

Aquic Moisture Regime

Regime characteristic of poorly and very poorly drained soils

Concept and Background Information

The [aquic soil moisture regime](#) occurs in poorly drained and very poorly drained soils that are saturated close to the surface when soil temperatures are warm enough to allow microbial activity to occur (generally ≥ 5 degrees C) and for periods that are long enough to result in the near depletion of dissolved oxygen.

Soil Taxonomy does not use the aquic moisture regime as a criterion in any taxa. Rather it uses the identification of [aquic soil conditions](#) at specific depths to define some taxa. However, it is appropriate to identify an aquic soil moisture regime in soil descriptions.

See the [generalized map](#) of the soil moisture regime regions in the continental United States.

Generalized Characteristics

- 1) Saturation and reduction of the upper part of the soil occur to the extent that the soil is virtually free of dissolved oxygen.

Note: For information regarding the estimation of this criterion, see the discussion of soil moisture regimes in Part 1—How to Use This Version of the Keys.



The soils adjacent to this open water area are saturated near the surface and have an aquic soil moisture regime.

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