

## Slope

Slope is measured in feet of fall or rise per 100 feet of horizontal travel and is expressed in percent, as follows:

A. Nearly level	0 - 1.9%
B. Gently sloping	2 - 4.9%
C. Moderately sloping	5 - 7.9%
D. Strongly sloping	8 - 11.9%
E. Steep	12 - 16.9%
F. Very steep	17% or more

## Erosion -- wind and water

Erosion is the loss of soil by forces of water and wind. Proper soil management can greatly reduce erosion and maintain productivity and usefulness of the land. The degree to which erosion has occurred is described by the following terms:

None to slight. Less than 25 percent of surface soil removed. No gullies.

Moderate. 25 to 75 percent of surface soil removed, with or without gullies.

Severe. 75 percent or more of the surface soil removed, with or without occasional uncrossable gullies.

Very severe. All of the surface soil removed, and up to 75 percent of the subsoil lost.

## Drainage

Drainage can be regarded as an index of wetness of the natural soil. Drainage is associated with the rate at which water is removed from the soil profile under natural conditions. Wetness of a soil is influenced by many factors, including internal drainage, permeability, and depth to the water table. Generally, internal drainage is a reflection of permeability. For example, a very slowly permeable soil exhibits poor to very poor internal drainage. The presence and depth of a water table is not necessarily a reflection of permeability. Establishing depth and permanency of the water table requires study during different seasons of the year. The terms used to describe soil drainage are discussed below.

Poor. Water drains so slowly that the soil remains wet for a large part of the time. The water table is commonly within 20 inches of the surface during a considerable part of the year. Poorly drained conditions are due to a high water table, to a slowly permeable layer within the profile, to seepage, or to some combination of these conditions. Poorly drained soils are usually characterized by uniform gray or mottled gray colors immediately below the surface soil. Mottling is normally associated with loamy or clayey subsoils. Some poorly drained sandy soils may be light gray or white from the surface downward, with or without mottles. A spodic layer at depths of 10 to 40 inches is frequently an indicator of poor drainage.