

Soil-loss Tolerance (T) Factor

The soil-loss tolerance factor "T" is an estimate of the maximum annual rate of soil erosion that can occur over a sustained period without affecting crop productivity. The rate is expressed in tons of soil loss per acre per year. Rates of 1 through 5 are used, depending upon soil properties and prior erosion.

Soil-loss tolerances were subjectively evaluated, based on the following general guides:

1. maintenance of an adequate rooting depth for crop production
2. potential crop yield reduction
3. maintenance of water control structures affected by sedimentation
4. prevention of gullies
5. value of nutrients lost

The soil-loss tolerance factor "T" groups are listed in the table "Physical Properties of Soils" in Section II-(iii)-J.