

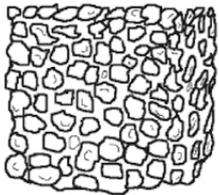


GLOBE Soil Characterization Field Protocols

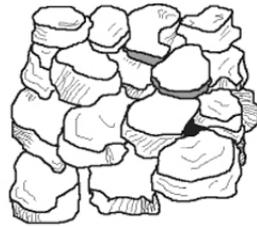
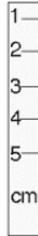


Soil Structure

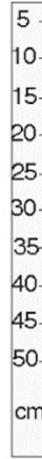
Soil structure is the shape that the soil takes based on its physical and chemical properties. Each individual unit of soil structure is called a **ped**. Take a sample of undisturbed soil in your hand (either from the pit or from the shovel or auger). Look closely at the soil in your hand and examine its structure. Possible choices of soil structure are:



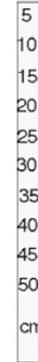
Granular: Resembles cookie crumbs and is usually less than 0.5 cm in diameter. Commonly found in surface horizons where roots have been



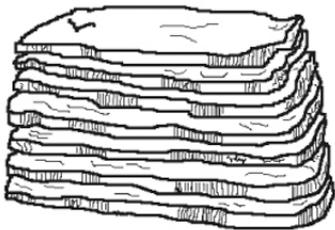
Blocky: Irregular blocks that are usually 1.5 - 5.0 cm in diameter.



Prismatic: Vertical columns of soil that might be a number of cm long. Usually found in lower horizons.



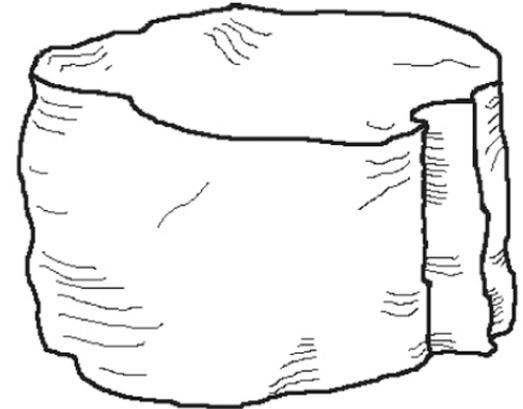
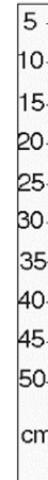
Columnar: Vertical columns of soil that have a salt "cap" at the top. Found in soils of arid climates



Platy: Thin, flat plates of soil that lie horizontally. Usually found in compacted soil.



Single Grained: Soil is broken into individual particles that do not stick together. Always accompanies a **loose** consistence. Commonly found in sandy soils.



Massive: Soil has no visible structure, is hard to break apart and appears in very large clods.

