Other types of soils.

Apart from the above explained soils, there other types of soils like:

- clay soils
- sandy soils

Clay soil

Clay soils are not good for crop production because:

- They are difficult to till.
- They are too wet.
- They are compact.
- They are sticky.
- Take long to dry

Sandy soils

Sandy soils are not ideal for plant production because:

- They have low water holding capacity
- They dry out quickly
- Encourage leaching of nutrients
- They are lower in natural fertility

Because of the different soils and the different crops that grow well, you are always advised to walk through you field with an extension worker or consult the agricultural research institutions.

NARO

CAB INTERNATIONAL

IDRC CRDI

International Development Research Centre

Centre de recherches pour le développement international

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Soil

Types and Uses



Introduction

There are different types of soils in Uganda. There are three main types of soils namely sand, clay and loam soils. Certain crops grow well in some soils, while some crops may not grow well in some types of soils.

Soils for growing crops

In Uganda, the soils that are good for growing crops include:

- Loam soils
- Clay loams
- Sandy loams

Loam soils

Loam soils are the most common soils in the country. They are easy to cultivate and usually offer the best yields.

Characteristics of loam soils:

- Have medium soils particles
- Have a good soils structure
- Have high water holding capacity
- Have high humus (decaying matter)
- Are usually black or brown



Maize crop on brown loam soil

Loamy soils are the best soils for most crops such as bananas, coffee, vegetables, cassava, potatoes, groundnuts and maize.

Clay loams

Clay loams are a mixture of clay and loam soils. They have more clay than loam soils. Clay loams are usually found towards the valleys. Because of their high water holding capacity, they are also cultivated during the dry season. They may need draining during the wet season.

Characteristics:

- Very fertile
- Have high water holding capacity
- Have fine particles
- Are sticky when wet
- Are usually grey and brown in colour
- More difficult to cultivate
- Difficult to drain



Yams growing on clay loams

Clay loams are good for sugarcane, yams and vegetables.

Sandy loams

Sandy loams are a mixture of sand and loam soils. They have more sand than loam soils. Sandy loams are generally found around northern parts of the central region, eastern and northern Uganda or near water bodies.

Characteristics:

- Have coarse particles
- Are easy to work
- Easily carried away by wind and water
- Have a low water holding capacity
- Are airy because of coarse particles
- Generally not very fertile because of leaching (washing down of nutrients)



Sweet potato mounds on sandy loams

Sandy loams are good for annual crops, fruit trees, oxen ploughing and grazing.

Sandy loams are good for fruits such as oranges, lemons, pawpaws, pineapples, mangoes,groundnuts, cassava, sweet potatoes and onions.