and often iron and aluminium; occurs in podzols
Bg	gleyed or mottled (wet) horizon below the topsoil
C horizon	unconsolidated or weakly-consolidated mineral horizon that is little affected by soil-forming processes

Part 5: Key soil management considerations

In this section, important management considerations for Bay of Plenty soils are discussed and generic soil management recommendations provided. Greater emphasis is given to managing the physical properties of soils for crop/animal production and environmental protection since they are more difficult to manipulate or change compared with chemical properties (e.g. nitrogen deficiency, high phosphate retention, acidity) which can be easily corrected by the application of fertilisers, lime, and other soil amendments. For plant growth an ideal soil has, as a rule of thumb, 50% solids, 25% water and 25% air by volume. From a physical standpoint soil management is about knowing one's soil and employing practices that optimise the relative proportions of air and water in the soil's pore spaces. The reader should consult more detailed soil management recommendations available in several excellent publications (e.g. Cornforth 1998; Shepherd 2009; Fertresearch nutrient management booklets: http://www.fertresearch.org.nz/resource-centre/booklets).

5.1 Soil water retention and availability

The retention and availability of water in the soil for plant use is largely determined by soil texture through its influence on the amount and size distribution of soil pores that retain water. Two useful measures of available water-holding capacity are **profile total available water** and **profile readily available water**. **Profile total available water** is the volume of water retained in the soil between field capacity and wilting point expressed as a depth (mm water per 100 cm soil depth). Field capacity may be defined as the water content that a soil reaches after it is saturated and allowed to drain until the drainage rate is negligible compared to evapotranspiration. It is considered the upper limit of the available water range (Figure 5.1). **Profile readily available water** is the volume of water expressed as a depth (mm water per 100 cm soil depth) considered extractable by plants with little effort and, consequently, little limitation to growth. It is the difference between soil field capacity and its water content when plant growth is inhibited by lack of soil water.

Available water-holding capacity is important for two reasons. First, it is a measure of the ability of the soil to sustain good growth and high yields of crops and pastures. Second, it is a measure of the capacity of the soil to store water via rainfall and irrigation (including effluent irrigation). The higher the available water-holding capacity, the more suitable the soil for any type of irrigation.

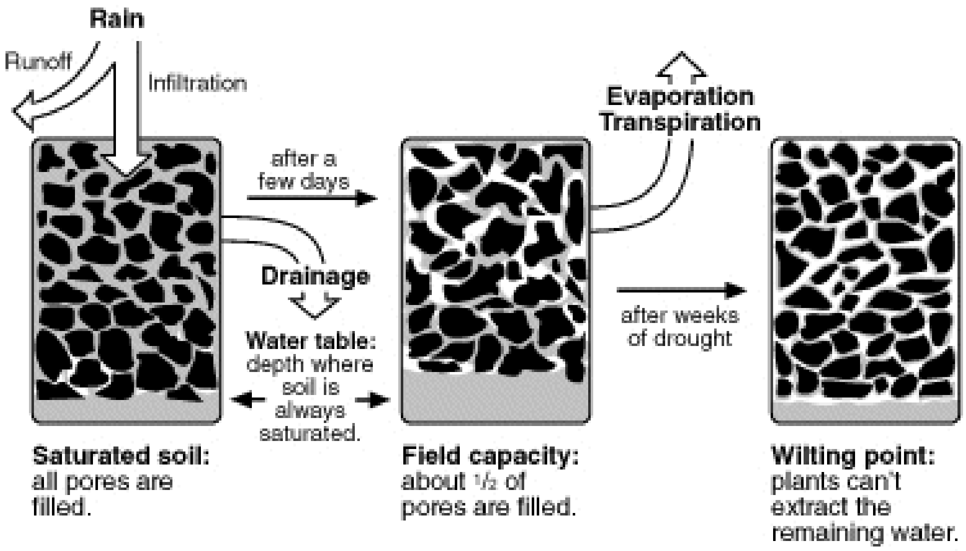


Figure 5.1 *Soil water retention and depletion process illustrating the concepts of saturation, field capacity and wilting point. Available water-holding capacity is the amount of water retained between field capacity and wilting point (Source: University of Minnesota 2000).*

Organic matter indirectly affects the water-holding capacity of soils by influencing soil structure and pore spaces. Organic matter stabilises soil structure and increases the volume and size of soil pores resulting in increase in water infiltration and water retention. Given the sandy nature of many soils of the Bay of Plenty, the importance of adding and/or retaining organic matter should be part of a sound soil management programme.

5.2 Soil aeration and drainage

Soil aeration reflects the ability of soil to allow exchange of air (particularly oxygen and carbon dioxide gases) between the atmosphere and plant roots. It represents the coarser pores in a soil, which provide the space into which plant roots grow and drain water from saturation to field capacity under the force of gravity. A soil is saturated when the total pore space is filled with water and the level of oxygen in the soil falls. Roots of most dryland plant species obtain oxygen used in aerobic respiration from surrounding pore space. This enables them to selectively absorb nutrients from the soil solution. When soil oxygen concentrations become limiting at saturation, the uptake by plants of major nutrients is inhibited, but manganese, iron and sodium may accumulate to toxic concentrations (Trought 1981). In waterlogged soil in winter time, plant growth may not be a great deal affected because oxygen requirements at that time of the year are small. Poor aeration and high moisture content also directly affect the occurrence and severity of some plant diseases, particularly in horticultural crops, e.g. phytopthora root rot (Cotching 1998).

Soil drainage refers to how much, and how quickly, water is removed from the soil. It also refers to the frequency and duration of periods when the soil is not wet. Drainage depends on three major factors: (1) input into the soil from rainfall, irrigation, seepage and runoff; (2) the flow of water through the soil (permeability); and (3) outlet from the soil or field drains to the collector drains, and from there to the sea (Griffiths 2004). Drainage is important because it affects both the oxygen supply and the temperature of the environment where plant roots and microorganisms thrive. Thus, wet soils will require some form of drainage if they are to be used productively for agriculture, since roots of non-aquatic plants do not normally survive and grow in saturated or waterlogged soils due to the lack of oxygen. Plant growth on partially drained soils will be slow because wetter soils take longer to warm up so that growth does not start until later in the spring. Kiwifruit plants, for example, do not tolerate poor soil drainage. Animals grazing on wet land can compact the soil as they leave deep hoof marks that collect rainfall. Farm machinery may become bogged in wet paddocks and also compact the soil.

Most soil series of the Bay of Plenty have no or few problems with soil drainage as the soils are naturally well-drained. Exceptions include naturally poorly-drained gley and organic soils, which are generally located in coastal areas (Figure 5.2). The soil series descriptions, which form the main part of this publication, indicate whether drainage is a problem by listing the natural drainage class. In most areas in the Bay of Plenty open drains are used, because sandy or loamy subsoils are not suitable for mole drainage.

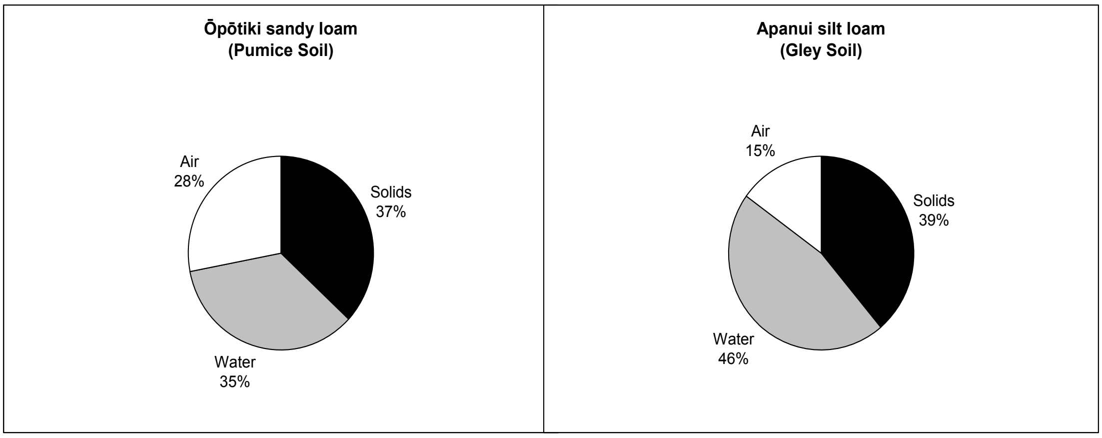


Figure 5.2 Volume composition of a well-drained soil (Ōpōtiki sandy loam) and a poorly-drained soil (Apanui silt loam). Both soil types have almost equal pore space, but the volume occupied by air is much less in the poorly-drained soil because its pore space is largely occupied by water.

5.3 Irrigation

Despite the Bay of Plenty's favourable annual rainfall for pasture and crop production, farmers are increasingly relying on irrigation to boost their productivity or avoid drought risks during the summer months. In particular, irrigation in kiwifruit has become increasingly common as more drought-prone soils are being used for this crop. Irrigation of effluent to soils is also becoming a common practice in dairy farms as a preferred method for treating effluent and for supplying water and nutrients to pasture.

Combined with climate information, knowledge of the water-holding capacity of soils is important (Section 5.1) to determine the correct amount and frequency of water application. Over-irrigation wastes water and energy and increases labour cost. It can also hasten the leaching of applied nutrients below the root zone (leading to contamination of water bodies), impede drainage, and reduce crop/pasture yields. On the other hand, under-irrigation stresses the plant and causes yield reductions. To avoid water stress, irrigation will need to be added to a level close to field capacity when half of the available water has been used by the plant. This is commonly known as the "refill point" or "trigger point".

To avoid under- and over-irrigation, it is important to properly monitor soil moisture in the farm. Tensiometers, gypsum blocks, neutron probes, time domain reflectometry (TDR) and frequency domain reflectometry (FDR) sensors are the main instruments that can be used for monitoring soil moisture.

As water is becoming an expensive commodity nationwide, farmers should also investigate the use of precision irrigation technology (e.g. variable rate irrigation) which uses global positioning system (GPS) satellite guidance technology to take into account differences in soil and/or crop types that can be designated as separate management zones. Water (or fertiliser) application is tailored for each soil type (i.e. wetter soils receive less water than drier ones; fertile areas receive less fertiliser than infertile ones). Benefits include: savings in water, lower fuel consumption, application rates that are tailored for different soil and/or crop types, more efficient water/nutrient application, reduced nutrient runoff and leaching, less track maintenance, and evening out of inaccuracies in water distribution created where sprinkler nozzles are unable to apply the correct amount of water.

5.4 Leaching

Leaching is the process of removal of soluble materials (nutrients, metals and pesticides) in solution by water draining through the soil. The leaching potential of a soil depends on its texture, infiltration capacity, permeability, water-holding capacity, existing soil moisture content (representing a balance between rainfall or irrigation and the amount used by plants through evapotranspiration), concentration of soluble materials, and cation and anion exchange capacity. In addition, the movement of water down the soil profile can be non-uniform due to water flowing preferentially and more rapidly in cracks and other channels like worm holes, root holes, etc. (Figure 5.3). Such enhanced downward flow can carry a range of contaminants including nutrients, pesticides, trace metals, and pathogens in animal manure. Excessive leaching is detrimental since it leads to the loss of applied plant nutrients (e.g. nitrate-nitrogen and sulphate) resulting in greater fertiliser requirements/costs; water contamination when the leached nutrients and other unwanted substances reach the groundwater and eventually streams, rivers and lakes; and long-term acidification of soils due to the removal of basic cations like potassium, calcium and magnesium (Cornforth 1998). Strongly leached soils may occur anywhere, but are most common under high annual rainfall at higher elevations, as in the case of podzols.

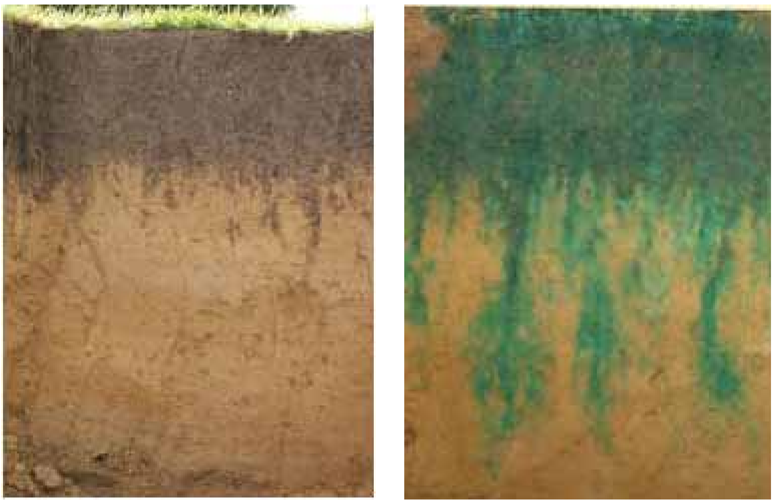


Figure 5.3 Applying water containing a blue dye stain to soil reveals uneven wetting of the soil profile due to water preferentially flowing in cracks and other channels. Nutrients carried by water, like nitrate, can potentially leach below the plant root zone and contaminate groundwater. (Photos from Carrick 2007)

Nutrient leaching is very relevant to the Bay of Plenty because many of the soils have sandy textures. Nutrients in sandy soils with low organic matter content are easily leached because the soils are freely draining and have low nutrient retention capacities. On the other hand, soils containing appreciable clay and organic matter do not leach as much because a greater proportion of inorganic nutrients is adsorbed on the (mostly) negatively-charged exchange complex. Since texture is a basic soil property that is not easily changed, the addition of organic matter to sandy topsoils to increase their nutrient-holding capacity is very important. This applies largely to the nutrient cations potassium, calcium and magnesium which are held on the negative charges of organic matter. Nitrate anions are not held by the negative charges of organic matter, and can therefore still leach.

Leaching losses of nitrate can be reduced by judicious use of nitrogen fertilisers. The proper amount, method and timing of nitrogen fertiliser application are very important. Fertiliser applications should be scheduled to coincide with rapid plant growth to maximise nitrogen uptake. Where possible, applications should be split using smaller doses more often. It is essential to postpone fertiliser application if heavy rain is forecast or if the ground is too wet (near or above field capacity). Fertilisers should not be applied close to wetlands and streams. This will reduce potential for nutrients to be transported off-site during heavy rains. Fertiliser application should be reduced in areas where grazing animals congregate. The soils in these areas often contain sufficient nutrients for plant growth, so fertiliser application is often unnecessary.

5.5 Erosion

Accelerated soil erosion significantly affects the productivity and profitability of a farming enterprise both in the short and long term. It is therefore important to understand the processes, erosion types and soil conservation options available to the land manager. In New Zealand three broad categories of soil erosion are recognised, namely: surface erosion, fluvial erosion, and mass movement erosion. The categories are further subdivided into various erosion types (Lynn et al. 2009). Surface erosion involves the movement of a thin layer of soil particles or aggregates on the ground by the action of water, wind or gravity. Fluvial erosion involves the removal of soil material by running water flowing in channels. Mass movement erosion involves movement of soil and/or rock material downslope as a more or less coherent mass under the influence of gravity. Saturation of slope materials by water triggers mass movements.

Deposition, or sedimentation, may be regarded as a fourth erosion category as it is the endpoint of the soil erosion process, and can do as much damage as the removal of soil. Following is a discussion of the different types of erosion that commonly occur in the Bay of Plenty (Figure 5.4).

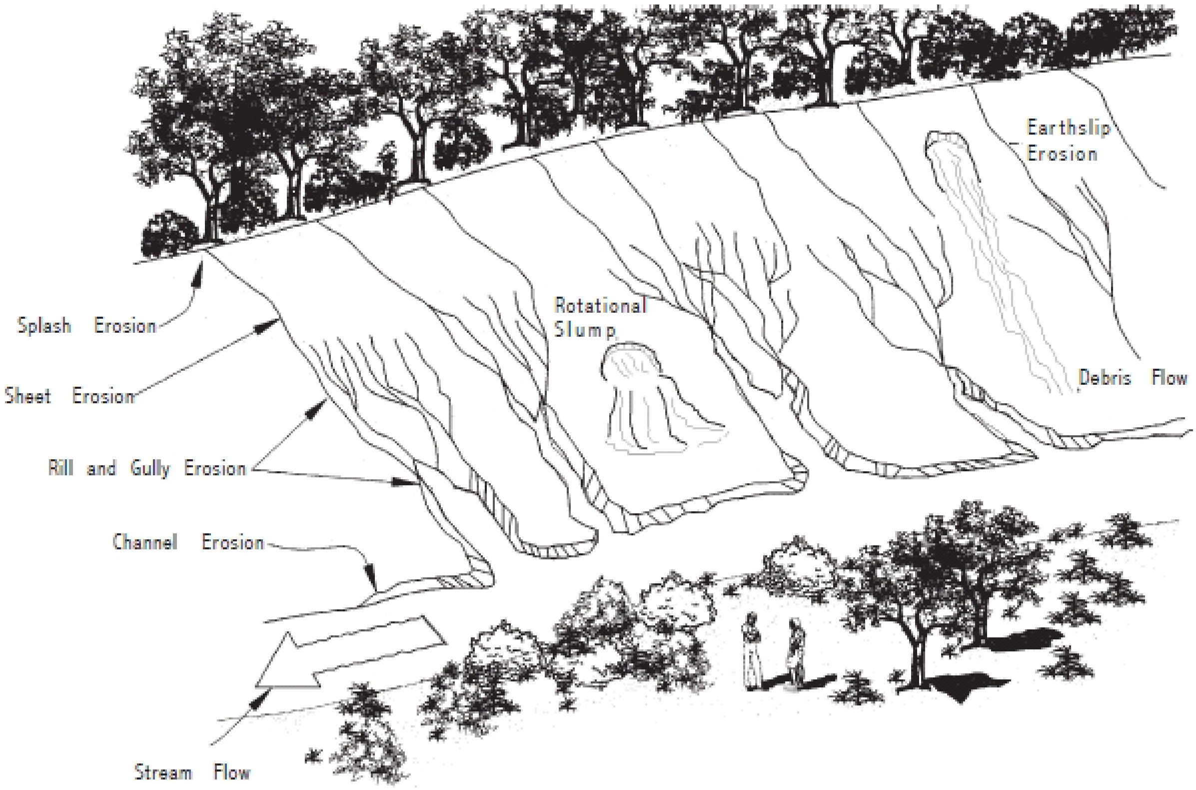


Figure 5.4 Common types of rainfall-induced soil erosion (Source: Auckland Regional Council 1999)

5.5.1 Surface erosion

Sheet (or sheetwash): Erosion in which thin layers of surface material are gradually removed more or less evenly from an extensive area of sloping land. It is caused by a combination of raindrop impact, detachment, and transport of soil particles by surface runoff. It is an insidious form of erosion as it removes topsoil and applied fertiliser.

Scree (or scree creep): The most common erosion type in the Bay of Plenty, whereby slow, gradual, more or less continuous, non-reversible deformation occurs, sustained by soil and rock materials under gravitational stresses. It occurs on many hill slopes and is recognisable by the presence of **terracettes** on slopes. The steeper the slope, the more pronounced the terracettes (see photos of Potikirua and Tawhia steepland soil landscapes in Volume 3).

Wind: Detachment, transport and deposition of loose materials by wind action. It occurs in coastal dune landscapes or along dry riverbeds, and may produce loess; however, loess is rare in the Bay of Plenty. Dry, volcanic ash soils are also very susceptible to this type of erosion. A good practice is avoiding cultivation during dry spells, which results in loss of organic matter.

5.5.2 Fluvial erosion

Rill: The formation of rills by water action. Rills are narrow (less than 30 cm wide) and shallow (less than 60 cm deep) channels that can be removed by tillage operations. However, when neglected, they can slowly develop into gullies.

Gully: The formation of gullies by water action. Gullies are channels which are wide (more than 30 cm) and deep (greater than 60 cm) enough to interfere with, and not be removed by, normal tillage operations. U-shaped gullies are common in the Bay of Plenty because of the relatively soft nature of tephra and alluvial deposits.

Streambank (also called bank or channel erosion): Erosion of soil material from the bank of a stream or watercourse caused by water flowing in stream and river channels, usually during periods of peak flow. Streambank erosion on recent alluvial soils can be very difficult to control as it is a natural process.

Tunnel gully (also known as pipe/shaft erosion, under-runners or tomos): Erosion by percolating water in a layer of subsoil resulting in tunnels or pipes which may collapse, producing gullies. Tunnel gullies may occur in thick subsoil pumice lapilli layers.

5.5.3 Mass movement erosion

Slip: This is a shallow, rapid sliding or flowing movement of soil material downslope, leaving a slip face and debris. The shearing takes place on a well-defined curved surface. It occurs during heavy rainfalls. Most slopes with a steepness of 15˚ can slip.

Slump: This tends to be deeper than a slip and involves downslope movement of large blocks of soil and rock materials. It involves rotational slide movements along curved planes of failure.

Recognising the different soil erosion types is important in planning and implementing appropriate soil conservation and management practices for sustaining agricultural productivity and protecting the environment. Depending on the location and soil type, different erosion types may be present in any given farm, and may require a combination of different soil conservation strategies. In general, preference is always given to biological or vegetative measures over mechanical measures, since they are less expensive and deal directly with reducing raindrop impact, increasing infiltration, reducing runoff volume, and decreasing water and wind velocities (Morgan 1995). Mechanical structures can be costly to install and maintain, and should be viewed as supplementing biological measures to control runoff flows. Surface soils of the Bay of Plenty are generally sandy and are regarded as erodible materials. The importance of maintaining adequate vegetative cover and the addition of organic matter to soils to reduce their susceptibility to erosion cannot be overemphasised.

Table 5.1 provides some general guidelines in combating the different types of erosion. Details of recommended soil conservation practices can be found in the Soil Conservation Technical Handbook published by the Ministry for the Environment (http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/land/soil-conservation-handbook-jun01/soil-conserv-handbook-jun01.pdf) and Environment Bay of Plenty's Land Management fact sheets (http://www.envbop.govt.nz/Knowledge-Centre/Land-Management-factsheets.aspx), or by contacting your local land management officer.

5.6 Compaction

An increase in the soil's bulk density or reduction in porosity is referred to as compaction. It is a process of packing the soil particles closer together causing a reduction in the volume of air. Compaction usually eliminates the largest air-filled pores first. Compaction can be caused by cultivation when the soil is wet, animal treading, and farm vehicular traffic. Driving on wet soils breaks down soil aggregates and compacts the soil. Excessive soil compaction restricts soil aeration, reduces plant growth and productivity, impedes drainage, reduces infiltration, and increases runoff generated during intense rains, leading to greater soil erosion losses.

Compaction can be minimised by waiting for the surface soil to dry out before driving on the soil, maintaining good soil structure and drainage, restricting the number of cultivation passes across the paddock, fitting dual wheels to reduce contact pressure and the risk of wheel slip, decreasing tyre pressures to reduce contact pressure, restricting heavy vehicles to the edge of the paddock (Cornforth 1998), practicing zero or minimum tillage, and the use of precision agriculture techniques.

There are few problems with compaction in the Bay of Plenty due to the sandy nature of many of the topsoils. However, compaction may occur in alluvial soils with clay loam topsoils that are used intensively, ploughed often, or when using heavy machinery with rubber tyres. The compaction is broken up by ripping. Compaction by animal treading under very wet soil conditions ("pugging") may also occur in soil types derived from Rotomahana Mud. Careful grazing management such as allowing the soil to dry below field capacity before grazing, limiting the number of hours animals graze on wet paddocks, the use of feed pads, animal shelters, etc. should be considered on such soil types.

Table 5.1 Recommended soil conservation measures for various erosion types. (Adapted from Ngapo 2010)

Erosion type	Recommended soil conservation measures
Sheet erosion	• Maintain a good ground cover (vegetation or mulch) to protect soil surface from rain splash erosion. • Add organic matter to soils in the form of crop residues, composts, manures, cover crops, green manure crops, etc. • Practise zero or minimum tillage. • Avoid over-grazing; practice controlled grazing. • Site gates, fences, drinking troughs and other farm infrastructure carefully to avoid heavy concentration of stock on susceptible areas such as steep slopes. • Fence steep areas from flat areas. • Fence to slope aspect to allow for controlled grazing while avoiding over-grazing. • Use appropriate pasture species to suit the soil type. • Consider alternative land uses to grazing (e.g. protection forestry) of very steep slopes.
Wind erosion	• Avoid cultivation during dry spells. • Add organic matter to soils in the form of crop residues, composts, manures, cover crops, green manure crops, etc. • Practice zero or minimum tillage.
Rill erosion	• Stabilise the soil surface by maintaining a good ground cover of vegetation, mulch, and other materials. • Install runoff controls (e.g. graded banks, contour furrows and cut-offs) to reduce the velocity of overland flow. Ensure that runoff controls have a stable outlet. • Employ grass strips when cultivating.
Gully erosion	• Divert runoff away from the gully head. • Control runoff over the gully head using flumes, pipes and drop structures. • Reduce peak runoff rates. • Use a combination of the above methods (the most common method is to use a small detention bund, with adequate storm water detention, and low flow pipes to convey water over or around the gully head). • Employ planting of the gully head (for small gullies only). • Employ planting of stable points at critical locations. • Practise retirement of gullies from grazing in association with runoff control. • Contour ground to “smooth out” small gullies on low terraces (in combination with runoff control and surface vegetation).

Erosion type	Recommended soil conservation measures
Streambank erosion	• Avoid grazing of livestock on streambanks. • Fence and plant streams with careful thought on the type and location of fences and what planting should be done (grass buffers and native species are preferred).
Tunnel gully erosion	• Plant a willow pole in the tunnel hole. • Collapse in with a shovel or digger to remove the risk of lamb or sheep losses. • Bulldoze in or fill the hole with coarse material to filter out any fines. • Fence the tunnel gully to ensure stock do not fall in.
Slips and slumps	• Plant soil-conserving trees (e.g. poplars; willows; native trees like manuka, kanuka).

Part 6: Guide to the soil series descriptions

The soils are listed alphabetically according to soil series. The following is a guide to understanding the soil information contained in the soil series descriptions. Soil-related terms are also described in the Glossary.

6.1 Soil series name

This is the name of the soil series and its corresponding soil map symbol or code. A soil series is a group of soils that have similar profile characteristics except for differences in texture of the surface layer. Traditionally, a soil series is named after the place where the soil was first observed and described (e.g. Matahina series).

6.2 Overview

The overview provides general information on the occurrence and distribution of the soil series, parent materials, physiographic position and slope, colour, profile texture, soil classification (up to subgroup level), vegetation, and/or land use. Where relevant, occurrence of soils under varying rainfall amount is also mentioned (e.g. in the case of Podzols).

It should be noted that soils are rarely homogenous. This is particularly the case with steepland soils which have highly variable characteristics. Thus, if a steepland soil is classified as an allophanic soil, this is a generalisation. In reality, the soil is predominantly allophanic but, when it occurs on steep, eroded slopes, it can also be classified as a recent soil.

6.3 Physical properties

Texture: Texture is the relative proportions of the primary particles in the soil, namely sand (2.00-0.06 mm), silt (0.06-0.002 mm) and clay (<0.002 mm). Particles with diameters less than 2 mm are referred to as the fine earth fraction, while those with diameters greater than 2 mm are called coarse fragments. Sand particles feel gritty, and are large enough to be seen by the naked eye. Silt particles are smaller, and feel smooth, like flour. Clays are much smaller, feel sticky, and can be formed into ribbons and wires when wet. Clay particles are flat, and can be seen only when viewed under a high-powered microscope. Because sand and silt are relatively large, they possess only a small surface area and contribute little to the chemical behaviour of the soil. In contrast, clays are very small, possess a large surface area, carry electrical charges, and are much more chemically active than sand and silt.

Every soil contains a mixture of sand, silt and clay, and this is expressed as a textural class name such as sandy loam, silt loam, clay, etc. A soil that contains a balanced mixture of sand, silt and clay is called a loam. If rock or stone fragments are present in significant quantity, then a coarse fragment modifier, such as gravelly sandy loam, is used. The soil textural triangle (Figure 6.1) shows all the textural class names that result in various combinations of sand, silt and clay. A more generalised, or simplified, textural triangle is used to group the textural classes into sandy, silty, loamy and clayey.

The texture given here actually refers to the simplified textural groupings. Skeletal soils (those with horizons containing 35% or more gravel by volume) and peats are also included as textural groups. A soil can have two or more contrasting textures with depth and is described as layered (e.g. loam over sand, loam over clay, sand over skeletal). In the Bay of Plenty many soils are formed from volcanic deposits, and the ‘gravel’ consists of pieces of pumice called lapilli.

Texture is a basic property of the soil that is not easily changed. It affects other soil properties, such as water availability, permeability, drainage, and aeration. It also influences nutrient retention, the development of soil structure, and the ease of soil cultivation. Texture influences the balance between water-filled pores and air-filled pores, creating different soil environments for root growth and the activity of microorganisms. Medium-textured soils, such as loam and silt loam, have a range of pore sizes that allows water to flow through the smaller pores and exchange air in the larger pores. Thus, they provide favourable environments for root growth, store large amounts of water for plant use, and have good nutrient-supplying power. Sandy soils have more large pores and fewer small pores. They have good aeration, but store much less water for plant use, and are considered droughty soils. In heavily-fertilised sandy soils rapid water movement increases the risk of groundwater pollution through leaching of excess nutrients such as nitrate.

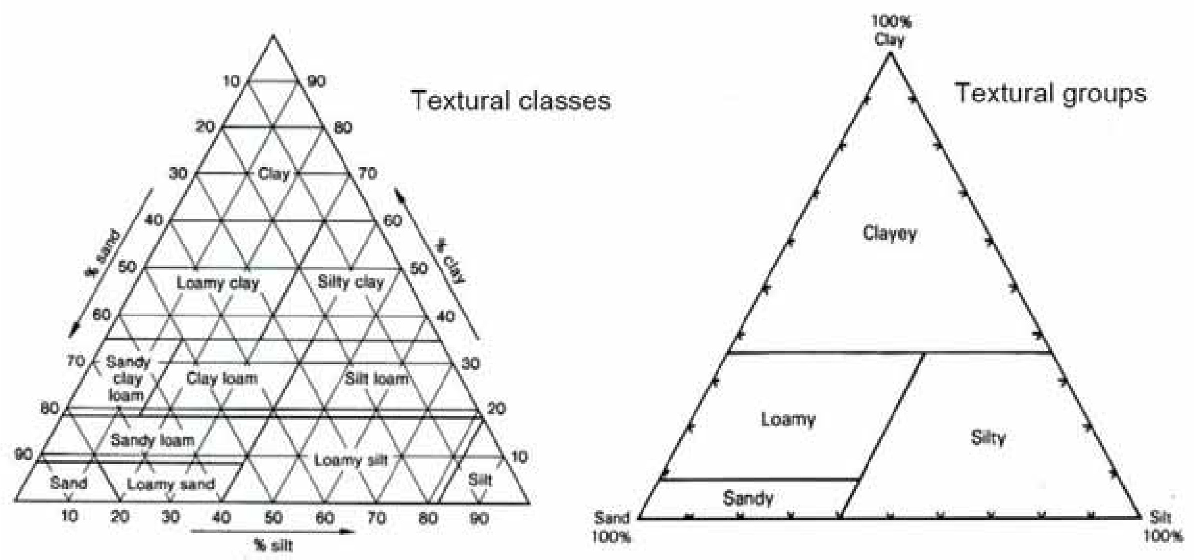


Figure 6.1 Soil textural triangles showing the textural classes (left) and simplified textural groups (right)

Topsoil clay content: This refers to the range of clay content of the topsoil expressed as a percentage. In general, soils of the Bay of Plenty do not contain appreciable amounts of clay. Clay particles are very small with a high surface area per unit weight, giving them a high capacity to adsorb water and other substances. They also carry electrical charges (mostly negative), and so they are the most chemically active part of the soil. Clay is responsible for the swelling and shrinkage of the soil, and makes moist soil sticky. Positively-charged plant nutrient elements (cations), like ammonium, calcium, magnesium and potassium, are adsorbed on the negatively charged surfaces of clays, which helps retain these nutrients in the soil for plant use.

In addition to the amount of clay present in the soil, the type of minerals present also influences soil behaviour. Common clay minerals in Bay of Plenty soils include halloysite or kaolinite, montmorillonite, and allophane. A soil will generally have varying proportions of minerals in the clay fraction. However, the clay fraction of some soils derived from volcanic ash is dominated by allophane – a non-crystalline mineral which imparts good soil structure and high water-holding capacity, but is capable of fixing large amounts of phosphorus (P) rendering it unavailable for plant use.

Potential rooting depth: This refers to the soil depth (in cm) to the top of a barrier (within 1 m of the soil surface) that limits root extension.

Rooting barrier: This is the type of barrier that limits root extension. Root penetration into soil may stop due to a physical barrier (e.g. when it encounters a compacted layer, poor aeration, low moisture content), a chemical barrier (e.g. aluminium toxicity in the subsoil), or a combination of these.

Drainage class: The drainage class indicates how long a soil or part of a soil is saturated with water, and how quickly it can drain excess water. Some soils have mottles, which are spots of grey or brown colour different from the main colour of the soil. Mottles indicate the height of fluctuating water tables. Grey mottles are indicative of waterlogging and reduction of iron compounds in the soil. Drainage of the soil is important so that the pore spaces are able to be filled with oxygen for plant roots to access. Simplified descriptions of soil drainage classes are shown in Table 6.1. A more detailed definition of drainage classes is given in Milne et al. (1995).

Table 6.1 Simplified soil drainage classes

Class	Description
Very poorly-drained	Organic-enriched topsoil (peaty) with grey subsoil
Poorly-drained	Grey layer begins just below the topsoil
Imperfectly drained	Grey layer at 40 – 90 cm depth or mottling within 30 cm of the surface
Moderately well-drained	Grey layer at 60 – 90 cm depth or mottling between 30 and 90 cm
Well-drained	No grey layer or mottling within 80-90 cm depth

Permeability: This is a measure of the rate at which water can flow through the soil. Permeability is dependent on the amount, size, shape and interconnectedness of soil pores which are influenced by soil texture, soil structure, and soil organic matter. Sandy soils have larger pores and more rapid permeability than clayey soils. Good soil structure promotes high permeability by providing stable aggregates consisting of small pores within the aggregates and large pores between them. Organic matter increases permeability through its binding action on soil aggregates. A soil's overall permeability is usually based on the horizon with the slowest permeability class and the depth at which this layer occurs. Permeability is important for ease of drainage, risk of waterlogging, effluent absorption potential, leaching, and water loss. Permeability classes include: slow (less than 4 mm/hr), moderate (4 – 72 mm/hr) and fast (greater than 72 mm/hr).

Profile total available water (0-100 cm): This is the amount of water (in mm) that can be extracted between field capacity (-10 kPa suction) and permanent wilting point (-1500 kPa suction) to a depth of 1 m. Profile total available water is important for droughtiness and overall water availability. Classes are shown in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2 Profile total available water classes

Class	Range (mm)
Low	30 – 60
Low to moderate	60 – 90
Moderate	90 – 120
Moderate to high	120 – 150
High	150 – 250
Very high	250 – 350

Profile readily available water (0-100 cm): This refers to the amount of water (in mm) held in a soil that can be easily extracted by plant roots within the potential rooting depth (i.e. between field capacity (-10 kPa suction) and -100 kPa suction). Classes are shown in Table 6.3.

Topsoil and subsoil bulk density: This is the dry mass of the fine earth fraction (<2 mm) divided by the total soil volume and is expressed in grams per cubic centimetre (g/cm^3), or tonnes per cubic metre (t/m^3). The total or bulk volume consists of the volume of soil solids and the volume of soil pores. Thus, bulk density is a measure of the degree of soil compaction since it includes the volume of pores. Compacting a soil results in a lower volume occupied by pore spaces resulting in higher bulk density. Therefore the higher the bulk density, the lower the porosity, and the slower the drainage.

Table 6.3 Profile readily available water classes

Class	Range (mm)
Very low	<25
Low	25 – 50
Moderate	50 – 75
Moderate to high	75 – 100
High	100 – 150
Very high	150 – 250

Bulk density affects available water content and air capacity of soils and is an indicator of the ease of root penetration. Dry bulk density tends to be higher in soils with higher clay content. Dry bulk densities greater than 1.6 g/cm^3 are likely to be associated with high strength, and may represent an impediment to root penetration. Those lower than 0.4 g/cm^3 are probably associated with material of recent volcanic origin, and are likely to cause engineering problems. Dry bulk densities of less than 0.2 g/cm^3 indicate that considerable shrinkage will occur when these materials are drained, as in the case of peat.

6.4 Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: This is the amount of organic matter in the topsoil expressed as a percentage. The typical dark colour of many surface soils is due to organic matter. Organic matter can hold up to 20 times its weight in water, and so improves the water-holding capacity of soils, particularly drought-prone sandy soils. Organic matter cements soil particles into structural units called aggregates, which stabilise soil structure, improve aeration, and increase permeability. Like clay particles, organic matter possesses a high surface area and lots of negative charges. These negative charges attract positively-charged ions (cations), such as calcium, magnesium, potassium, etc., which would otherwise leach in the soil profile. Organic matter is also an important source of plant nutrients. When it decomposes it releases the major plant nutrient elements nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur. Organic matter exhibits chemical buffering, which helps the soil resist rapid changes in pH. Finally, organic matter plays a crucial role in sequestering carbon from the atmosphere. Because of its many production and environmental benefits, the maintenance of a high level of soil organic matter is essential in any sustainable soil management programme.

Topsoil pretention: Expressed as a percentage, it is a measure of the ability of the soil to remove phosphorus (phosphate) from the soil solution, rendering it unavailable to plants. In acidic soils phosphate is retained by reactive aluminium and iron minerals. In alkaline or calcareous soils phosphate is precipitated as calcium phosphate compounds. In allophanic soils, phosphate is retained by allophanic minerals. High P retention indicates that plants will give a lower response to the same amount of phosphate fertiliser than on a soil with low P retention. This is often the case with allophanic and some pumice soils. Phosphate retention values influence phosphate fertiliser requirements and soil structural stability. P retention classes are shown in Table 6.4.

Table 6.4 Topsoil P retention classes

Class	Range (%)
Very low	<10
Low	10 – 30
Medium	30 – 60
High	60 – 90
Very high	>90

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: This provides a general indication of the levels of available phosphorus, calcium, magnesium and potassium in the soil.

6.5 Soil types/variations

This lists the soil type(s)/variations present within the soil series. The soil type is a subdivision within a soil series to distinguish soils differing in surface texture only (e.g. Taupo sand, Taupo sandy loam, etc.). Phases of soil series which are based on features that affect the use and management of the soil, such as slope, depth, stoniness, etc., are also included. For example, slope steepness is an important factor determining land use, so hill soils (16 – 25 degrees) and/or steepland soils (greater than 25 degrees) are distinguished in some soil series.

6.5.1 Associated and similar soils

This indicates the soils that are geographically associated with the soil series (e.g. soils occurring on similar topographic positions).

6.5.2 General land use suitability ratings

General land use suitability ratings are provided for arable, horticulture, intensive pasture, and forestry land uses. Ratings for each land use include: not suitable, low, moderate, and high. The *management considerations* portion addresses the limitations posed by a particular soil series (e.g. steep slopes, low fertility, etc.).

6.5.3 Management practices to improve suitability

This provides a generic guide to soil management practices to overcome soil limitations and improve suitability of the soil for the various land uses considered.

6.5.4 Soil photos

Soil profile photos of most soil series are included. For other soil series on steep or waterlogged areas, photos of soil landscapes are shown instead.

Part 7: Soils of Western Bay of Plenty

Soil series name: Aroha (ArS)

Overview

Aroha soil series occur on steep and very steep uplands of the Kaimai Range and areas north of Katikati. The soils are formed from thin, patchy tephra on andesite. They are mostly covered with rimu-beech forest, or planted in *Pinus radiata* or pasture. They are classified as **Typic Orthic Allophanic Soils**. Present land use is forestry, with a few areas in pasture for dry stock grazing.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam

Topsoil clay content: 20 – 25%

Potential rooting depth: 80 – 90 cm

Rooting barrier: None, except where andesite occurs within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Moderate

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (91 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (47 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.09 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.53 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 5.2 – 11.2%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (36%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Aroha steepland soils have shallow profiles overlying andesite. Andesite outcrops also occur in highly-eroded sites. The surface tephra on stable sites is probably Tuhua Tephra.

Associated and similar soils

Waitekauri series and Whangamata series occur on adjacent rolling and hilly land with thicker tephra overlying andesite or ignimbrite.

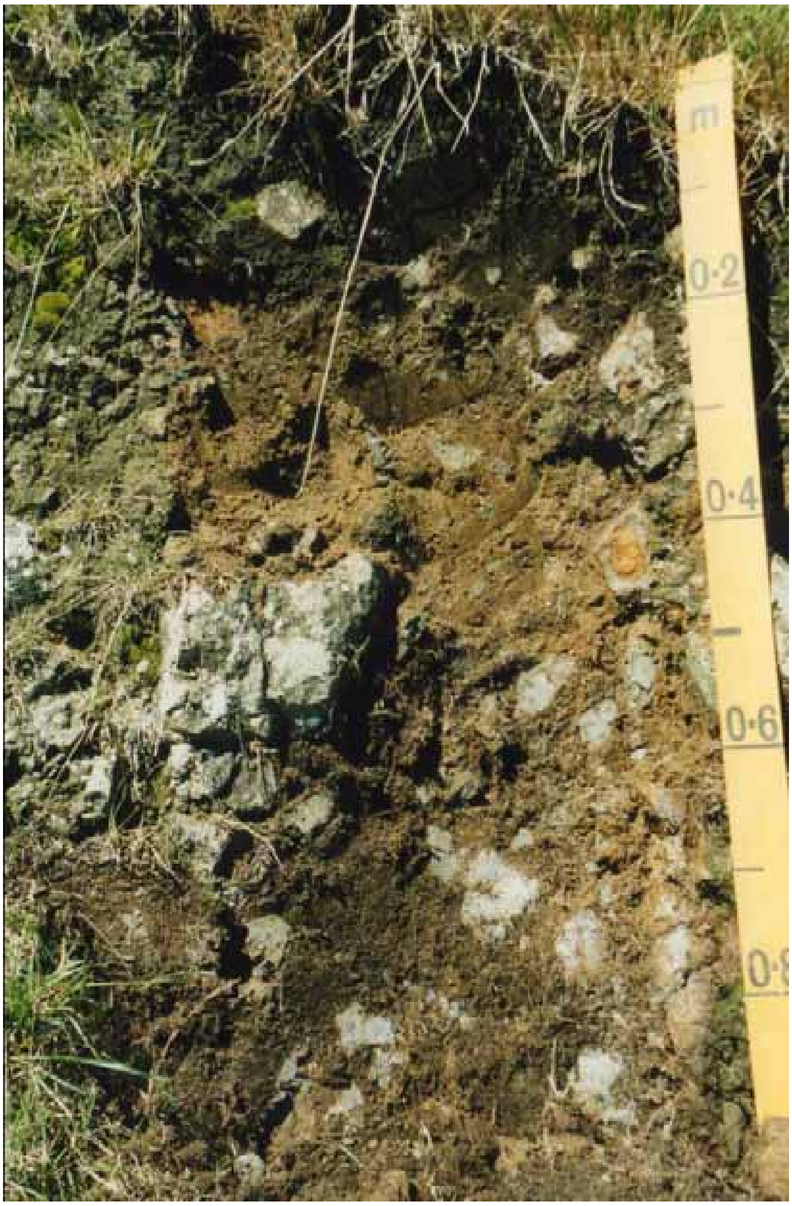
General land use suitability ratings

Aroha steepland soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Steep and very steep slopes, low fertility.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Steep and very steep slopes, low fertility, cold climate.
Intensive pasture	Low to moderate	Steep and very steep slopes, cool climate, erosion potential, low fertility.
Forestry	Moderate	Steep and very steep slopes, cool climate.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Employ protection forestry on very steep slopes.
- Use aerial harvesting for forestry.
- Employ low dry stocking rates to prevent further erosion.



Aroha steepland soil

Soil series name: Kaharoa (Kh)

Overview

Kaharoa soil series occur on the Mamaku Plateau on flat to rolling surfaces and hilly slopes under high annual rainfall (2,000 – 2,400 mm) at elevations 300 – 400 m above sea level (a.s.l.). The soils are derived from 20 – 40 cm Kaharoa Tephra overlying weathered rhyolitic tephra. Soil profiles consist of very dark brown coarse sand with many white Kaharoa lapilli, overlying very dark greyish-brown coarse sand. At 20 – 30 cm depth this rests on dark reddish-brown sandy loam and yellowish-brown loamy sand. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Podzols**. Present land use includes dry stock (improved and unimproved pastures) and forestry.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand over loam

Topsoil clay content: 5 – 10%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: None within 1 m depth

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (100 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (59 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.42 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 15%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (52%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Kaharoa sand occurs on flat to rolling slopes, while **Kaharoa hill soils** are found on hilly slopes.

Associated and similar soils

Kaharoa soil series grade into **Mamaku series** where Kaharoa Tephra is restricted to the topsoil, and into **Oropi series** which lack the reddish subsoil generally at lower annual rainfall.

General land use suitability ratings

Kaharoa sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Low fertility, cool climate, fragile topsoil structure, wind erosion if cultivated during dry spells.
Horticulture	Not suitable to low	Cool climate, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	Low to moderate	Low fertility, cool climate.
Forestry	Moderate	Cool climate, low fertility.

Kaharoa hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low to not suitable	Hilly slopes, cool climate, weak topsoil structure, wind erosion if cultivated during dry spells, low fertility.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, cool climate, weak topsoil structure, wind erosion if cultivated during dry spells, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	Low to moderate	Hilly slopes, erosion potential under intensive use, cool climate, low fertility.
Forestry	Moderate	Hilly slopes, cool climate, low fertility.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for fodder cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.
- Forestry**:** avoid windrowing and damage to topsoils.

Kaharoa sand (scale in 10 cm)

Soil series name: Kāingaroa (Kg)

Overview

Kaingaroa soil series occur chiefly on the Kaingaroa Plateau, under 1,400 – 1,800 mm annual rainfall. The soils are formed from flow tephra, the last deposit of the Taupo eruption which is also called Taupo Ignimbrite. The deposit is compact, especially in southern and central parts of Kaingaroa Plateau. Typically low depressions in the landscape are called frost flats with possible very low winter temperatures. Soil profiles consist of black sand often with many angular lapilli, overlying brownish-yellow sand and light brownish-grey sand with many angular pumice lapilli and block, and fragments of charcoal. The soils are classified as **Welded Impeded Pumice Soils**. Land use is forestry with *Pinus radiata* as the most successful species. Small areas are in pasture (dry stock).

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 1 – 3%

Potential rooting depth: 40 – 60 cm

Rooting barrier: Compactness at 40 – 60 cm

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (50 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (50 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 15%

Topsoil P retention: High (62%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Kaingaroa gravelly sand occurs in southern Kaingaroa and has a compact subsoil at 30 – 40 cm. **Kaingaroa sand, rolling phase** occurs in central parts of Kaingaroa Plateau with somewhat less coarse lapilli and blocks and the compact layer tends to be at 40 – 60 cm. **Kaingaroa loamy sand, rolling phase** occurs further north and the Taupo Ignimbrite layer is thinner compared with gravelly sand and sand. Compaction starts at 50 – 60 cm.

Associated and similar soils

Taupo series, Oruanui series and Pukerimu series occur on adjacent rolling and hilly land where Taupo Ignimbrite is thinner, and there is, therefore, no root barrier.

General land use suitability ratings

Kaingaroa sand and Kaingaroa gravelly sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Compact subsoil, low fertility, cool climate, fragile topsoil structure susceptible to wind erosion if cultivated during dry spells.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Cold climate, compact subsoil.
Intensive pasture	Low	Low fertility, cool climate.
Forestry	Moderate	Compact subsoil, cool climate, low fertility.

Kaingaroa sand, rolling phase

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Compact subsoil, low fertility, cool climate, fragile topsoil structure susceptible to wind erosion if cultivated during dry spells.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Cold climate, compact subsoil.
Intensive pasture	Low to moderate	Low fertility, cool climate.
Forestry	Moderate	Compact subsoil, cool climate low fertility.

Kaingaroa loamy sand, rolling phase

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Compact subsoil, low fertility, cool climate, fragile topsoil structure susceptible to wind erosion if cultivated during dry spells.
Horticulture	Not suitable to low	Cold climate, compact subsoil, low fertility, fragile topsoil structure susceptible to wind erosion if cultivated during dry spells.
Intensive pasture	Moderate to low	Low fertility, cool climate, summer droughts.
Forestry	Moderate	Cool climate, low fertility, compact subsoil.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for fodder cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.
- Practise ripping before planting, especially on Kaingaroa gravelly sand and Kaingaroa sand.
- Forestry: avoid windrowing and damage to topsoils.

Kaingaroa gravelly sand (Note very shallow topsoil and B horizon, and the coarse, poorly-sorted angular pumice throughout the soil profile, scale in m)

Soil series name: Kairua (Ki)

Overview

Kairua soil series occur in a 400 – 1,500 m wide strip of flat to rolling dunes extending from Mount Maunganui to the mouth of the Kaituna River. The soils also occur on Matakana and Rangiwaea Islands. The soils are formed from wind-blown sand with very thin rhyolitic tephra (Kaharoa and Taupo Tephras). Soil profiles show very dark brown loamy sand topsoils overlying brown and pale yellow sand. At about 35 – 70 cm, a dark brown to dark reddish-brown compact sand occurs as an iron/humus pan (possibly an old forest layer). The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Podzols**. Current land use is pasture with dry stock and winter grazing for dairy herds.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 1 – 3%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: The reddish-brown sand can be a root barrier

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (94 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (68 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.42 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 15.5%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (42%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low to medium

Soil types/variations

Kairua loamy sand is the main soil type. In **Kairua sandy loam**, locally the iron/humus pan is less distinct and softer. A poorly-drained variant occurs near Pah Road.

Associated and similar soils

Papamoa series occur closer to the coastline. They are less developed and lack the humus/iron pan. **Ohope series** occur in the fore dunes and have no or very little soil development (very thin topsoils).

General land use suitability ratings

Kairua loamy sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Low fertility, summer droughts, fragile soil structure.
Horticulture	Low	Low fertility, summer droughts, fragile soil structure.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Summer droughts, low fertility, good winter grazing.
Forestry	Moderate	Summer droughts, but flattish areas better used for dairying.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for fodder cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.

Kairua loamy sand

Soil series name: Katikati (Ka)

Overview

Katikati soil series are extensive from Tauranga northwards on flat, rolling and hilly land. Parent materials are thin rhyolitic tephra (Taupo and Tuhua Tephra), overlying loess and weathered rhyolitic tephra. Uniform soil profiles show black, gritty sandy loam and silt loam overlying yellowish-brown and dark yellowish-brown silt loam. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Allophanic Soils**. Present land use includes dairying, dry stock, maize, and kiwifruit, avocado and citrus orchards. A few vineyards have been planted and some other forms of horticulture (strawberries, vegetables) exist.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam

Topsoil clay content: 13 – 18%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: None

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): High (172 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): High (103 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.78 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 0.86 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 12.9 – 22.4%

Topsoil P retention: High (83%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low to medium

Soil types/variations

Katikati sandy loam occurs on flat to undulating land. **Katikati sandy loam, rolling phase** is slightly more variable than Katikati sandy loam. **Katikati hill soils** occur on hilly slopes with somewhat shallower topsoils.

Recontoured land: Much land has been recontoured for kiwifruit orchards whereby often the friable upper layers were pushed into depressions or gullies.

Associated and similar soils

Te Puke series that occur south of Tauranga have coarser (sandier) topsoils and subsoils. **Waitekauri series** that occur north of the Katikati soils have fine topsoils and subsoil. **Whakamaramara series** occur at higher elevations, and are podzolised.

General land use suitability ratings

Katikati sandy loam and Katikati sandy loam, rolling phase

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Moderate to high	Fragile soil structure, low fertility.
Horticulture	High to moderate	Low fertility, rolling land.
Intensive pasture	High	Low fertility.
Forestry	High	No limitations.

Katikati hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Hilly slopes, low fertility.
Horticulture	Low	Hilly slopes, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	High	Hilly slopes, low fertility.
Forestry	High	Hilly slopes.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.

Katikati sandy loam

Soil series name: Kawerau (Kr)

Overview

Kawerau soil series occur on the southern part of the Rangitaiki Plains on flat to undulating terraces. They are derived from thin Tarawera Tephra on pumice alluvium derived from Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra. Profiles show very dark greyish brown coarse sand on dark brown sandy gravel. This rests on dark grey and brown loose sand. The soils are classified as **Immature Orthic Pumice Soils**. These are the first soils to dry out on the Rangitaiki Plains. Present land use includes dry stock, some dairying and some pip fruit orchards.

Physical properties

Texture: Skeletal

Topsoil clay content: 1 – 5%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant root barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (37 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (28 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.00 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Kawerau sand is generally well-drained, while **Kawerau mottled gravelly sand** has mottling in the subsoil in local shallow depressions and is regarded as imperfectly drained.

Associated and similar soils

Tarawera series have thicker and coarser Tarawera Tephra (more than 20 cm). Te Teko series have finer textures.

General land use suitability ratings

Kawerau sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Low fertility, summer droughts, fragile soil structure.
Horticulture	Low	Low fertility, summer droughts, fragile soil structure.
Intensive pasture	Moderate to low	Summer droughts, low fertility, good winter grazing.
Forestry	Moderate	Summer droughts, flattish areas better used for pasture.

Kawerau mottled gravelly sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Low fertility, summer droughts, fragile soil structure.
Horticulture	Low to moderate	Fluctuating ground water levels, summer droughts.
Intensive pasture	Moderate to low	Summer droughts, low fertility, good winter grazing.
Forestry	Moderate to low	Fluctuating ground water levels, summer droughts, flattish areas better used for pasture.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods with cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.

Kawerau sand

Soil series name: Kopuroa (Kp)

Overview

Kopuroa soil series have been mapped in small areas of abandoned stream channels in the Te Puke and Paengaroa areas. The soils are formed from coarse rhyolitic alluvium with a thin band of Kaharoa Tephra, mostly immediately below the topsoil. Soil profiles show black silt loam overlying light yellowish-brown and white coarse sand on white and dark brown loose sandy gravel. The soils are classified as **Buried-pumice Tephric Recent Soils**. Current land use is pasture (dry stock).

Physical properties

Texture: Loam over skeletal

Topsoil clay content: 20 – 25%

Potential rooting depth: 30 – 50 cm

Rooting barrier: Fluctuating ground water table

Drainage class: Well-drained but with fluctuating ground water table

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (46 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (41 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.09 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.38 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (32%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Medium P; Low Ca, Mg and K

Soil types/variations

Both **silt loam** and **sandy loam** topsoils occur. Locally peaty layers and silty layers occur in the subsoil.

Associated and similar soils

Manoeka series have finer textures with greater water storage.

General land use suitability ratings

Kopuroa silt loam and sandy loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low to not suitable	Low fertility, low water-holding capacity, fragile topsoil structure susceptible to wind erosion if cultivated during dry spells.
Horticulture	Low to not suitable	Low fertility, low water-holding capacity, fragile topsoil structure susceptible to wind erosion if cultivated during dry spells.
Intensive pasture	Low	Low fertility, low water-holding capacity fragile topsoil structure susceptible to wind erosion if cultivated during dry spells.
Forestry	Not suitable to low	Fluctuating ground water levels.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods when working the soil.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Employ surface drainage.

Kopuroa silt loam

Soil series name: Maketū (Mk)

Overview

Maketu soil series occur in moderate to small areas on the flood plain of the Tarawera River. They are formed from layered parent materials including peat, diatomaceous earth and pumice alluvium with a very thin cover of Tarawera Tephra. Soil profiles show very dark greyish-brown fine sandy loam on brownish-grey silt, and peaty silt loam on pale brown and light grey medium and fine sand. The soils are classified as **Peaty Orthic Gley Soils** or **Mellow Humic Organic Soils** depending on the thickness of peat. Present land use is pasture with dairying or dry stock.

Physical properties

Texture: Peat over sand

Topsoil clay content: 0%

Potential rooting depth: 20 – 40 cm

Rooting barrier: Fluctuating high ground water table

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Slow

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to low (70 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (62 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.18 gcm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 0.10 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 15.5%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (42%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Medium to low

Soil types/variations

Maketu peat is the main soil type.

Associated and similar soils

Onepu series without diatomaceous earth layers; **Rangitaiki series** on gravelly ridges.

General land use suitability ratings

Maketu peat

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low to moderate	Poor drainage, fragile topsoil, low fertility.
Horticulture	Low to moderate	Poor drainage, fragile topsoil, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Poor drainage, possibly low fertility.
Forestry	Unsuitable	Poor drainage.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods when working the soil.
- Employ surface drainage.

Maketu peat

Soil series name: Mamaku (M)

Overview

Mamaku soil series occur on the Mamaku plateau under 2,000 mm annual rainfall. The soils are formed from very thin Kaharoa and Taupo Tephras overlying weathered rhyolitic tephra, of which Rotorua lapilli is prominent in the lower subsoil. The tephra overlies ignimbrite. Soil profiles show black loamy sand topsoils overlying greyish-brown sand. This rests on dark reddish-brown greasy loamy sand and sand, and the lower subsoil has brown greasy silt loam and strong brown weathered pumice gravel (Rotorua lapilli). The soils are classified as **Humic Orthic Podzols**. Current land use is dairying, dry stock, some fodder cropping, and forestry (indigenous forest and *Pinus radiata*).

Physical properties

Texture: Sand over loam

Topsoil clay content: 5 – 8%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid (rapid over moderate on hill soils)

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (93 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (60 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.08 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.42 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 15%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (42%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Mamaku loamy sand occurs on flat to rolling land, and **Mamaku hill soils** are on hilly slopes. Small areas of shallow peat overlying a more gleyed Mamaku soil also occur.

Associated and similar soils

Arahiwi series on steep and very steep slopes with shallower profiles overlying ignimbrite; **Mangorewa series** with thin Rotokawau Tephra underlying Taupo Tephra; and **Kaharoa series** with thicker Kaharoa Tephra.

General land use suitability ratings

Mamaku loamy sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low to moderate	Cool climate, low fertility, fragile topsoil, strongly-leached soil.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Cool to cold climate, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Cool climate (short growing season), low fertility, strongly-leached soil.
Forestry	Moderate	Cool climate, low fertility.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods when working the soil.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells.

Mamaku loamy sand

Soil series name: Manawahe (Mj)

Overview

Manawahe soil series occur west of the Rangitaiki Plains and east of the Rangitaiki River on rolling to hilly terrain. The soils are formed from 7 – 20 cm sandy Tarawera Tephra on Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra overlying Whakatane Tephra and older weathered rhyolitic tephra. Soil profiles show dark brown gritty sand on brown and light olive-brown sand overlying pale yellow fine pumice gravel and yellowish brown loamy sand. The soils are classified as **Immature Orthic Pumice Soils**. Current land use includes dairying, dry stock, some fodder cropping, and forestry (*Pinus radiata*).

Physical properties

Texture: Sand and sand over skeletal

Topsoil clay content: 2 – 3%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to low (83 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (62 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.00 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Manawahe loamy sand occurs on flat to rolling land and **Manawahe hill soils** are on hilly slopes. Thickness of Tarawera Tephra varies from 7 – 20 cm. Locally, slightly reddish subsoil occurs.

Associated and similar soils

Matahina series occur on rolling to hilly land with less than 20 cm gravelly Tarawera Tephra on Kaharoa Tephra. They have less water-holding capacity than Manawahe series because of coarser texture. Pukemaku series are on steep and very steep slopes where shallower tephra overlies ignimbrite. Tarawera series are on easy rolling to hilly land. More than 20 cm gravelly Tarawera Tephra overlies Kaharoa Tephra. They have less water-holding capacity than Manawahe series because of coarser texture. Whakatane series are on easy rolling to hilly land with very thin sandy Tarawera Tephra and Kaharoa Tephra overlying weathered rhyolitic tephra.

General land use suitability ratings

Manawahe loamy sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low to moderate (hill soils not suitable)	Low fertility, fragile topsoil.
Horticulture	Low to moderate (Hill soils not suitable)	Low fertility, fragile topsoil.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Low fertility, fragile topsoil especially on hilly slopes.
Forestry	High	Low fertility.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods when working the soil.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells.

Manawahe loamy sand (Note deep topsoil formed from fine Tarawera Tephra and the buried topsoil of Kaharoa Tephra, scale in ft)

Soil series name: Man-made (MM)

Overview

Man-made soils are soils that have been altered by humans. These soils are extremely variable, and no detailed morphological description has been given here. Generally, parent materials are tephra. Large areas are shown on soil maps, but many smaller areas are not. The soils are classified as **Mixed Anthropic Soils** in the New Zealand Soil Classification. Recontoured land supports kiwifruit in coastal areas.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam

Topsoil clay content: 20 - 30%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Moderate

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): High (170 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (88 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.41 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.42 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: Not tested

Topsoil P retention: Not known

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Probably low levels

Soil types/variations

Man-made soils vary from large earthworks to recontoured land.

General land use suitability ratings

Man-made soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Not considered.
Horticulture	Low to moderate	Recontoured land planted in kiwifruit.
Intensive pasture	Low to moderate	Depending on adequate restoration.
Forestry	Low to moderate	Depending on adequate restoration.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Replacement of adequate topsoil.
- Ripping and restoring subsoils and thus removing root barriers.

Man-made soil

Soil series name: Manoeka (MN)

Overview

Manoeka soil series occur on flat river levees along the main rivers of Western Bay of Plenty. They are formed from rhyolitic alluvium, and profiles show dark greyish-brown fine sandy loam topsoils on dark brown sandy loams and dark grey fine sandy loam. Buried topsoils are common. The soils are classified as **Acidic Fluvial Recent Soils**. Land use on improved pasture is dairying and dry stock.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam

Topsoil clay content: 24 – 26%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): High (178 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (99 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.09 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.30 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 4.3 - 8.6%

Topsoil P retention: Low (19%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Manoeka fine sandy loam is the main soil type. Inclusions of **loamy sand** and **silt loam** topsoils occur. Also, inclusions of moderately well-drained soil with mottling below 60 cm occur. Peaty loam horizons occur locally.

Associated and similar soils

Te Matai series on lower-lying former back swamps; **Opouriao series** in Central Bay of Plenty from slightly different parent materials; and **Mataheiia series** along river flood plains at Cape Runaway.

General land use suitability ratings

Manoeka fine sandy loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Horticulture	Moderate	Fragile structure and thin topsoil, floods infrequently without stop bank protection.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Fragile structure and thin topsoil, floods infrequently without stop bank protection.
Forestry	Not suitable	Fragile structure and thin topsoil, floods infrequently without stop bank protection.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods when working the soil.
- Sow green crops to thicken and improve topsoil.

Manoeka fine sandy loam

Soil series name: Matahina (Mb)

Overview

Matahina soil series occur in central Whakatane District in the Matahina Forest locality. The soils are formed from less than 20 cm gravelly Tarawera Tephra on Kaharoa Tephra, on Taupo Tephra, and weathered rhyolitic tephra. Topsoils are black gravelly sand and sand overlying pale yellow coarse sand (Kaharoa lapilli), which rest on very dark brown greasy sandy loam and pale yellow pumice lapilli layer (Taupo lapilli). The soils are classified as **Immature Orthic Pumice Soils**. Current land use is forestry (*Pinus radiata*) and orchards near the Rangitaiki Plains where the climate is milder.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand (skeletal on hilly slopes)

Topsoil clay content: 0 – 4%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to low (74 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (43 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.00 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Matahina gravelly sand occurs on flat to rolling land and **Matahina hill soils** on hilly slopes. Thickness of Tarawera Tephra varies from 7 – 20 cm, Kaharoa Tephra from 50 – 100 cm, and Taupo Tephra from 40 – 60 cm. Many shallow slips and creep erosion occur on hilly slopes (movement of Tarawera lapilli downslope especially in pasture).

Associated and similar soils

Manawahe series occur on rolling to hilly land with less than 20 cm sandy Tarawera Tephra on Kaharoa Tephra. These soils have somewhat higher water-holding capacity than Matahina series because of finer textures.

Pukemaku series occur on steep and very steep slopes where shallower tephra overlies ignimbrite.

Tarawera series on easy rolling to hilly land where more than 20 cm gravelly Tarawera Tephra overlies Kaharoa Tephra. The soils have lower water-holding capacity than Manawahe series because of coarser textures.

Whakatane series occur on easy rolling to hilly land where very thin sandy Tarawera Tephra and Kaharoa Tephra overlie weathered rhyolitic tephra.

General land use suitability ratings

Matahina gravelly sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low to not suitable	Low fertility, fragile topsoil, low water-holding capacity, creep erosion.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Cool climate, creep erosion, rolling topography, infertile soils.
Intensive pasture	Moderate to low	Low fertility, fragile topsoil, creep erosion on rolling slopes, low water-holding capacity.
Forestry	Moderate	Low fertility, creep erosion on rolling slopes.

Matahina hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, severe erosion potential, low water-holding capacity, low fertility, fragile topsoil, creep erosion.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, cool climate.
Intensive pasture	Low	Hilly slopes, severe erosion potential, low water-holding capacity, low fertility, fragile topsoil, creep erosion.
Forestry	Moderate	Low fertility, severe erosion potential.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods when working the soil.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells.
- Avoid extensive damage to topsoils during harvesting.

Matahina gravelly sand

Soil series name: Muriwai (Mu)

Overview

Muriwai soil series are formed from estuarine sands and silts with locally very thin tephra. They occur around Tauranga Harbour, near the Maketu area, and small areas at the Bay of Plenty coast. Profiles have black to very dark grey and greenish-grey silt loam on greyish-brown and grey fine sand, or peaty silt loam or olive grey and dark greenish-grey sandy loam to sand. The soils are classified as **Saline Gley Raw Soils**. Current land use includes rough pastures (waste land) and some improved pastures with dairying.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam over sand

Topsoil clay content: 0 – 2% (if sand); 20 – 30% (if silt loam)

Potential rooting depth: 20 – 60 cm

Rooting barrier: Saline fluctuating ground water

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Moderate to rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (57 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (41 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.09 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.61 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 3.4 – 10.3%

Topsoil P retention: Low (25%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Not known

Soil types/variations

Muriwai silt loam, **Muriwai sand** and **Muriwai shallow silt loam** have been mapped. Peaty layers occur locally.

Associated and similar soils

Pahoia series on reclaimed areas with pastoral uses have a more developed topsoil.

General land use suitability ratings

Muriwai silt loam, Muriwai shallow silt loam and Muriwai sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage, saline ground water.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage, saline ground water.
Intensive pasture	Low to not suitable	Poor natural drainage, saline ground water.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage, saline ground water.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Employ surface drainage.
- Plant green crops to improve levels of organic matter.

Muriwai shallow silt loam

Soil series name: Ohineangaanga (Oa)

Overview

Ohineangaanga soil series occur north-east of Te Puke dairy factory, north-east of State Highway 2 and Manoeka Road intersection on low lying swamp land. The soil is formed from contrasting layered parent materials including fine rhyolitic alluvium, diatomaceous earth, rhyolitic tephra (Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra), and peat. Soil profiles consist of black and very dark greyish-brown silt loam and silt, overlying light grey fine sand (Kaharoa Tephra). They rest on layers of sand, silt, peaty silt and diatomaceous earth. The soils are classified as **Typic Acid Gley Soils**. The soils are used for dairying, dry stock and extensive grazing.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam

Topsoil clay content: 20 – 30%

Potential rooting depth: 80 – 100 cm

Rooting barrier: None, but fluctuating ground water level

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Moderate over slow

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (122 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (75 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.94 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.22 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 10.3 – 13.8%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (52%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Possibly low

Soil types/variations

Ohineangaanga silt loam has variable thickness of layers of different materials.

Associated and similar soils

Wharere series without diatomaceous layers, and **Waiari series** have greater accumulation of recent alluvium and Kaharoa Tephra which occurs at more than 30 cm below the surface.

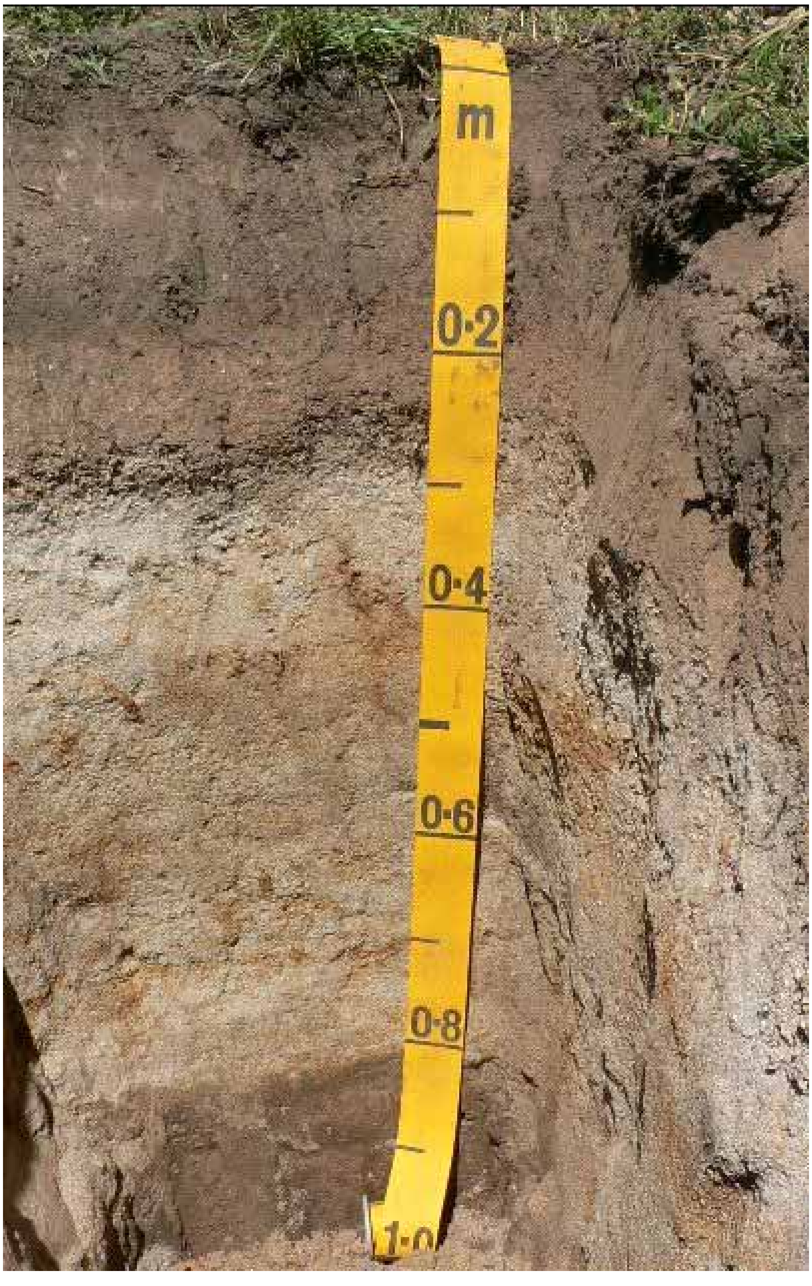
General land use suitability ratings

Ohineangaanga silt loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Medium to low	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels, possibly low fertility, fragile topsoil structure.
Horticulture	Low to not suitable	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels, possibly low fertility, fragile topsoil structure.
Intensive pasture	Medium to high	Poor natural drainage, low fertility.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Improve drainage.
- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for fodder cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.



Ohineangaanga silt loam

Soil series name: Ohinepanea (Ohi)

Overview

Ohinepanea soil series occur on easy rolling, rolling and hill country, east of Te Puke along the coast as far as the north-western part of Whakatane District. The soils are formed from about 40 cm Kaharoa Tephra overlying Whakatane Tephra. Soil profiles show dark brown loamy sand on dark brown sand and brownish-yellow coarse sand. Beneath the Kaharoa Tephra, dark yellowish-brown loamy sand and yellowish-brown sand occurs (Whakatane Tephra). The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Pumice Soils**. Land use consists of dairying, dry stock, cropping (maize) and some forestry.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 4 – 6%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (103 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (71 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.00 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Ohinepanea loamy sand occurs on flat to undulating terrace-like surfaces while **Ohinepanea hill soils** are on moderately steep country with thinner, more variable tephra layers.

Associated and similar soils

Whakatane series have thinner Kaharoa Tephra without a distinct layer of Kaharoa lapilli. **Paengaroa series** have very thin Tarawera Tephra on thin Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra.

General land use suitability ratings

Ohinepanea loamy sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Medium	Low fertility, fragile topsoil structure.
Horticulture	Medium	Low fertility, fragile topsoil structure.
Intensive pasture	Medium to high	Low fertility.
Forestry	High	Low fertility.

Ohinepanea hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, low fertility, fragile soil structure.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, low fertility, fragile soil structure.
Intensive pasture	Medium	Hilly slopes, low fertility.
Forestry	High	Hilly slopes, low fertility.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for fodder cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.
- Forestry: avoid windrowing and damage to topsoils.

Ohinepanea loamy sand

Soil series name: Ōhope (Oe)

Overview

Ohope soil series occur on coastal fore dunes in Western Bay of Plenty and east of Whakatane. The soils are formed from wind-blown sand. Soil profiles are weakly developed consisting of 10 cm light brownish-grey sand on light grey sand. They are classified as **Sandy Raw Soils**. Land use is recreation, urban protection, some urban use, and some forestry.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 0%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (39 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Very low (8 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.29 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.48 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 0.5 – 1.7%

Topsoil P retention: Very low (3%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Ohope sand is the predominant soil type. Areas without topsoil, especially in blow-outs, also occur.

Associated and similar soils

Papamoa series occur on more inland dunes with deeper topsoils and more organic matter; **Piripai series and Kopeopeo series** with thin layers of tephra.

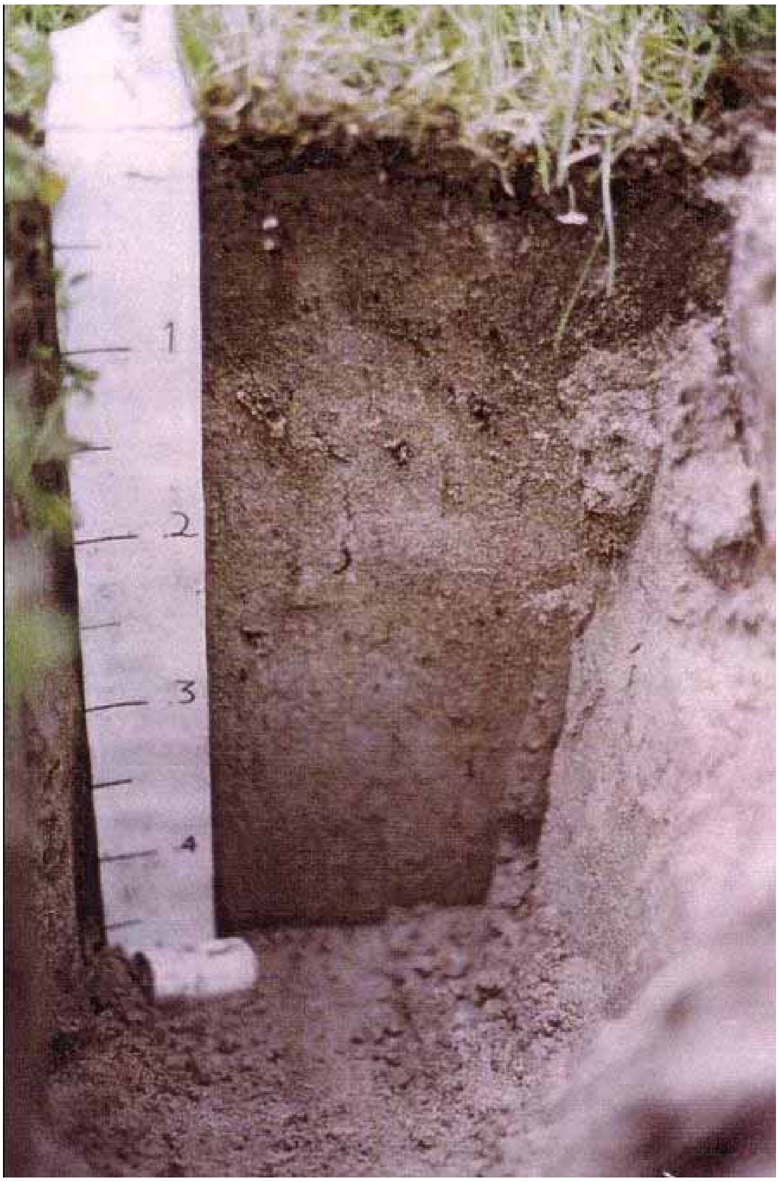
General land use suitability ratings

Ohope sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Low water-holding capacity, accelerated wind erosion risk, very low fertility.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Low water-holding capacity, accelerated wind erosion risk, very low fertility.
Intensive pasture	Not suitable	Low water-holding capacity, accelerated wind erosion risk, very low fertility.
Forestry	Not suitable to low	Low water-holding capacity, accelerated erosion risk, very low fertility.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Employ protection planting to combat wind erosion.



Ohope sand (scale in m)

Soil series name: Omarumutu (Om)

Overview

Omarumutu soil series occur on flattish swales behind fore dunes in coastal areas in the Opotiki area and on Matakana Island near Tauranga. The soils are formed from wind-blown sand with a thin cover of rhyolitic tephra (Kaharoa, Taupo and Whakatane Tephra). Soil profiles consist of very dark brown sandy loam on dark brown mottled loamy sand on brown mottled coarse sand (Taupo Pumice) overlying greyish-brown and olive sand. The soils are classified as **Typic Sandy Gley Soils**. Land use is rough pasture with rushes (dry stock) and some areas are in flax.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam over sand

Topsoil clay content: 10 – 15%

Potential rooting depth: 40 – 60 cm

Rooting barrier: Fluctuating high ground water table

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (105 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (36 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.09 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.38 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 2.6 – 7.8%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (42%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Omarumutu sandy loam is the main soil type. In this series, the amount of tephra varies and, in places, Kaharoa Tephra is missing or there is less Taupo Tephra. Iron accumulation can also occur in the subsoil.

Associated and similar soils

Papamoa series without mottles or tephra on subdued dunes; **Ohope series** on sandy fore dunes.

General land use suitability ratings

Omarumutu sandy loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable to low	Poor natural drainage, often difficult to drain, low fertility.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage, often difficult to drain, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	Low	Poor natural drainage often difficult to drain.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for fodder cropping
- Employ drainage where economically and physically feasible.
- Good wetland preservation areas

Omarumutu sandy loam (scale in m)

Soil series name: Omeheu (Ome)

Overview

Omeheu soil series occur on flat low-lying terraces in western parts of the Rangitaiki Plains. Parent materials are very thin Tarawera Tephra on sandy Kaharoa alluvium, on Kaharoa Tephra, on pumice alluvium, or peat. Soil profiles show deep very dark brown loamy sand overlying pale olive fine loamy sand and light grey mottled sandy loam, resting on dark greyish-brown sandy clay loam and light grey sand. The soils are classified as **Acidic Orthic Gley Soils**. The soils are used for dairying, beef, cropping (maize), and horticulture (kiwifruit, feijoas, boysenberries).

Physical properties

Texture: Sand over loam

Topsoil clay content: 5 – 7%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited to 1 m

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Imperfectly drained

Permeability: Rapid over moderate

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): High (232 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (88 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.22 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 6.9 – 15.5%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (38%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: High P; Low Ca and Mg; high K

Soil types/variations

Omeheu gritty loamy sand is the main soil type. In this soil series, there is variation in the thickness of layers. For example, the Kaharoa Tephra-derived alluvium (‘buff layer’) varies from 20 – 50 cm in thickness.

Associated and similar soils

Awaiti series occur at somewhat higher levels, and have sandier soil textures. **Paroa series** occur in lower-lying depressions, and have a silt loam to silty clay ‘buff layer’.

General land use suitability ratings

Omeheu gritty loamy sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Moderate	Poor to imperfect natural drainage, low fertility, fragile topsoil.
Horticulture	Moderate to low	Poor to imperfect natural drainage, low fertility, fragile topsoil.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Poor to imperfect natural drainage.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor to imperfect natural drainage.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for cropping.
- Employ drainage where possible (open drains).
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.

Omeheu loamy sand

Soil series name: Oropi (Or)

Overview

Oropi soil series occur on flat, rolling and hilly uplands south of Te Puke and Tauranga and North of the Rotorua Caldera. The soils are derived from Kaharoa Tephra on thin Taupo Tephra on weathered rhyolitic tephra. They occur under an annual rainfall of 1,900 – 2,400 mm. Soil profiles show dark brown gritty loamy sand often overlying white coarse sand (Kaharoa lapilli), resting on dark brown and dark yellowish-brown sandy loam, resting on yellowish brown silt loam. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Pumice Soils**. Land use is dry stock, fodder cropping, exotic forestry and pip fruit (apples and pears).

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 5 – 10%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (139 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): High (87 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 0.84 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low (strongly leached soil)

Soil types/variations

Oropi gritty sand occurs on flat to rolling land, while **Oropi hill soils** are on hilly slopes.

Associated and similar soils

Kaharoa series have reddish colours in the subsoil (podzolised). They have thicker layers of Kaharoa Tephra. **Katikati series** occur under lower rainfall and milder climate. They have only a dusting of Kaharoa Tephra.

General land use suitability ratings

Oropi gritty sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Fragile topsoil, low fertility, cool climate.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Fragile topsoil, low fertility, cool climate.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Low fertility, cool climate.
Forestry	High	Cool climate.

Oropi hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, fragile topsoil, low fertility, cool climate.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, fragile topsoil, low fertility, cool climate.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Hilly slopes, low fertility, cool climate.
Forestry	High	Cool climate.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.

Oropi gritty sand

Soil series name: Ōtānewainuku (OS)

Overview

Otanewainuku soil series occur in Northern parts of Kaingaroa Forest and North of Te Puke on the Kaimai Ranges. The soils occur on steep and very steep valley sides and hills. They are derived from thin mixed rhyolitic tephra (Kaharoa, Taupo, Mamaku, Rotoma and Rotorua Tephra) overlying ignimbrite. Profiles have black, very friable sandy loam on strong brown sandy loam, overlying yellowish-brown clay loam on ignimbrite. The soils are classified as **Immature Orthic Pumice Soils**. Land use is forestry and some dry stock. Many areas are in indigenous forest.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam

Topsoil clay content: 8 – 15%

Potential rooting depth: 50 – 90 cm

Rooting barrier: Low penetration soil material or rock (ignimbrite)

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid over moderate

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (115 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (71 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.78 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 0.86 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 12.9 – 22.4%

Topsoil P retention: High (83%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low (strongly leached soil)

Soil types/variations

Otanewainuku steepland soils are variable. Ignimbrite cliffs, shallow profiles overlying rock, unnamed narrow gully floors where soils are derived from mixed alluvium and colluvium exist.

Associated and similar soils

Pekepeke series and **Te Rere series** in northern Kaingaroa Forest on flat to hilly land; **Ohinepanea series** and **Paengaroa series** north of Te Puke on easy rolling to hilly slopes; **Kawhatiwhati series** in northern Kaingaroa Forest; Te Matai series on wide valley floors derived from alluvium and colluvium.

General land use suitability ratings

Otanewainuku steepland soil

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Steep and very steep slopes, cool climate, low fertility.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Steep and very steep slopes, cool climate, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	Low	Steep slopes, low fertility, cool climate.
Forestry	Low	Steep slopes, low fertility.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Employ conservation planting to avoid intensive erosion.
- Use aerial harvesting for forestry to reduce soil damage.

Otanewainuku steepland soil landscape near Maketu

Soil series name: Oturoa (Ot)

Overview

Oturoa soil series are mapped west of Lake Rotorua on easy rolling to hilly land. Parent materials are Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra overlying Rotokawau Tephra, Mamaku Tephra, Waiohau Tephra and Rotorua Tephra. Soil profiles consist of very dark greyish-brown sand (Kaharoa Tephra) overlying dark brown loamy sand with few Taupo lapilli. They rest on yellowish-brown loamy sand and strong brown loamy sand with pockets of greyish-brown weathered soft basalt which overlie brown greasy sand. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Pumice Soils**. Land use is dry stock; fodder cropping, dairying and horticulture (tomatoes, berry fruit, pip fruit (apples and pears)).

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 2 – 6%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (95 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (70 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.00 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: High (87%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low (strongly leached soil)

Soil types/variations

Oturoa sand occurs on easy rolling and rolling land, while **Oturoa hill soils** are on hilly slopes. Kaharoa Tephra and Rotokawau Tephra become thinner towards the Mamaku Plateau.

Associated and similar soils

Mamaku series and **Mangorewa series** occur at higher elevations and higher annual rainfall.

General land use suitability ratings

Oturoa sand

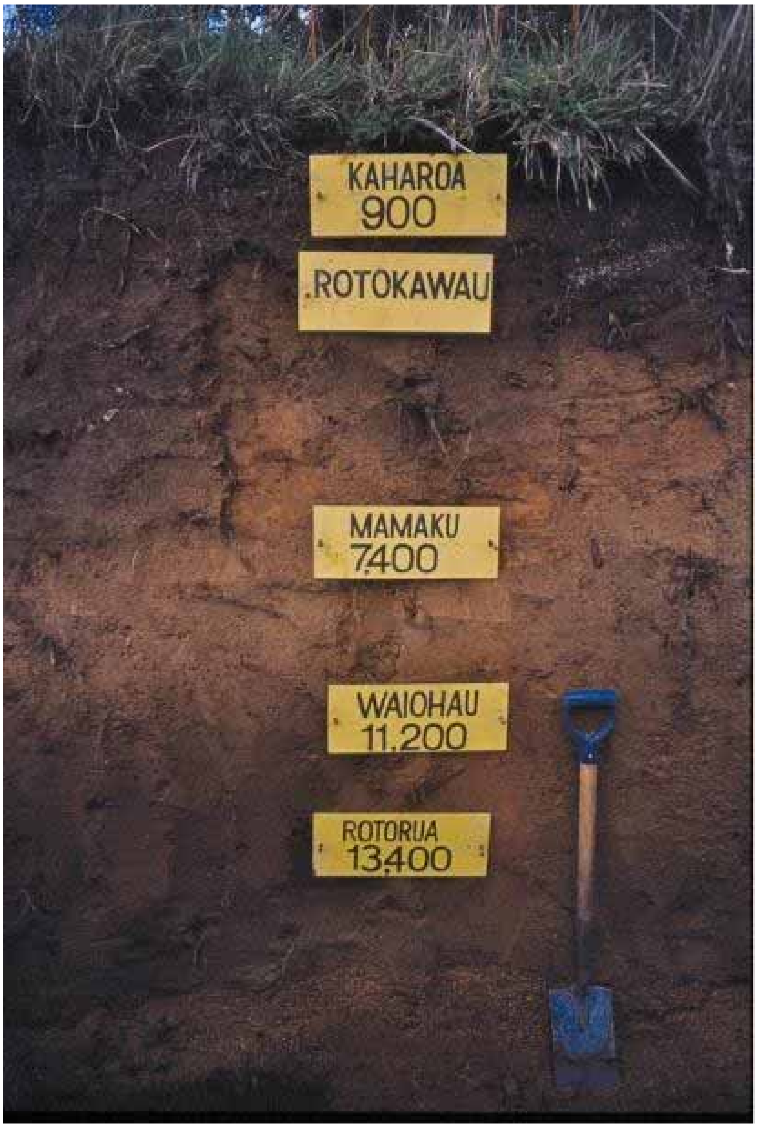
Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Moderate	Low fertility, fragile topsoil.
Horticulture	Moderate	Low fertility, fragile topsoil.
Intensive pasture	Low	Low fertility.
Forestry	Moderate	Low fertility.

Oturoa hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Hilly slopes; low fertility, fragile topsoil.
Horticulture	Not suitable to low	Hilly slopes, low fertility, fragile topsoil.
Intensive pasture	Moderate to high	Hilly slopes, low fertility.
Forestry	High	Hilly slopes, low fertility.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.



Oturoa sand

Soil series name: Paengaroa (Pg)

Overview

Paengaroa soil series occur north of Lake Rotorua and Lake Rotoiti. Parent materials are thin Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra, overlying weathered rhyolitic tephra. Soil profiles have black loamy sand on yellowish-brown loamy sand which rest on dark yellowish-brown sandy loam. The soils are classified as **Buried-allophanic Orthic Pumice Soils**. Land use is forestry on higher and cooler elevations. Dairying, dry stock, maize cropping, kiwifruit and some lucerne on lower elevations towards the Bay of Plenty coast exist.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 6 – 9%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well drainedWell-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): High (162 mm**) Hill soils:** Moderate (107 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): High (101 mm). **Hill soils:** Moderate (70 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.91 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.00 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Medium to low (moderately leached soil)

Soil types/variations

Paengaroa sandy loam and **Paengaroa loamy sand** occur on flat to rolling land, while **Paengaroa hill soils** occur on hilly slopes.

Associated and similar soils

Te Puke series do not have Kaharoa Tephra in the B horizon. **Katikati series** also do not have Kaharoa Tephra, and generally have finer (silt loam, sandy loam) textures. **Oropi series** are strongly leached, occur under higher annual rainfall, and profiles have redder subsoils.

General land use suitability ratings

Paengaroa sandy loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Moderate at lower altitudes	Moderate fertility, fragile topsoil structure, summer droughts.
Horticulture	Moderate at lower altitudes	Moderate fertility, fragile topsoil structure, summer droughts.
Intensive pasture	Moderate to high at lower altitudes	Moderate fertility, summer droughts.
Forestry	High	No limitations.

Paengaroa hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, moderate fertility, risk of accelerated erosion.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Hilly slopes.
Intensive pasture	Moderate to high at lower altitudes	Hilly slopes, moderate fertility, risk of erosion under intensive usage, summer droughts.
Forestry	High	Hilly slopes.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Avoid over stocking to reduce erosion risk.

Paengaroa sandy loam

Soil series name: Pahoia (Pa)

Overview

Pahoia soil series occur along the Tauranga Harbour on flat former estuaries. They are formed from estuarine sands and silts with a very thin layer of mixed rhyolitic tephra. Soil profiles are layered, consisting chiefly of very dark brown thin topsoils overlying greyish-brown silt loam and light brownish-grey clay loam, which rest on greyish-brown sandy clay and light olive grey clay. The soils are classified as **Typic Acidic Gley Soils**. Land use is pasture (dry stock and dairying).

Physical properties

Texture: Loam over clay

Topsoil clay content: 27 – 29%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Moderate over slow

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (127 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): moderate (63 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.94 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.22 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 10.3 – 13.8%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (52%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low to medium P, Ca and K (subsoil may contain soluble salts); high Mg

Soil types/variations

Pahoia silt loam is the main soil type. Inclusions with sandy subsoils occur. The amount of tephra varies, and profiles close to tephra-covered terraces have the greatest amount of colluvial tephra.

Associated and similar soils

Wharere series have layers of alluvium, peat and rhyolitic tephra (Kaharoa Tephra) overlying marine sands. **Muriwai series** are saline gley soils under recent tidal influence adjacent to Pahoia series.

General land use suitability ratings

Pahoia silt loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Poor natural drainage, saline subsoil.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage, saline subsoil.
Intensive pasture	Low to moderate	Poor natural drainage, salinity.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage, possible saline subsoil.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Surface drainage
- Liming

Pahoia silt loam (scale in m)

Soil series name: Pāpāmoa (Pp)

Overview

Papamoa soil series occur on flat to undulating inland dunes mainly east of Mount Maunganui, Tauranga Harbour islands, and also along the Opotiki coast line. Parent materials are wind-blown sand with a thin cover of Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra. Soil profiles show black loamy sand topsoils overlying dark brown loamy sand resting on dark yellowish-brown sand and white sand. The soils are classified as **Typic Sandy Recent Soils**. Land use is extensive dry stock, urban and recreation.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 6 – 8%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (94 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (68 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.42 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Low (21%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Papamoa loamy sand is the main soil type. Sand-textured A and B horizons occur on Matakana Island.

Associated and similar soils

Omarumutu series are mottled, imperfectly to moderately well-drained soils of inter-dune swales. **Ohope series** occur on fore dunes and have AC profiles. **Kairua series** occur further inland and have an iron/humus pan, and have browner colours in the subsoil.

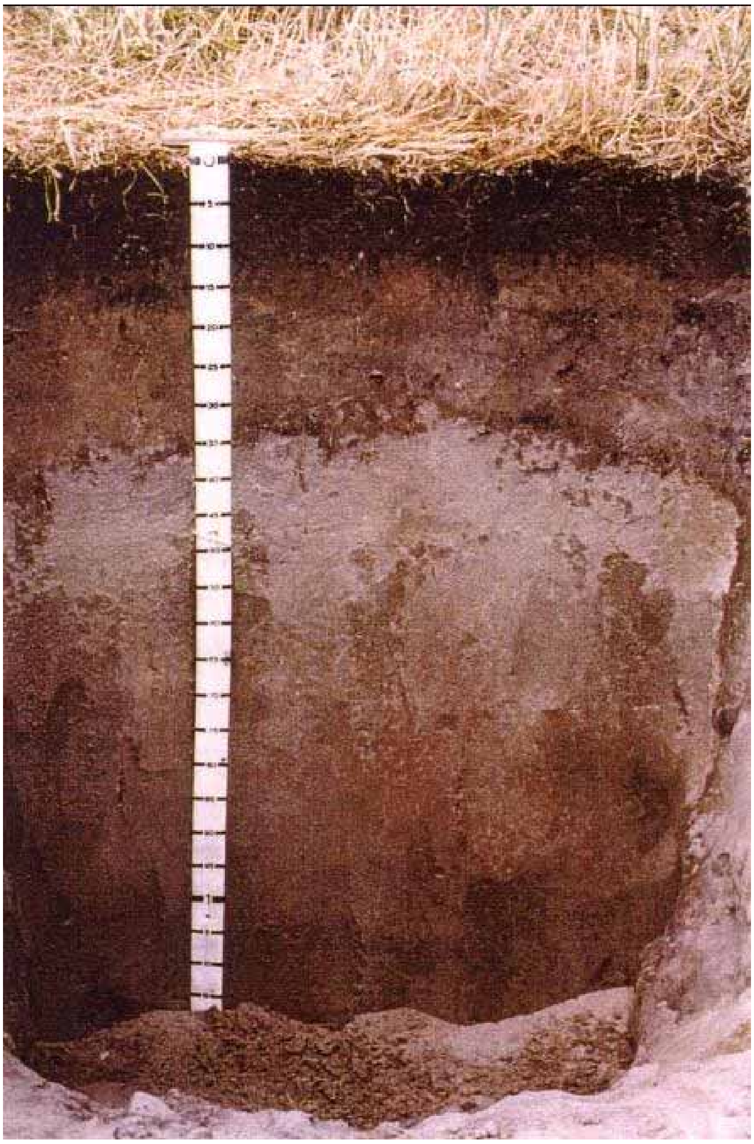
General land use suitability ratings

Papamoa loamy sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Summer droughts, low fertility, fragile topsoil structure susceptible to wind erosion.
Horticulture	Not suitable to low	Summer droughts, fragile topsoil, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	Low to moderate	Summer droughts, low fertility.
Forestry	Moderate	Summer droughts.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.
- Employ good winter grazing combined with wetter soils.



Papamoa loamy sand

Soil series name: Parawhenuamea (Pw)

Overview

Parawhenuamea soil series occur in shallow gullies cut into plateau margins and hills, east of the Papamoa hills and north of the Papamoa hills in the Welcome Bay area. They are derived from moderately thick colluvial and airfall Kaharoa Tephra with a dusting of Tarawera Tephra on weathered rhyolitic tephra. Soil profiles have thick (20 cm) black sandy loam over dark yellowish-brown loamy sand with abundant fine Kaharoa lapilli. This rests on light yellowish-brown loamy sand with abundant fine Kaharoa lapilli overlying dark yellowish-brown greasy sandy loam. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Pumice Soils.** Land use is dairying, dry stock, kiwifruit and citrus orchards, and maize cropping.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam over sand

Topsoil clay content: 15 – 18%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (115 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (88 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.91 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.00 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Medium to high

Soil types/variations

Parawhenuamea sandy loam is the main soil type. Inclusions of **Te Puke sandy loam, strongly sloping phase** occur on gully sides. A **mottled variant** (less than 5% of the mapping unit) occurs on the margins of low lying swampland.

Associated and similar soils

Paengaroa series and Te Puke series occur on flat plateau margins and terraces.

General land use suitability ratings

Parawhenuamea sandy loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Moderate to high	Slight summer droughts, fragile topsoil structure.
Horticulture	Moderate	Slight summer droughts, fragile topsoil structure.
Intensive pasture	High	Slight summer droughts, fragile topsoil structure.
Forestry	High	Slight summer droughts, fragile topsoil structure.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Plant green crops to increase organic matter and thicken topsoils.
- Promote cold air drainage.

Parawhenuamea soil landscape

Soil series name: Parton (Pt)

Overview

Parton soil series occur in flat low moor peat basins north of Te Puke in the Papamoa area. Parent materials are rush and sedge peat overlain by very thin layers of rhyolitic tephra. Soil profiles have black fine sandy loam topsoils resting on dark brown and white fine sandy loam and coarse sand (Kaharoa Tephra), which rest on black loamy peat and dark reddish-brown gravelly silt loam. Lower subsoils are black peat. The soils are classified as **Acid Mesic Organic Soils**. Land use consists of dairying, dry stock, some horticulture (berry fruits) and some cropping (maize).

Physical properties

Texture: Loam over peat

Topsoil clay content: 10 – 15%

Potential rooting depth: 20 – 50 cm

Rooting barrier: Fluctuating ground water table

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Moderate

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to low (74 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (40 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.90 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.42 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 34.5 – 69%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (37%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low P, Mg and K; Medium Ca

Soil types/variations

Parton fine sandy loam is the main soil type. Peaty loam, loamy peat or silt layers may occur between tephra layers. **Parton silt loam** has finer topsoil texture. **Parton silt loam, with sandy subsoil** where peat overlies dark reddish-brown dune sand also occurs.

Associated and similar soils

Pukehina series with twice the thickness of Kaharoa Tephra, without Taupo Pumice and less humified organic matter.

General land use suitability ratings

Parton fine sandy loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Moderate	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels, fragile topsoil structure.
Horticulture	Moderate	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels, fragile topsoil structure.
Intensive pasture	Moderate to high	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels, summer droughts.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Artificial drainage will bring these soils to moderately well-drained status.

Parton fine sandy loam

Soil series name: Pongakawa (Po)

Overview

Pongakawa soil series occur on the Rangitaiki Plains in Whakatane West, Awakeri, Paroa, Thornton and Greig Road localities. The soils are formed from fibrous sedge peat admixed with Tarawera and Kaharoa Tephra with small amounts of fine alluvium and a thin layer of Taupo Tephra. Profiles have black peaty sand on pale brown sand (Kaharoa Tephra) resting on dark reddish-brown firm peat. The soils are classified as **Acid Humic Organic Soils**. Land use consists of dairying, dry stock, cropping (maize) and some market gardening (potatoes, tomatoes).

Physical properties

Texture: Peat over sand

Topsoil clay content: 1 – 3%

Potential rooting depth: 30 – 40 cm

Rooting barrier: Fluctuating ground water table

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Moderate

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): High (161 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (67 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 0.18 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 34.5 – 69%

Topsoil P retention: High (62%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low P and Ca; high Mg and K

Soil types/variations

Pongakawa peaty sand is the main soil type. The peat deposits range from 3 – 6 m in thickness, and the thin alluvial beds are in the upper 25 cm.

Associated and similar soils

Kopeopeo series are located on adjacent dunes. **Paroa series** occur on slightly higher elevations with alluvial layers in the profile.

General land use suitability ratings

Pongakawa peaty sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low to moderate	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels, fragile topsoil structure, wet soil in spring makes it a late soil for cropping.
Horticulture	Moderate to low	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels, fragile topsoil structure.
Intensive pasture	Moderate to high	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels, summer droughts.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Employ artificial drainage.

Pongakawa peaty sand

Soil series name: Pukehina (Pow)

Overview

Pukehina soil series occur in the Pongakawa and Pukehina areas north of Te Puke in flat low-lying swamplands. Parent materials are humified organic matter on about 20 cm Kaharoa Tephra on peat. Profiles show black mottled silt loam on white fine sand (Kaharoa Tephra) on light grey and white coarse sand (Kaharoa Tephra), which rest on black and dark reddish-brown peat. The soils are **Typic Orthic Gley Soils**. Land use is dairying with some maize cropping and small areas in berry fruits.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam over peat

Topsoil clay content: 15 – 20%

Potential rooting depth: 60 – 80 cm

Rooting barrier: Fluctuating high ground water table

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Moderate over slow

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (98 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (50 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.94 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.38 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 6.9 – 15.5%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (38%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Medium to low

Soil types/variations

Pukehina silt loam is the main soil type. **Pukehina silt loam, woody phase** has many coarse wood fragments. **Pukehina silt loam with sandy subsoil** with greenish-grey sand below 90 cm depth also occurs.

Associated and similar soils

Raparapahoe series have structureless ‘muck’ subsoils. **Wharere series** have estuarine sand within 70 cm of the surface. **Waipumuka series** occur on imperfectly drained terraces.

General land use suitability ratings

Pukehina silt loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low to moderate	Poor natural drainage, summer droughts.
Horticulture	Low	Poor natural drainage, summer droughts.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Poor natural drainage, summer droughts.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Avoid over-drainage and thus problems associated with shrinking of the peat.

Pukehina silt loam

Soil series name: Pukemaku (PkS)

Overview

Pukemaku soil series occur in the western parts of Whakatane District, east and northeast of Mount Tarawera on steep and very steep valley and gully sides. The soils are formed from thin (up to 20 cm) Tarawera Tephra on Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra, on weathered rhyolitic tephra on ignimbrite. Profiles have very dark brown gritty sand on dark brown sand and fine gravel resting on brown greasy loamy sand and yellowish-brown to strong brown coarse sand. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Pumice Soils**. Land use is sheep farming and protection forestry (rimu–tawa).

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 0 – 5%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to low (85 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (63 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.00 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Pukemaku steepland soils vary in total thickness of tephra overlying ignimbrite.

Associated and similar soils

Manawahe series on rolling to hilly land, where less than 20 cm fine Tarawera Tephra overlies Kaharoa Tephra on weathered rhyolitic tephra; **Matahina series** on easy rolling to hilly slopes where less than 20 cm coarse Tarawera lapilli overlies Kaharoa Tephra and weathered rhyolitic tephra; **Whakatane series** on easy rolling to hilly slopes where very thin Tarawera Tephra and Kaharoa Tephra overlie weathered rhyolitic tephra; **Haroharo series** on steep and very steep slopes where thicker and coarser Tarawera and Kaharoa Tephra occur.

General land use suitability ratings

Pukemaku steepland soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Steep and very slopes.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Steep and very steep slopes.
Intensive pasture	Low	Steep and very steep slopes, severe erosion potential, low fertility.
Forestry	Low	Steep and very steep slopes, severe erosion potential.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Avoid over stocking.
- Use aerial methods of forest harvesting.

Pukemaku steepland soil landscape

Soil series name: Pukeroa (Pu)

Overview

Pukeroa soil series occur east of Te Puke on flat to gently sloping gully floors eroded out of tephra-covered terraces. Parent materials are very thin rhyolitic colluvium and tephra (Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra) on weathered rhyolitic tephra. Soil profiles have (18 cm) black sandy loam topsoils overlying dark yellowish-brown and pale brown loamy sand which rest on very pale brown sand and pale brown and white coarse sand (Kaharoa Tephra). These in turn rest on dark yellowish-brown sandy loam. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Pumice Soils**. Land use includes dairying, intensive dry stock, cropping (maize) and kiwifruit orchards.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam over sand

Topsoil clay content: 10 – 18%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (142 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (98 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.91 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.00 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Medium to low

Soil types/variations

Pukeroa sandy loam is the main soil type. Pukeroa sandy loam, mottled phase has an olive yellow coloured subsoil with mottles.

Associated and similar soils

Parawhenuamea series have thinner upper horizons within Kaharoa Tephra. **Ohinepanea series** occur on flat tephra-covered surfaces and are formed from Kaharoa Tephra.

General land use suitability ratings

Pukeroa sandy loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Moderate	Low nutrient levels, fragile topsoil, summer droughts.
Horticulture	Low	Low nutrient levels, fragile topsoil, summer droughts.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Low nutrient levels, fragile topsoil, summer droughts.
Forestry	Moderate	Low nutrient levels, fragile topsoil, small areas within intensively farmed area.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for fodder cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.

Pukeroa sandy loam (The white band is Kaharoa Tephra)

Soil series name: Raparapahoe (Rp)

Overview

Raparapahoe soil series occur on flat low lands and gully floors east of Tauranga to Otamarakau. The soils are derived from contrasting layered parent materials including peat, rhyolitic tephra (Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra), fine rhyolitic alluvium on tree stumps and logs in a matrix of peat or silt. Soil profiles have black mottled silt loam on very pale brown firm fine sand (Kaharoa Tephra), which rest on pale brown and white coarse sand (Kaharoa Tephra) on dark brown peaty silt loam. Coarse wood fragments and stumps occur in the lower subsoil. The soils are classified as **Acidic Orthic Gley Soils**. Land use consists of dairying, dry stock and small areas in maize.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam

Topsoil clay content: 15 – 25%

Potential rooting depth: 30 – 50 cm

Rooting barrier: Fluctuating ground water table

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Moderate

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to low (66 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (41 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.94 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.38 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 6.9 – 15.5%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (38%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Raparapahoe silt loam is the main soil type. **Raparapahoe silt loam with sandy subsoil** has greenish-grey or grey sand at 80 cm below the surface. An accumulation phase has 10 – 50 cm recent flood-deposited silt or sand at the surface.

Associated and similar soils

Ohineangaanga series have subsoils with massive silt without stump or wood remnants. **Parton series** have mesic or fibric peat without wood in the subsoil.

General land use suitability ratings

Raparapahoe silt loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low to unsuitable	Poor drainage, high ground water table in winter perched in Kaharoa Tephra, flooding.
Horticulture	Low	Poor drainage, high ground water table in winter perched in Kaharoa Tephra, flooding.
Intensive pasture	Moderate to low	Poor drainage, high ground water table in winter perched in Kaharoa Tephra.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poorly-drained, flooding.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for fodder cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Employ drainage, but over drainage will bring stumps to the surface. Strict water control is desirable.

Raparapahoe silt loam

Soil series name: Rotoiti (Rt)

Overview

Rotoiti soil series occur on easy rolling, rolling and hilly land around the western part of Lake Rotoiti. Parent materials are thin Rotomahana Mud, on more than 20 cm Kaharoa Tephra, on thin Taupo Tephra, on Rotokawau Tephra and older weathered rhyolitic tephra. Soil profiles have very dark grey loamy sand with lumps of greyish-brown sandy loam (Rotomahana Mud) overlying brown gritty sand. They rest on brown sandy loam and brown slightly greasy fine sandy loam with hard fragments of greyish basalt (Rotokawau Tephra) overlying yellowish brown greasy loamy sand. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Pumice Soils**. Land use consists of dry stock, farm forestry (at Tikitere), some fodder cropping, and some horticulture on small land holdings.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand over loam (sand for hill soils)

Topsoil clay content: 3 – 8%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (119 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (75 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.00 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Rotoiti loamy sand occurs on flat to rolling land while **Rotoiti hill soils** occur on hilly slopes.

Associated and similar soils

Oropi series occur on patches where Kaharoa Tephra is thicker and Rotomahana Mud is less than 7 cm. **Okareka series** are on steep and very steep slopes.

General land use suitability ratings

Rotoiti loamy sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low to moderate	Fragile topsoil structure, low natural fertility.
Horticulture	Low to moderate	Fragile topsoil structure, low natural fertility, cool climate for some crops.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Low fertility.
Forestry	Moderate to high	Low fertility.

Rotoiti hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, low fertility.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, low natural fertility.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Hilly slopes, low to medium fertility.
Forestry	Moderate to high	No limitations.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for fodder cropping.
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.
- Forestry: avoid windrowing and damage to topsoils.

Rotoiti loamy sand

Soil series name: Tangatara (TS)

Overview

Tangatara soil series have been mapped south of Waihi on steep and very steep slopes. Parent materials are thin patchy tephra overlying rhyolite, dacite or ignimbrite. Soil profiles have thin (9 cm) very dark brown silt loam topsoil overlying dark yellowish-brown sandy loam with abundant moderately weathered subrounded ignimbrite gravels. These rest on light olive-brown gravelly silt loam and greyish-brown gravelly clay loam. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Recent Soils** on steep slopes, and **Typic Orthic Allophanic Soils** on stable ridges and spurs. Land use is dry stock (sheep and beef) and forestry, and some are unused lands.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam

Topsoil clay content: 15 – 20%

Potential rooting depth: 50 to 80 cm

Rooting barrier: Densely packed gravels

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid over moderate

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (56 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (39 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.78 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 0.86 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 12.9 – 22.4%

Topsoil P retention: High (83%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

In **Tangatara steepland soils**, deeper or shallower soil profiles occur. Ignimbrite boulders on mid slopes and tephra overlying ignimbrite also occur.

Associated and similar soils

Waitekauri series and **Whangamata series** occur on rolling to hilly slopes with thicker tephra layers.

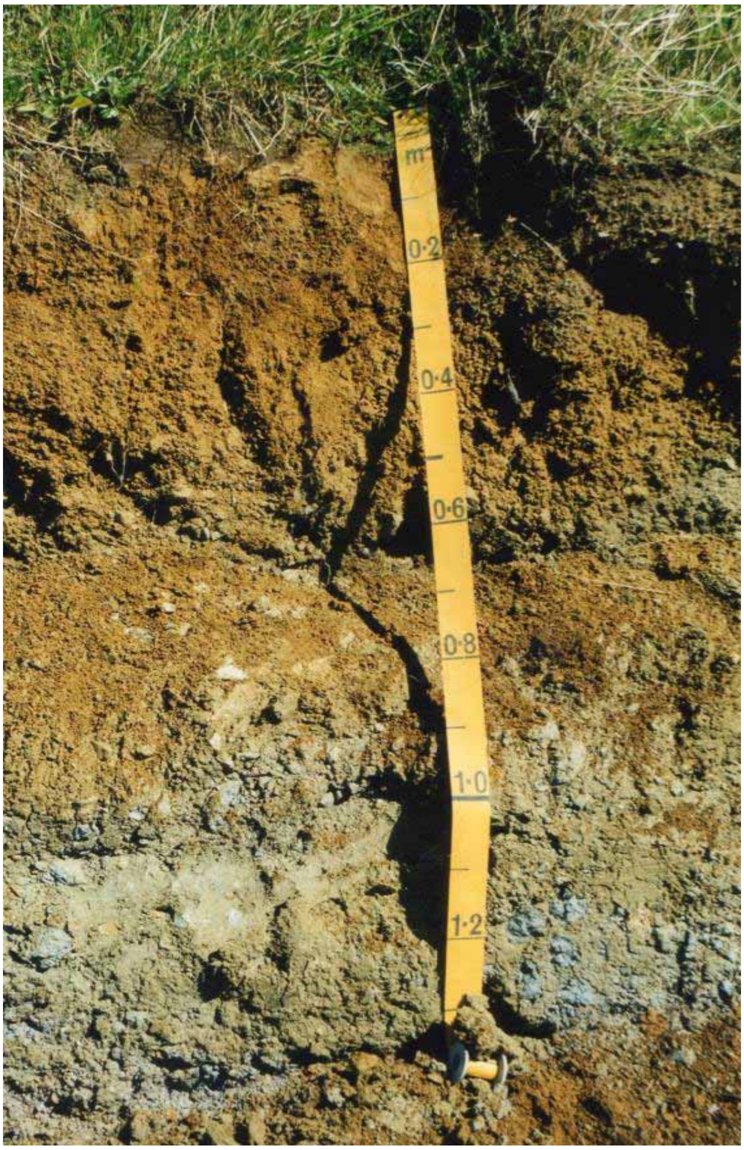
General land use suitability ratings

Tangatara steepland soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Steep and very steep slopes, stony soils.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Steep and very steep slopes, stony soils.
Intensive pasture	Low	Steep and very steep slopes, stony soils.
Forestry	Low	Steep and very steep slopes, stony soils.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Forestry: avoid windrowing and damage to topsoils.
- Use aerial harvesting with forestry to reduce topsoil damage.
- Employ protection forestry.
- Use low stocking rates with dry stock farming.



Tangatara steepland soil

Soil series name: Tarawera (Tr)

Overview

Tarawera soil series occur on easy rolling, rolling and hilly country chiefly in Tarawera Forest in central Whakatane District. The soils are derived from more than 20 cm coarse Tarawera Tephra overlying Kaharoa Tephra. Soil profiles have black to dark greyish-brown coarse Tarawera lapilli overlying black sand and yellowish-brown sand. These rest on yellowish brown and pale yellow pumice gravel (Kaharoa Tephra). The soils are classified as **Buried-pumice Tephric Recent Soils**. Land use is forestry and dry stock.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 0 – 4%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (39 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (27 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.38 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (32%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Tarawera gravel occurs on flat to rolling land. Tarawera Tephra varies in thickness from 23 – 90 cm. **Tarawera hill soils** are on hill slopes and Tarawera Tephra varies from 23 – 50 cm in thickness with accumulation of eroded material on foot slopes.

Associated and similar soils

Haroharo series are on steep and very steep slopes with thinner layers of tephra overlying ignimbrite.

General land use suitability ratings

Tarawera gravel

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Cool climate, low fertility, severe erosion potential.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Cool climate, low fertility, severe erosion potential.
Intensive pasture	Low	Low fertility, erosion potential on slopes over 10 degrees.
Forestry	Moderate	Low fertility.

Tarawera hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, cool climate, low fertility.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, cool climate, low fertility, severe erosion potential.
Intensive pasture	Low	Hilly slopes, cold climate, low fertility, severe erosion potential.
Forestry	Low	Low fertility, severe erosion potential.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Limit cultivation to slopes below 10 degrees.
- Use low stocking rates with farming.
- Build up organic matter by ploughing in annual crops.
- Maintain a good pasture sward.
- Avoid stock tracking on steep slopes.
- Forestry: avoid windrowing and damage to topsoils.
- Employ protection forestry.

Tarawera gravel (Note thick coarse Tarawera Tephra and buried topsoil of Kaharoa Tephra)

Soil series name: Te Matai (TM)

Overview

Te Matai soil series occur in the Te Puke/Tauranga areas on flat former back swamps of flood plains of main rivers and streams. The soils are derived from rhyolitic alluvium with a thin layer of rhyolitic tephra. Soil profiles have black silt loam on light grey coarse sand (Kaharoa Tephra). These overlie dark brown humic mottled silt loam on pale brown firm mottled clay loam and light brownish grey mottled silty clay loam. The soils are classified as **Mottled-acidic Fluvial Recent Soils**. Land use is dairying and some dry stock.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam

Topsoil clay content: 25 – 30%

Potential rooting depth: 70 – 100 cm

Rooting barrier: Fluctuating ground water table

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Moderate over slow

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (100 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (65 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.94 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.38 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 6 – 13.8%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (35%)

Available P, Mg, K and Ca: Low (Strongly leached and strongly acid soil)

Soil types/variations

Te Matai silt loam is the primary soil type. Inclusions of sand and sandy loam topsoils and imperfectly drained soils occur. Clay loam, silty clay loam and clay subsoils occur locally.

Associated and similar soils

Manoeka series on adjacent levees are well-drained. **Te Puna series** derived from tephric colluvium are on adjacent poorly- to imperfectly-drained fans.

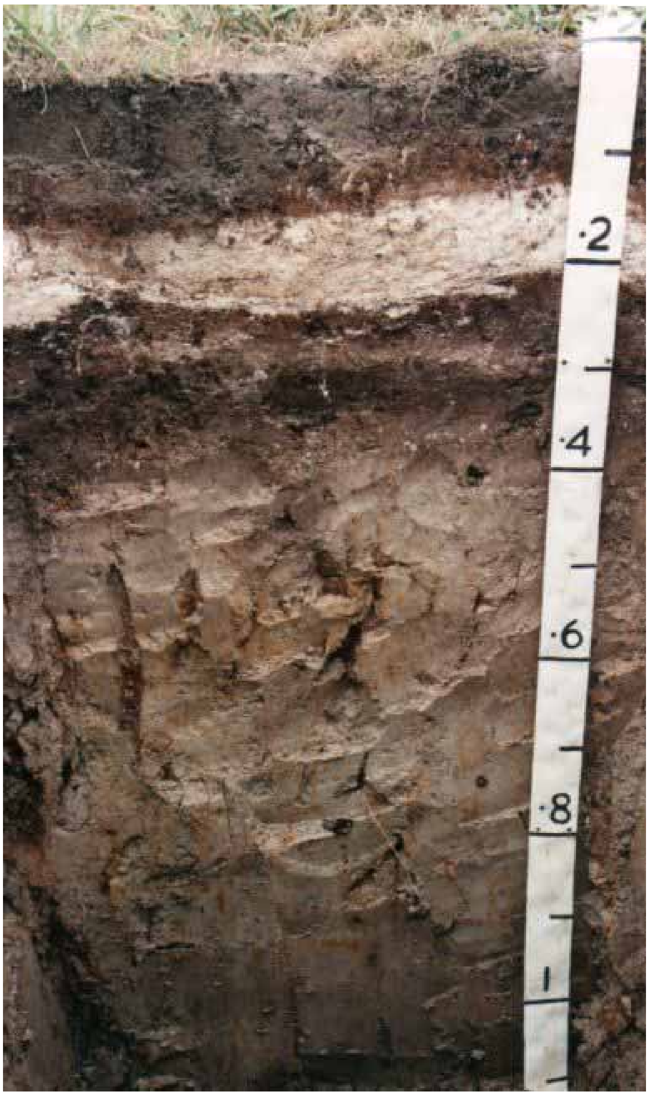
General land use suitability ratings

Te Matai silt loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Moderate	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels, fragile topsoil structure, late soil for cropping.
Horticulture	Moderate	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels, fragile topsoil structure.
Intensive pasture	Moderate to high	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels, summer droughts.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage, fluctuating ground water levels.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Employ artificial drainage.



Te Matai silt loam (Note pale layer of Kaharoa Tephra at 20 cm depth)

Soil series name: Te Puke (Tk)

Overview

Te Puke soil series occur in the Te Puke area west of Tauranga. Parent materials are rhyolitic tephra (very thin Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra, on weathered rhyolitic tephra (Mamaku, Rotoma and Rotorua Tephra on thin Rerewhakaaitu, Okareka and Te Rere Tephra). Soil profiles have black sandy loam friable topsoils overlying dark yellowish-brown friable sandy loam. This rests on yellowish brown silt loam at about 90 cm depth. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Allophanic Soils**. Land use consists of horticulture (kiwifruit, citrus) dairying, cropping (maize) or dry stock.

Physical properties

Texture: Sandy loam

Topsoil clay content: 8 – 10%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: None

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (126 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (80 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.78 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 0.86 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 12.9 – 22.4%

Topsoil P retention: High (83%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Te Puke sandy loam is the main soil type. Some profiles have mottled subsoils and are mapped as **Te Puke sandy loam, mottled variant**. **Te Puke sandy loam, rolling phase** and **Te Puke hill soils** have similar soil profiles. **Te Puke brown sandy loam** has dark brown topsoils.

Associated and similar soils

Katikati series have a silt loam layer at 40 cm depth and have greater water-holding capacity. They occur chiefly north of Tauranga. **Paengaroa series** have coarser textured soil profiles and occur east of Te Puke. **Otanewainuku series** occur on steep and very steep slopes with shallower soil profiles overlying ignimbrite.

General land use suitability ratings

Te Puke sandy loam; Te Puke sandy loam, mottled variant; and Te Puke sandy loam, rolling phase

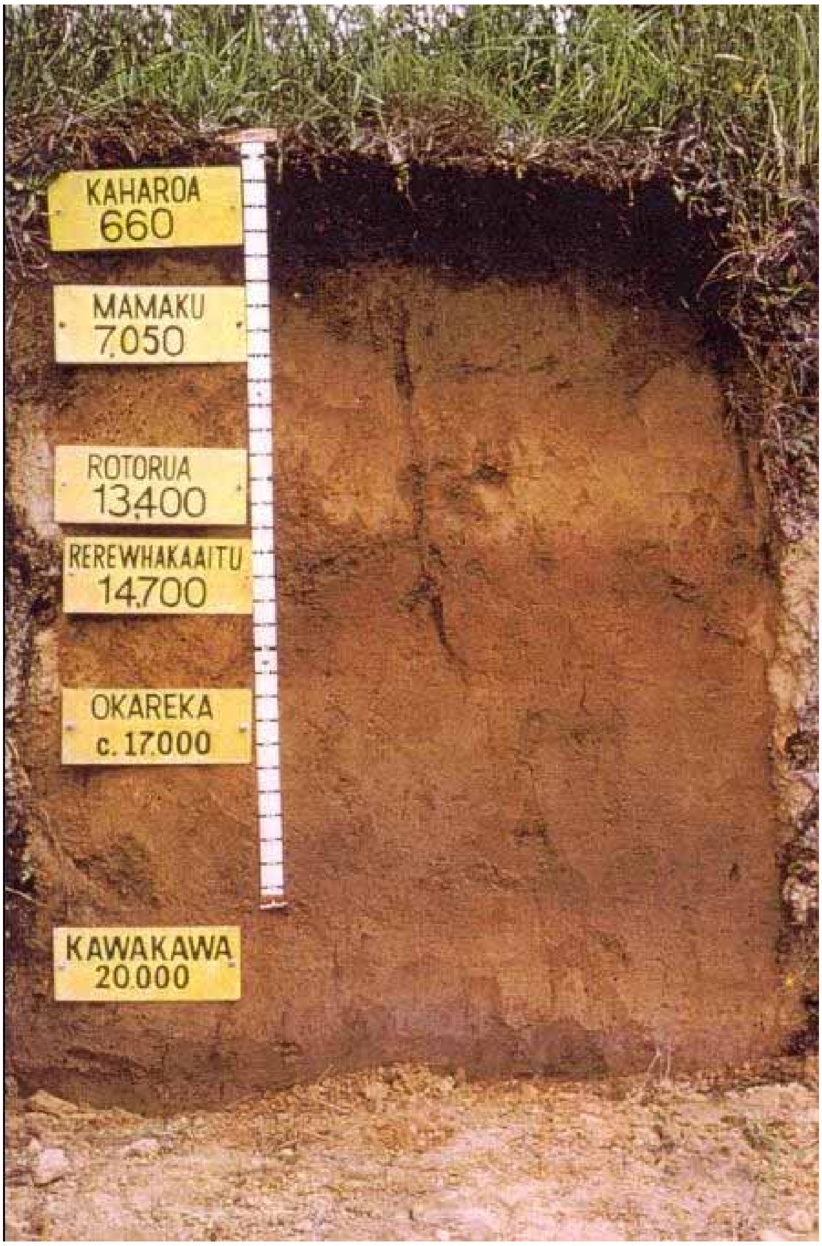
Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Moderate to high	Weak topsoil structure, low fertility.
Horticulture	High	Weak topsoil structure, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	High	Weak topsoil structure, low fertility.
Forestry	High	None.

Te Puke hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, weak topsoil structure, low fertility.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Hilly slopes, weak topsoil structure, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	High	Low fertility, hilly slopes.
Forestry	High	Low fertility, hilly slopes.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for cropping.
- Avoid working the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.



Te Puke sandy loam

Soil series name: Te Puna (TP)

Overview

Te Puna soil series occur in the Tauranga area. Parent materials are tephric colluvium derived from rhyolitic tephra. Thin layers of diatomaceous earth occur locally. A 10 cm coarse sandy layer occurs locally at 65 – 80 cm depth (Kaharoa Tephra). Soil profiles have very dark grey gritty silt loam topsoils on very dark greyish-brown silt loam which overlie light olive brown mottled sandy loam on light yellowish-brown mottled silt loam. The soils are classified as **Typic Acid Gley Soils**. Land use consists of beef, dairying and sheep farming.

Physical properties

Texture: Silt loam

Topsoil clay content: 9 – 19%

Potential rooting depth: 50 – 80 cm

Rooting barrier: Fluctuating ground water

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): High (160 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (98 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.94 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.22 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 10.3 – 13.8%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (52%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low P, Ca, Mg; Medium K (Strongly leached soil)

Soil types/variations

Te Puna silt loam as described above. Some profiles are imperfectly drained with fewer mottles at greater depth. Topsoil textures vary from fine sandy loam to sandy loam and silt loam. Peaty silt occurs locally.

Associated and similar soils

Katikati series on adjacent terrace and hill country are well-drained soils derived from rhyolitic tephra. Around Tauranga Harbour, the soils grade into **Pahoia series** on flat former estuaries.

General land use suitability ratings

Te Puna silt loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Poor drainage, low natural fertility.
Horticulture	Low	Poor drainage, low natural fertility.
Intensive pasture	Moderate	Poor drainage, low natural fertility.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor drainage.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Drainage with open drains.

Te Puna silt loam (scale in m)

Soil series name: Tuapiro (Tu)

Overview

Tuapiro soil series occur on low river flats on the western side of Woodlands Road along the Tuapiro Stream in Western Bay of Plenty. Parent materials are alluvium derived from tephra and andesite. Soil profiles consist of dark brown friable loamy sand overlying dark yellowish-brown gravelly loamy sand, resting on dark yellowish-brown coarse sand and dark brown loamy sand. The soils are classified as **Typic Fluvial Recent Soils**. Land use is mainly dry stock.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 5 – 10%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to low (83 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (60 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.38 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 4.3 – 8.6 %

Topsoil P retention: Low (19%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Possibly medium to low levels

Soil types/variations

Tuapiro sandy loam, as described above, is the most commonly occurring profile. The amount of andesite gravel varies.

Associated and similar soils

Te Puna series on adjacent fans.

General land use suitability ratings

Tuapiro series

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Frequent or infrequent flooding, low nutrient levels.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Frequent or infrequent flooding, low nutrient levels.
Intensive pasture	Low	Frequent or infrequent flooding, low nutrient levels.
Forestry	Low	Frequent or infrequent flooding.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Use low stocking rates for dry stock.

Tuapiro sand

Soil series name: Utuhina (Ut)

Overview

Utuhina soil series occur in low-lying areas in the Rotorua area. Parent materials are peat and peaty loam overlying pumiceous lake deposits. Soil profiles consist of black friable peaty loam on black loamy peat resting on pale brown soft silt loam and olive soft sand. The soils are classified as **Mellow Humic Organic Soils**. Land use consists of dry stock.

Physical properties

Texture: Peat over sand

Topsoil clay content: 5 – 10%

Potential rooting depth: 40 – 60 cm

Rooting barrier: Anoxic conditions

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Moderate

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): High (181 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): High (150 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 0.18 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 34.5 – 69.0 %

Topsoil P retention: High (62%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low levels

Soil types/variations

Utuhina peaty loam with peaty materials overlying pumiceous sand is the main soil type.

Associated and similar soils

Waiowhiro series near the edges of depressions are derived from pumiceous lake deposits.

General land use suitability ratings

Utuhina peaty loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Poorly-drained small depressions.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Poorly-drained small depressions.
Intensive pasture	Low	Poorly-drained small depressions.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poorly-drained small depressions.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Employ artificial drainage with open drains.

Utuhina peaty loam landscape

Soil series name: Waiari (Wi)

Overview

Waiari soil series occur in the Te Puke – Tauranga areas on flat low-lying back swamps behind river and stream beds. The soils are formed from contrasting layered parent material including rhyolitic alluvium, diatomaceous earth, rhyolitic tephra (Kaharoa Tephra) and peat. Soil profiles show dark brown friable silt loam with many fine reddish mottles overlying light yellowish-brown firm silt on dark brown peaty silt loam, which overlie black slightly peaty silt loam and yellowish-brown silt on light grey fine sand on white coarse sand indicated as Kaharoa Tephra resting on very dark greyish-brown silt. The soils are classified as **Typic Acid Gley Soils.** Land use consists of dairying, dry stock and horticulture (blueberries).

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 16 – 18% (silt loam); 20 – 30% silt loam, woody phase

Potential rooting depth: 30 to 80cm

Rooting barrier: Anoxic conditions

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Moderate over slow

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): High (153 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (95 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.94 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.22 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 10.3 – 13.8%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (52%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Medium to low (Acid soils, potentially toxic aluminium levels)

Soil types/variations

Waiari silt loam is the main soil type. **Waiari silt loam, woody phase** contains stumps and twigs in the subsoil. Peaty loam and fine sandy topsoils occur locally.

Associated and similar soils

Kopuroa silt loam on adjacent sandy ridges has sandy gravel in the subsoil. **Te Matai silt loam** occurs closer to the riverbed and has clay loam to silty clay loam mottled subsoils**.** **Wharere sandy loam** has marine sand subsoil.

General land use suitability ratings

Waiari silt loam and Waiari silt loam, woody phase

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Poor natural drainage, acid soils.
Horticulture	Low	Poor natural drainage, acid soils.
Intensive pasture	Low to moderate	Poor natural drainage, acid soils.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor natural drainage.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Artificial drainage with open drains.

Waiari silt loam (Note pale layer of Kaharoa Tephra overlying peat)

Soil series name: Waiowhiro (Wa)

Overview

Waiowhiro soil series occur around the Rotorua Lakes. Parent materials are pumice from lake deposits. Soil profiles have thin black to very dark brown friable coarse sand overlying dark reddish-brown and dark brown loose coarse sand, which rest on dark brown and dark reddish-brown loose coarse sand. The soils are classified as **Mottled Tephric Recent Soils**. Agricultural land use consists of dry stock. Much of the land is residential.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 2 – 5%

Potential rooting depth: 40 – 80 cm

Rooting barrier: Anoxic conditions

Drainage class: Imperfectly drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (39 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (28 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.38 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (32%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Waiowhiro sand is the main soil type. Small areas of peaty loam occur in depressions.

Associated and similar soils

Utuhina peaty loam occurs in low-lying depressions.

General land use suitability ratings

Waiowhiro sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Not suitable	Imperfect drainage, very coarse soil textures.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Imperfect drainage, very coarse soil textures.
Intensive pasture	Low	Imperfect drainage, very coarse soil textures.
Forestry	Not suitable	Imperfect drainage, very coarse soil textures.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Drainage (open drains).
- Avoid cultivating the soil during dry spells to prevent loss of organic matter.

Waiowhiro sand

Soil series name: Waipumuka (Wp)

Overview

Waipumuka soil series occur north of State Highway 2 near the margins of the Kaituna lowlands on dissected tephra-covered terraces. Parent material is thin Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra on weathered rhyolitic tephra. Soil profiles have thick black friable sandy loam topsoils overlying very pale brown and light yellowish-brown fine to coarse sand. This overlies yellowish-brown coarse sandy loam and pale yellow mottled sandy loam. Subsoils are yellow coarse mottled sandy loam and light grey mottled sandy loam. The soils are classified as **Mottled Orthic Pumice Soils**. Land use is dairying and/or kiwifruit.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam over sand

Topsoil clay content: 8 – 12%

Potential rooting depth: 40 – 60 cm

Rooting barrier: Anoxic conditions

Drainage class: Imperfectly drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to low (87 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (53 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.91 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.00 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%.

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Medium

Soil types/variations

Waipumuka sandy loam as described above. The thickness of the Kaharoa Tephra varies from 11 – 37 cm and strong brown mottles occur.

Associated and similar soils

Paengaroa series are well-drained soils on adjacent terraces.

General land use suitability ratings

Waipumuka sandy loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Medium	Imperfect drainage, weakly developed topsoil structure.
Horticulture	Medium	Imperfect drainage.
Intensive pasture	Medium	Imperfect drainage.
Forestry	Not suitable	Imperfect drainage.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Employ drainage (open drains).
- Increase organic matter.
- Avoid tillage under dry, windy conditions.

Waipumuka sandy loam (Note deep, black topsoil)

Soil series name: Waitekauri (Wai)

Overview

Waitekauri soil series occur on flat, rolling and hilly land south of Waihi in Western Bay of Plenty. Parent material is weathered rhyolitic and andesitic tephra on andesites. Soil profiles have very dark greyish-brown friable loam topsoils on strong brown friable loam or silt loam. These rest on yellowish-brown friable silt loam on greyish-brownish-yellow firm clay loam. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Allophanic Soils.** Land use is dairying, dry stock, horticulture (kiwifruit, avocado, citrus), or forestry.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam

Topsoil clay content: 10 – 15% (loam); 20 – 22% (hill soils)

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited (loam); 75 – 90 cm (hill soils)

Rooting barrier: None (loam); weathered rock (hill soils)

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Moderate to rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (134 – 151 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (84 – 93 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 0.78 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 0.86 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 12.9 – 22.4%.

Topsoil P retention: High (83%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Waitekauri loam occurs on easy rolling to rolling land, and **Waitekauri hill soils** occur on hilly land.

Associated and similar soils

Aroha steepland soils and **Tangatara steepland soils** are on steep and very steep slopes with little tephra overlying andesite or ignimbrite. **Whakamarama series** occur at higher elevations and are podzolised. **Katikati series** have sandier textures and yellower subsoils (yellowish-brown).

General land use suitability ratings

Waitekauri loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Medium	Rolling slopes.
Horticulture	Medium	Rolling slopes.
Intensive pasture	High	Rolling slopes, low fertility.
Forestry	High	No limitations.

Waitekauri hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low to not suitable	Hilly slopes.
Horticulture	Not suitable	Hilly slopes.
Intensive pasture	High	Hilly slopes.
Forestry	High	No limitations.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Avoid soil tillage under dry, windy conditions.

Waitekauri loam (Note strongly developed soil structure)

Soil series name: Waiteti (W)

Overview

Waiteti soil series occur on flat, rolling and hilly uplands of the Mamaku Plateau west of the Rotorua area. Parent materials are thin Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra on weathered rhyolitic tephra on ignimbrite. Soil profiles have dark reddish-brown friable loamy sand on dark brown loamy sand, which rest on yellowish-brown loamy sand on sand. Below 70 cm, yellowish-brown greasy loamy sand occurs. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Podzols.** Land use is dairying, dry stock, or forestry.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand (loamy sand); sand over loam (hill soils)

Topsoil clay content: 5 – 10% (loamy sand); 10 – 15% (hill soils)

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (95 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (70 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.42 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 15.5%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (42%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low (Strongly leached soil)

Soil types/variations

Waiteti loamy sand occurs on easy rolling to rolling land. **Waiteti hill soils** are on hilly land. Small pockets of Kaharoa Tephra occur locally.

Associated and similar soils

Mamaku series are podzols without the Rotokawau Tephra below Taupo Tephra.

General land use suitability ratings

Waiteti loamy sand

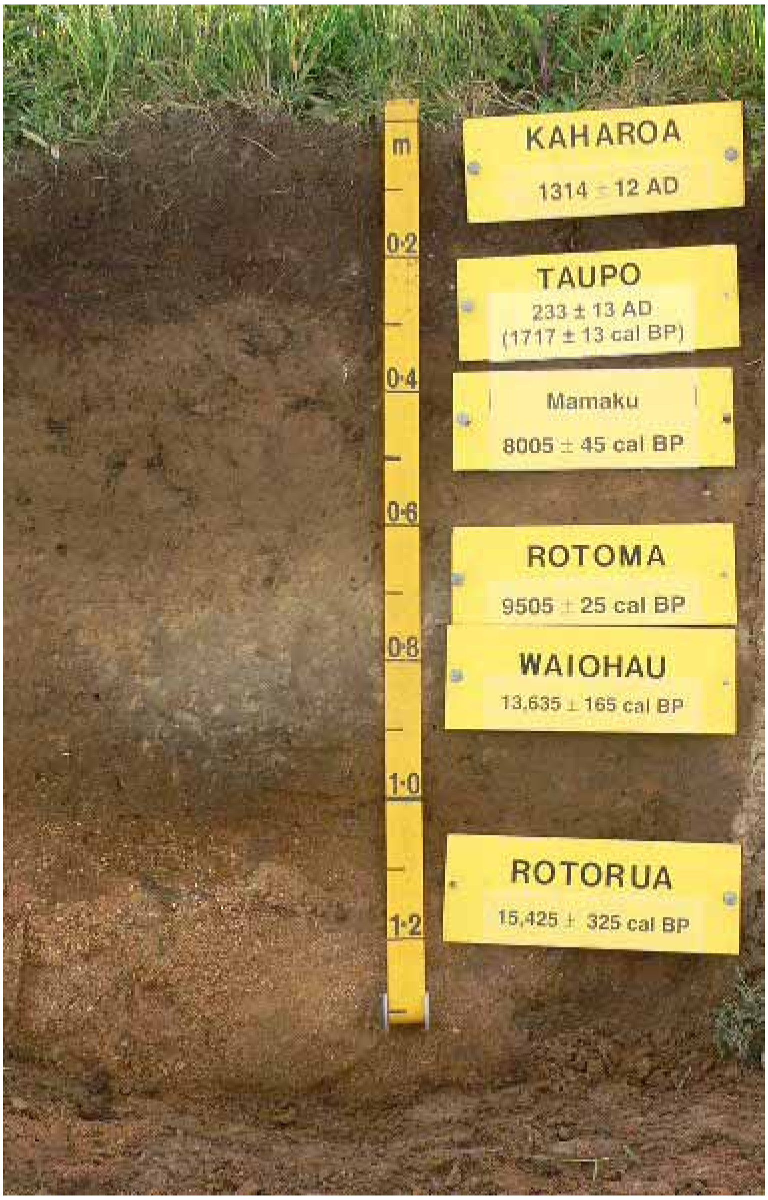
Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Medium to low	Cool climate, rolling slopes, low fertility.
Horticulture	Low to unsuitable	Cool climate, low nutrient levels, rolling slopes.
Intensive pasture	Medium	Cool climate, low fertility.
Forestry	High	No limitations.

Waiteti hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Unsuitable	Cool climate, hilly slopes.
Horticulture	Unsuitable	Cool climate, low nutrient levels, hilly slopes.
Intensive pasture	Medium	Hilly slopes, cool climate.
Forestry	High	Hilly slopes.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Avoid soil tillage under dry, windy conditions.



Waiteti loamy sand

Soil series name: Whakamarama (Wk)

Overview

Whakamarama soil series occur on flat, rolling and hilly uplands west of Tauranga Harbour. Parent materials are weathered rhyolitic tephra (Taupo Tephra, Tuhua Tephra, Rotoma Tephra, Rotorua Tephra, Rotoehu Tephra on 'Hamilton Beds') on ignimbrite. Soil profiles have dark reddish-brown friable loamy sand on dark brown loamy sand, which rest on yellowish-brown loamy sand on sand. Below 70 cm, yellowish-brown greasy loamy sand occurs. Whakamarama hill soils generally have shallower, more mixed tephra layers. The soils are classified as **Typic Orthic Podzols**. Land use is dairying, dry stock, forestry, and areas in cut-over bush.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand (loamy sand); sand over loam (hill soils)

Topsoil clay content: 10 – 18%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to high (97 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (53 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.09 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.42 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 15.5%.

Topsoil P retention: Medium (42%)

Available P, Ca, K, Mg, S: Low

Soil types/variations

Whakamarama loamy sand occurs on flat to easy rolling land. **Whakamarama sandy loam, rolling phase** is on rolling land. **Whakamarama hill soils** are on hilly land. Small pockets of Kaharoa Tephra occur locally. Soil profiles may or may not have E or Bh horizons.

Associated and similar soils

Katikati series are non-podzolised soils at lower elevations.

General land use suitability ratings

Whakamarama loamy sand and sandy loam, rolling phase

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Cool climate, rolling slopes, low fertility.
Horticulture	Unsuitable	Cool climate, low nutrient levels, rolling slopes.
Intensive pasture	Medium to low	Cool climate, low nutrient levels.
Forestry	High	Cool climate.

Whakamarama hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Unsuitable	Cool climate, hilly slopes, low fertility.
Horticulture	Unsuitable	Cool climate, hilly slopes, low nutrient levels.
Intensive pasture	Medium to low	Cool climate, low nutrient levels, hilly slopes.
Forestry	High	Cool climate, hilly slopes.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Avoid soil tillage under dry, windy conditions.
- Use zero or minimum tillage methods for fodder cropping.

Whakamarama sandy loam (Note ignimbrite in lower left side of the photograph)

Soil series name: Whakatane (Wx)

Overview

Whakatane soil series occur on flat, rolling and hilly lands in the Whakatane area. Parent materials are less than 7 cm Tarawera Tephra on Kaharoa Tephra, Taupo Tephra, Whakatane Tephra and Rotoma Tephra. Soil profiles have very dark brown friable loamy sand on yellowish-brown friable loamy sand, resting on more yellowish-brown loamy sand. The soils are classified as **Allophanic Orthic Pumice Soils**. Land use is dairying, dry stock, cropping (maize), and forestry.

Physical properties

Texture: Sand

Topsoil clay content: 3 – 10%

Potential rooting depth: Unlimited

Rooting barrier: No significant barrier within 1 m

Drainage class: Well-drained

Permeability: Rapid

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (96 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate (72 mm)

Topsoil bulk density: 1.18 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.42 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 8.6 – 12.1%.

Topsoil P retention: Medium (51%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Whakatane loamy sand is on easy rolling to rolling land. **Whakatane hill soils** are on hilly land. Thicker Tarawera Tephra and Kaharoa Tephra occur towards the western extent of the soils. Such profiles have thicker and blacker topsoils.

Associated and similar soils

Matahina series are soils where Tarawera Tephra is more than 7 cm thick and coarser. **Tawhia series** are on steep and very steep slopes with thinner, often mixed tephra, which overlie greywacke.

General land use suitability ratings

Whakatane loamy sand

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Medium	Rolling slopes, weakly developed topsoil structure, low fertility.
Horticulture	Medium	Rolling slopes, weakly developed topsoil structure, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	Medium	Low fertility.
Forestry	High	No limitations.

Whakatane hill soils

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Unsuitable	Hilly slopes, weakly developed topsoil structure, low fertility.
Horticulture	Unsuitable	Hilly slopes, weakly developed topsoil structure, low fertility.
Intensive pasture	Medium	Hilly slopes.
Forestry	High	No limitations.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Avoid soil tillage under dry, windy conditions.

Whakatane loamy sand

Soil series name: Wharere (Whar)

Overview

Wharere soil series occur in the Te Puke area and Te Maunga area on flat former estuaries and swamp land. Layered parent materials are peat, rhyolitic tephra (Kaharoa and Taupo Tephra) on estuarine sand. Soil profiles have very dark brown mottled humic sandy loam overlying light grey coarse sand (Kaharoa Tephra) on dark brown and dark reddish-brown peat. These rest at about 40 cm on greyish brown and dark grey sand. The soils are classified as **Peaty Orthic Gley Soils**. Land use is dairying or beef.

Physical properties

Texture: Loam over sand

Topsoil clay content: 10 – 18%

Potential rooting depth: 40 to 50 cm

Rooting barrier: Anoxic conditions

Drainage class: Poorly-drained

Permeability: Moderate over slow

Profile total available water (0 – 100 cm): Moderate to low (88 mm)

Profile readily available water (0 – 100 cm): Low (47 mm))

Topsoil bulk density: 0.94 g/cm^3

Subsoil bulk density: 1.38 g/cm^3

Chemical properties

Topsoil organic matter: 6.9 – 15.5%

Topsoil P retention: Medium (38%)

Available P, Ca, Mg and K: Low

Soil types/variations

Wharere sandy loam as described above. There are slight variations in thickness of individual subsoil horizons.

Associated and similar soils

Pahoia series are derived from marine silts and sands with some rhyolitic tephra. They are younger soils without peat, Kaharoa Tephra and Taupo Tephra.

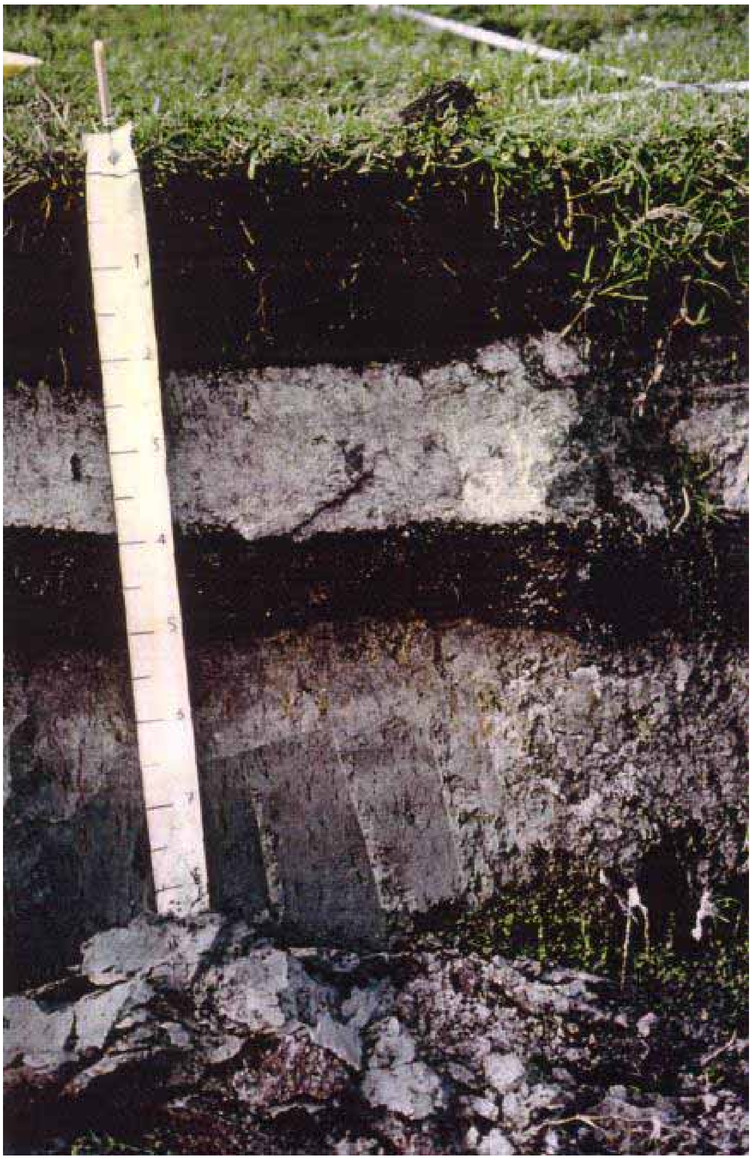
General land use suitability ratings

Wharere sandy loam

Land use	Suitability rating	Management considerations
Arable	Low	Poor drainage, weakly developed topsoil structure.
Horticulture	Low	Poor drainage.
Intensive pasture	Medium	Poor drainage.
Forestry	Not suitable	Poor drainage.

Management practices to improve suitability

- Employ drainage using open drains.
- Avoid soil tillage under dry, windy conditions.



Wharere sandy loam (Note thick Kaharoa Tephra below the topsoil, and Taupo Tephra below the peat)

Part 8: Glossary

ABC soil A soil that has an A, a B, and a C horizon.

Absorption Filling up of soil pores with water like a sponge soaks up water.

AC soil A soil that only has an A and a C horizon. Commonly, such soil formed in recent alluvium or on steep, rocky slopes.

Adsorption The attraction of ions or compounds to the surface of a solid. Soil colloids (clay and humus) adsorb large amounts of ions and water.

Aeolian Refers to wind-blown soil materials such as loess and sand.

Aeration The movement of air back and forth between the atmosphere and the pores of a soil.

Allophane A non-crystalline hydrous aluminium silicate clay mineral found in volcanic ash soils.

Allophanic Soils that are dominated by the clay mineral allophane (and also imogolite, ferrihydrite, and/or aluminium-humus complexes). They have a characteristically greasy feel, and high to very high phosphate retention.

Alluvium General term for unconsolidated materials such as gravel, sand, silt, clay or mixtures of these deposited on land by streams.

Andesite Volcanic rock composed essentially of andesine and one or more mafic constituents (such as pyroxene, hornblende, or biotite).

Anoxic Lacking oxygen, as in waterlogged soils.

Available water capacity (or available water-holding capacity) The maximum amount of water a soil can store for plant use in the upper 1 m. It is the difference between the amount of soil water held at **field capacity** (-10 kPa) and the amount at **wilting point** (-1,500 kPa). It is commonly expressed as mm of water. A good soil can provide around 230 – 305 mm of available water, a poor soil about 50 – 75 mm only.

Base saturation The extent to which the adsorption complex of a soil is saturated with exchangeable cations other than hydrogen and aluminium. It is expressed as a percentage of the soil's **cation exchange capacity**.

Breccia A coarse grained, clastic rock composed of angular, broken rock fragments held together by a mineral cement or a fine-grained matrix.

Boulders Rock fragments larger than 200 mm in diameter.

Buff layer Compact layer of alluvium derived from Kaharoa Tephra present in some soils such as Awaiti, Omeheu and Paroa series.

Bulk density Mass of dry soil per unit of bulk volume where **bulk volume** includes the volume of solids as well as the volume of pore spaces (total volume). It is expressed in g/cm^3 or t/m^3.

Caldera A large basin-shaped volcanic depression, more or less circular in form.

Cation exchange capacity The sum total of exchangeable cations that a soil can adsorb. It is expressed as centimoles of charge per kilogram of soil (cmol/kg).

Clastic Consisting of fragments of rocks.

Clay (1) Mineral soil particle with a diameter of less than 0.002 mm; (2) A soil textural class which is very plastic, very sticky and contains 60% or more clay.

Colour Colour gives some clues about the soil. Dark topsoils usually indicate high organic matter levels. Grey colours are indicative of poorly-drained soils. Yellowish-brown and reddish-brown colours generally indicate favourable air – water relations.

Colluvium Rock fragments or soil materials that have accumulated at the base of steep slopes due to gravity.

Compaction Reduction in the porosity of a soil due to cultivation and other mechanical forces.

Consistence The degree of cohesion and adhesion of peds, and the ease with which they are dislodged from the soil profile.

Creep (also called scree creep) Slow mass movement of soil down relatively steep slopes, mainly under the influence of gravity, but enhanced by saturation with water and by alternate freezing and thawing. Commonly seen as terracettes on hill slopes.

Dacite Extrusive rock with principal minerals plagioclase (andesine and oligoclase), quartz, pyroxene or hornblende or both, with minor biotite and sanidine.

Diatomaceous earth Fine, greyish siliceous material composed primarily of the remains of diatoms that have accumulated mainly in water. It may occur as a powder or as a porous, rigid material.

Drainage class The degree of wetness of a soil, as determined by the depth to a water table and the length of time the soil remains saturated. Common drainage classes include well-drained, moderately well-drained, imperfectly drained and poorly-drained.

Droughty A soil incapable of storing much water for plant use. Coarse sandy, stony, gravelly, sandy, shallow and steeply sloping soils are likely to be droughty unless they are supplied with rainfall or irrigation water frequently.

Dune A low hill or bank of drifted sand. Also mounds or ridges of wind-blown or aeolian sand are dunes.

Evapotranspiration. Between periods of rain, water held in the soil is gradually given up by direct evaporation from the soil surface and by plant transpiration. The combined water loss by these two means is called evapotranspiration.

Fan (alluvial) A low, outspread mass of loose materials and/or rock material, commonly with gentle slopes, shaped like an open fan or a segment of a cone, deposited by a stream.

Field capacity The moisture content of a soil when free drainage (one to two days after a heavy rain or irrigation) has virtually stopped. It is the maximum amount of water a soil can retain against the force of gravity. It is also called the upper limit of available water.

Fine earth All soil materials less than 2 mm in diameter.

Flats A flat or surface of low relief. Generally used to indicate flat river terraces.

Floodplain The nearly level surface next to a river that is covered with water when the river floods.

Gleyed Soil that is very wet for long periods of time and is characterized by grey colours, with or without mottles.

Gley soil Soil that formed under poor drainage, resulting in the reduction of iron, manganese and other elements in the profile and in grey colours.

Gravel Small, rounded coarse fragments in soils with a diameter ranging from 2 mm – 200 mm.

Greywacke A type of sandstone characterised by its dark colour, hardness and angular rock particles in a clayey matrix.

Groundwater The water below ground which saturates the subsoil. The upper surface of the zone of saturation is the water table.

Hummocky Regular or irregular small elevations or hillocks.

Humus The relatively resistant fraction of soil organic matter that forms during biological decomposition of organic residues. Humus usually constitutes the major fraction of soil organic matter.

Ignimbrite An igneous rock formed by the lithification of ash flow or pyroclastic flow deposits.

Inclusion An area of soil that is too small to show separately at the scale of the soil map. Inclusions can only be mapped out separately by making very detailed maps at very large scales.

Infiltration The rate at which water enters the soil. It is dependent on the size of pores and the stability of soil aggregates on the soil surface. If water cannot infiltrate, it either ponds on the surface or runs off over the surface.

Landform Any recognisable physical form or feature of the earth's surface having a characteristic shape and resulting from natural causes.

Landscape A portion of the land that the eye can comprehend in a single view, including all its natural characteristics.

Lapilli See **tephra**.

Leaching Removal of soluble materials such as minerals, nutrients, organic chemicals and pesticides from the soil by water passing through it either as rainfall or irrigation.

Levee A long, broad low ridge or embankment of sand and coarse silt, built by a stream on its flood plain and along both sides of its channel, especially in time of flood when water overflowing the normal banks is forced to deposit the coarsest part of its load.

Limiting layer Gravel, pan or stagnant water that limits plant root growth.

Loess Silt and fine sand particles deposited by the wind.

Mottles or Mottling Spots or blotches of grey or brown colour different from the dominant soil colour that indicate the height of fluctuating water tables and hence the degree of soil aeration.

Muck See **peat**.

Mudstone Silt- and clay-containing sedimentary rock that is non-plastic and has a massive appearance.

Organic matter Plant and animal residues in the soil in various stages of decomposition.

Organic soil Soil formed in the partly decomposed remains of wetland plants (peat) or forest litter. Some mineral material may be present but the soil is dominated by organic matter.

Oxbow A crescent-shaped lake formed in an abandoned river bend which has become separated from the stream by a change in the course of the river

Paleosol A soil that formed on a landscape in the past and that has distinctive morphological characteristics resulting from a soil-forming environment that no longer exists at the site. The former soil-forming process was either altered due to environmental change (e.g. climatic change) or interrupted by burial (e.g. occurrence of a **buried soil** during a volcanic eruption or past flooding).

Pan A compact, dense layer in a soil that restricts the movement of water and penetration by plant roots.

Parent material Unconsolidated organic and mineral material from which the soil develops.

Parent rock The rock from which the parent material is derived.

Peat Organic soil material in which the plant residues are still recognisable. This contrasts with **muck** in which the original plant residues cannot be recognised any more.

Ped A naturally-occurring soil aggregate, as opposed to a **clod,** which is formed artificially (e.g. through cultivation).

Permeability The rate at which water moves through the soil. It depends on the amount, size and interconnectedness of the pores, which in turn depend on soil texture, structure and bulk density.

pH The degree of acidity or alkalinity of a soil. A pH of 7 indicates a neutral soil. Lower values indicate acidic soils; higher numbers indicate alkaline soils.

Phosphate, or P, retention Expressed as a percentage, this is a measure of the degree of phosphate retention or immobilisation by soil minerals. For the same amount of phosphate fertiliser applied, soils with high P-retention values will give lower crop yields than soils with low P-retention values.

Podzol A strongly acidic soil that usually has a bleached soil horizon immediately below the topsoil. It occurs in high rainfall areas and is associated with forest trees with an acidic litter.

Pore space Soil space not occupied by solid particles (i.e. occupied by air and water).

Porosity The total volume of pore space in the soil expressed as a percentage of the bulk or total soil volume.

Potential rooting depth Total depth of soil suitable for plant root growth, measured from the surface to the top of a barrier (within 1 m of the soil surface) that limits root extension. Actual rooting depth depends on the depth plant roots actually penetrate.

Pumice Light vesicular form of volcanic glass with a high silica content. It is usually light in colour and some can float on water.

Pumice soil A soil with properties dominated by pumice and glass with a low clay content (which contains allophane). It occurs in sandy or pumiceous tephra with an age range of 700 – 3,500 years.

Readily available water The amount of water easily extractable by plant roots. It is the amount of water held between -10 kPa and -100 kPa suction. It is expressed as an equivalent depth of water in mm.

Ridge A relatively narrow elevation which is prominent on account of the steep angle at which it rises.

Rooting barrier The type of barrier that limits root penetration (e.g. compact soil horizons, pans, rocks, densely packed gravels, anaerobic conditions and high water tables).

Rhyolite A light, fined-grained igneous rock formed by the rapid cooling of lava rich in silica.

Runoff Water that flows over the surface of soil toward a stream or lake without sinking into the soil.

Sand (1) Mineral soil particle with a diameter range of 2.0 – 0.06 mm. Further subdivided into coarse sand (2.0 – 0.6 mm), medium sand (0.6 – 0.2 mm) and fine sand (0.2 – 0.06 mm); (2) A soil textural class containing 80% or more sand.

Sandstone Sedimentary rock consisting predominantly of sand-sized particles.

Scree A heap of rock waste at the base of a cliff or a sheet of coarse debris mantling a mountain slope.

Seepage Water that seeps toward stream channels after infiltration into the ground.

Shale Sedimentary rock formed by the hardening of a clay deposit.

Silt (1) Mineral soil particle with a diameter range of 0.06 – 0.002 mm; (2) A soil textural class (82% or more silt) which feels extremely smooth and silky.

Siltstone Sedimentary rock made up of predominantly silt-sized particles.

Skeletal Soils with horizons containing 35% or more gravel by volume.

Slope The inclination of the land suface expressed in degree angle from the horizontal.

Soil A natural body on the earth's surface that develops in response to climate and organisms acting on a parent material in a specific landscape position over a long period of time. Soil supplies plants with air, water, nutrients and provides mechanical support.

Soil association A group of soils geographically associated in a characteristic repeating pattern, and defined and delineated as a single map unit.

Soil complex (1) A map unit of two or more kinds of soil so intimately intermixed geographically that it is not practical to map them separately at the selected scale of mapping; (2) A more intimate mixing of smaller areas of individual soil mapping units than that in a soil association.

Soil horizon A layer of soil, approximately parallel to the surface, having distinct characteristics produced by soil-forming processes. From top to bottom, soil horizons are named as A, B, and C.

Soil morphology The physical makeup of the soil, which includes thickness and arrangement of soil horizons, colour, texture, structure, consistence, roots, horizon boundaries, etc.

Soil phase A subdivision of a soil series based on features that affect its use and management such as slope, stoniness, flooding, etc.

Soil profile A vertical section of the soil showing all its horizons and extending into the parent material.

Soil series A group of soils that have similar profile characteristics except for differences in texture of the surface layer. Traditionally, a soil series is named after the place where the soil was first observed and described (e.g. Taupo soil series).

Soil survey The process of producing a soil map. A soil surveyor walks over the land, and observes and records soil and landscape features, classifies the soils, and locates soil boundaries in the field. The surveyor uses aerial photos as base maps to delineate soil boundaries and label each area, or polygon, with a map unit symbol.

Soil survey report A publication containing the results of a soil survey of an area. It consists of the soil map, text describing the properties and behaviour of soils, and tables containing interpretations for soil use and management.

Soil type A subdivision within a soil series to distinguish soils differing in surface texture only (e.g. Taupo sand, Taupo sandy loam, etc.).

Soil variant A soil whose properties are believed to be different enough from other known soils to justify creation of a new series name but, because of its limited geographic extent, the creation is not justified.

Stones Rock fragments ranging from boulders to gravels.

Stony Soil that contains 5 – 35% stones in the upper 20 cm. Stones limit the volume of soil that is available for roots to explore for water and nutrients. They can also significantly interfere with or prevent tillage operations. Where stones consist of lapilli, these do not adversely affect land use since these are light materials and do not present an impediment to cultivation.

Spur A subordinate ridge which extends itself from the crest of a hill or mountain like ribs from the vertebral column.

Structure The arrangement of the primary particles sand, silt and clay into larger units called aggregates or peds. Plant roots, clay and organic matter help bind aggregates together.

Subsidence Lowering of the soil surface due to settling or shrinkage. Drainage of organic soils results in subsidence through increased aeration, and the loss of organic matter through decomposition.

Swale A slight depression in an area of generally flat land.

Tephra A name for all unconsolidated **clastic** volcanic material that, during an eruption, is transported through the air from the source. This term should not be confused with grain size classes: fine ash (less than 0.25 mm); coarse ash (0.25 – 2.0 mm); lapilli (2.0 – 64 mm).

Texture The relative proportion of sand, silt and clay particles in a soil. Specific combinations of sand, silt and clay are known as **textural classes**. Examples include sandy loam, silt loam, clay, etc.

Vesicular Containing many small cavities or air holes (as in Taupo Pumice).

Volcanic ash Fine, ash-like rock particles ejected from a volcano during an eruption that may be transported long distances by the wind.

Water table The upper level of water stored under the ground.

Wilting point The moisture content of a soil at which plants can no longer extract water. Clayey soils contain relatively large amounts of water at the wilting point, but it is held so tightly inside the very small pores of the clay that plants are unable to extract it.

Years before present Carbon-14 dating system for tephras using 1950 as the base year.

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Part 10: Index to Western Bay of Plenty soil series

No.	Soil Series Name	Map Symbol	Soil Order	Page
1	Aroha	ArS	Allophanic	35
2	Kaharoa	Kh	Podzol	38
3	Kaingaroa	Kg	Pumice	41
4	Kairua	Ki	Podzol	44
5	Katikati	Ka	Allophanic	47
6	Kawerau	Kr	Pumice	50
7	Kopuroa	Kp	Recent	53
8	Maketu	Mk	Gley/Organic	56
9	Mamaku	M	Podzol	58
10	Manawahe	Mj	Pumice	61
11	Man-made	MM	Anthropic	64
12	Manoeka	MN	Recent	66
13	Matahina	Mb	Pumice	69
14	Muriwai	Mu	Raw	72
15	Ohineangaanga	Oa	Gley	74
16	Ohinepanea	Ohi	Pumice	77
17	Ohope	Oe	Raw	80
18	Omarumutu	Om	Gley	83
19	Omeheu	Ome	Gley	85
20	Oropi	Or	Pumice	88
21	Otanewainuku	OS	Pumice	91
22	Oturoa	Ot	Pumice	93
23	Paengaroa	Pg	Pumice	96
24	Pahoia	Pa	Gley	99
25	Papamoa	Pp	Recent	102
26	Parawhenuamea	Pw	Pumice	105
27	Parton	Pt	Organic	107
28	Pongakawa	Po	Organic	109
29	Pukehina	Pow	Gley	111
30	Pukemaku	PkS	Pumice	113
31	Pukeroa	Pu	Pumice	115
32	Raparapahoe	Rp	Gley	118
33	Rotoiti	Rt	Pumice	120

No.	Soil Series Name	Map Symbol	Soil Order	Page
34	Tangatara	TS	Recent (on steep slopes) Allophanic (on ridges and spurs)	123
35	Tarawera	Tr	Recent	126
36	Te Matai	TM	Recent	129
37	Te Puke	Tk	Allophanic	131
38	Te Puna	TP	Gley	134
39	Tuapiro	Tu	Recent	136
40	Utuhina	Ut	Organic	138
41	Waiari	Wi	Gley	140
42	Waiowhiro	Wa	Recent	142
43	Waipumuka	Wp	Pumice	144
44	Waitekauri	Wai	Allophanic	146
45	Waiteti	W	Podzol	148
46	Whakamarama	Wk	Podzol	151
47	Whakatane	Wx	Pumice	154
48	Wharere	Whar	Gley	157