

Table NE2-16 AVAILABLE WATER HOLDING CAPACITIES

Soil Texture Classes	Surface Soil 0 – 12 inches	Subsoil 12 – 36 inches	Lower Horizons 36 – 60 inches
	<u>(Inches per inch of soil)¹</u>		
Coarse sand and gravel	.04 to .06	.03 to .05	.02 to .04
Sands	.07 to .09	.06 to .08	.05 to .07
Loamy sands	.10 to .12	.09 to .11	.08 to .10
Sandy loams	.13 to .15	.12 to .14	.11 to .13
Fine sandy loams	.16 to .18	.15 to .17	.12 to .16
Very fine sandy loam	.17 to .19	.16 to .18	.16 to .18
Loam	.20 to .22	.17 to .19	.17 to .19
Silt loams	.20 to .23	.18 to .20	.18 to .20
Silty clay loams (<35% clay)	.21 to .23	.18 to .20	.18 to .20
(>35% clay)	.17 to .20	.16 to .18	.16 to .18
Sandy clay loams	.18 to .20	.16 to .18	.15 to .17
Clay loams (<35% clay)	.19 to .22	.17 to .19	.16 to .18
(>35% clay)	.16 to .19	.15 to .17	.14 to .16
Silty clays (<50% clay)	.13 to .17	.11 to .16	.10 to .13
(>50% clay)	.10 to .14	.10 to .12	.08 to .12
Clays (<50% clay)	.12 to .16	.10 to .15	.10 to .12
(>50% clay)	.10 to .14	.08 to .12	.08 to .12

¹ The ranges of available water capacities are the adjusted water retention differences between 1/3-bar and 15-bar tension for the medium and fine textured soils, and between 1/10-bar and 15-bar for the moderately coarse and coarse textures. Undisturbed clods were used to determine the bulk densities of the soils. Readily available water capacity is influenced by soil texture, organic matter content, kind of clay, soil structure, mineralogy and other physical and chemical features. For this irrigation guide, the figures shown for available water capacity (by foot increments) are estimates determined on the basis of the data shown in the above table.