

17. Black, grey, yellow and red mottled gradational (earth) soils on Neogene sediments

These soils of relatively limited extent are found on the gently undulating plains, rises or low level plateaux in higher rainfall areas underlain by Neogene sediments (generally sands), which are generally unconsolidated but often have an indurated pan or layer on which the soils have developed. These soils have probably formed on depositional material.

These soils are dark, strongly structured throughout, with a gradual increase of clay with depth and are acidic (though sometimes strongly acidic) and sometimes sodic. The surface soils of clay loams to very fine sandy clay loams may be 30 to 60 cm deep, grading into the slightly (brown) mottled light to medium clays of the subsoil which has vertic (swelling) properties.

Ferruginous and ferromanganiferous nodules (buckshot) are present in small quantities (up to 5%) in most profiles examined. Some swelling and cracking soils with higher surface clay contents also occur on this parent material, but may have influences from more recent deposition of either basaltic or alluvial material (see Quaternary alluvium section). A notable characteristic is the gradational profile, often with swelling clays at depth. The surfaces may be friable in the wetter areas where more organic material has accumulated and parent material may have come from a number of sources.



Soil sites

Site code	Soil-landform unit	Component	ASC	FK	1:100 000 mapsheet
COF04a	23	Upper slope	Bleached-mottled, Magnesian, Grey Kandosol	Um4.31	T7721 - GEELONG
COF04b	23	Mid slope	Bleached-mottled, Magnesian, Grey Kandosol	Gn2.74, Dy3.41	T7721 - GEELONG
OTR741	68	Mid slope	Melacic, Mesotrophic, Brown Kandosol	Gn3.84	T7520-PRINCETOWN
OTR746	93	Lower slope	Mottled, Mesotrophic, Brown Dermosol	Gn3.51	T6721-COLAC
OTR749	86	Hillcrest	Haplic, Mesotrophic, Red Dermosol	Gn2.11	T7520 - PRINCETOWN
OTR782	181	Crest	Bleached-ferric, Mesotrophic, Brown Dermosol	Gn3.74	T7520 - PRINCETOWN
SW5	177	Flat	Mottled-Sodic, Eutrophic, Brown Dermosol	Gn3.71	T7421 - MORTLAKE
SW24	86	Lower slope	Haplic, Mesotrophic, Brown Kandosol	Gn2.81	T7520 - PRINCETOWN
SW36	175	Flat	Melacic-Mottled, Eutrophic, Black Dermosol	Gn3.41	T7521 - CORANGAMITE
SW37	200	Flat	Epiacidic, Epipedal, Black Vertosol	Ug5.16, Gn3.41	T7521 - CORANGAMITE