

SECTION II

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INTRODUCTION

Technical soil descriptions are developed for each soil series and higher taxonomic unit recognized in the soil survey area. Characteristics of the soil and the material in which it formed are identified for each series. The soil is compared with similar soils and with nearby soils of other series. A pedon, a small three-dimensional area of soil, that is typical of the series in the survey area is described. The detailed description of each soil horizon follows standards in the *Soil Survey Manual*. Many of the technical terms used in the descriptions are defined in the *Glossary* or in *Soil Taxonomy*. Following the pedon description is the range of important characteristics of the soils in the series.

The technical soil descriptions are located in the county or area soil survey under *Classification of the Soils, Soil Series and Their Morphology*.

Technical Soil Description - Sample

Soil Survey of Sacramento County, California

Amador Series. *The Amador series consists of shallow, well drained soils on hills. Areas that have a slope of less than 15 percent generally are characterized by mound-intermound microrelief. These soils are on the mounds. They formed in material weathered from weakly consolidated rhyolitic tuffaceous sediments. Slope ranges from 2 to 50 percent. Amador soils are near Gillender and Hadselville soils, Lithic Xerorthents, and Pardee, Pentz, Ranchoseco, and Vleck soils. Soils of the Amador series are loamy, mixed, thermic, shallow Typic Xerochrepts.*

Typical pedon of Amador loam, in an area of Amador-Gillender complex, 2 to 15 percent slopes:

A – 0 to 6 inches; light gray (10 YR 7/2) loam, dark grayish brown (10 YR 4/2) moist; moderate coarse subangular blocky structure; slightly hard, friable, slight sticky and slightly plastic; many very fine roots; many very fine and few fine tubular and many very fine interstitial pores; about 10 percent gravel; strongly acid; clear wavy boundary.

Bw1 – 6 to 11 inches; light gray (10 YR 7/2) loam, brown (10 YR 5/3) moist; weak medium subangular blocky structure; slightly hard, friable, slightly sticky and slightly plastic; common very fine roots; many very fine and common fine tubular and many very fine interstitial pores; about 5 percent gravel; strongly acid; clear wavy boundary.

Bw2 – 11 to 19 inches; light gray (10 YR 7/2) loam, brown (10 YR 5/3) moist; weak medium subangular blocky structure; slightly hard, friable, slightly sticky and slightly plastic; many very fine interstitial pores; few thin colloidal stains on mineral grains; about 10 percent gravel, mostly at the base of the horizon; very strongly acid; abrupt wavy boundary.

Cr – 19 inches; white (2.5Y 8/2), weakly consolidated rhyolitic tuffaceous sediments, pale yellow (2.5Y 7/4) moist; very strongly acid.