

# Competition Cosmos

## Major Soils in India

### 1. Alluvial Soil

- Alluvial soil constitutes of 42 % of the total soil area in India.
- It is formed as a result of deposition of rivers and thus it is more fertile and rich in organic material.
- Alluvial Soil is found in plenty in the states - Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Punjab, Haryana and Brahmaputra Valley in Assam etc. of India.
- Alluvial Soil is best for crops like - Wheat, Rice, Cotton, Jute, Barley, Corn, Oilseed, Coffee, Potatoes, Chili, Cloves etc.

### 2. Black Soil

- Black soil constitutes of 15% of the total soil area in India.
- It is formed as a result of weathering of lava rocks of Deccan plateau and thus rich in Iron, magnesium, Silica, Lime and potash.
- It has high clay content and has high water retaining property.
- Black Soil is found in plenty in the states - Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh.
- Black Soil is best for crops like - Mulberry Cotton Plant Ground Nut, Chili, Cotton, Tobacco, Chili, Oil Seeds, Jowar, Ragi, Maize, Castor, Sugarcane, Safflower etc.

### 3. Red Soil

- Red soil constitutes 25 % of the total soil area in India and is the most widely spread soil.
- It is formed as a result of erosion of Granite and Gneissic rocks.
- It is rich in Iron, phosphate, lime, potash and humus and supports wide crop diversity.
- Major areas of Red soil in India is - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh.
- Red Soil is best for crops like - Cotton, Wheat, Pulses, Tobacco, Jowar, Linseed, Millet, Potatoes and Some Fruits etc.

#### 4. Laterite Soil

- Laterite soil constitutes 4.5 % of the total soil area in India and is the most acidic soil.
- It gets quickly eroded on deforestation, mining and plantation.
- It is not suitable for agriculture but suitable for special crops like tapioca and cashew.
- Major areas of laterite soil in India is Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Meghalaya, West Bengal .
- Laterite soils is best for crops like Tea, Coffee, Coconuts, Rice, Wheat, Cotton, Maize, Sugarcane, Jute Oil Seeds, Millets, Pulses etc.

#### 5. Mountain Soil

- Mountain soil is a thin layer of soil formed under cold humid climate.
- It is not suitable for agriculture but suits best for forestry.
- The humus content is high in this soil due to the climate.
- Major areas of mountain soils in India are - Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam.
- Mountain Soil is best for crops like Coffee, Tea, Wheat, Maize, Blueberries, Saffron etc.

#### 6. Saline and Alkaline Soil

- Saline-Alkaline soil is found in canal areas.
- In moderate arid condition, calcification occurs and in extreme arid conditions, salinity occurs.
- Major areas of Saline and Alkaline soils in India are - Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra etc.
- The soil is best for crops like Seem, Rice, Sugarcane, Fruits, Spices etc.

#### 7. Desert Soil

- Desert soil is sandy and loose soil.
- Due to its coarse structure, the water holding capacity is very less.
- As it has low nutrients, it is not suitable for agriculture.
- Major areas of Desert soils in India are -Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab
- The soil is best for crops like Xerophytes only.

#### 8. Peaty and Marshy Soil

- These are black coloured, heavy and highly acidic soils.
- When the vegetation growing in such wet places dies, it decomposes and a layer of partly decayed organic matter accumulates on the surface, giving rise to such peaty and marshy soils.
- Major areas of Peaty and Marshy soils are - Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttaranchal.