

## Lindsey's Basic Guide to the Soil Orders of Canada

**Disclaimer:** This is an extreme generalization of soil orders of Canada. More information about each order can be found in the Canadian System of Soil Classification and the Soil Management Guide. However, I have found that these resources can be difficult to understand especially for people with little experience in soil classification. Hopefully this will start you off on the right track!

1. Cryosols – permafrost
2. Organic – organic layer at least 40 cm thick ,not including loose litter, living mosses, etc.; think peatland or wetland soils
3. Gleysol – wet from prolonged water saturation, signs of gleying (blue-grey hue, examples on last page of Munsell colour chart), mottles (rust spots)
4. Regosol – young soil, no B horizon; ex. newly developed soils, frequently flooded soils, unstable soils, sand dunes
5. Solonetzic – grassland soil,  $\text{Na}^+$ , columnar structure in B horizon
6. Chernozem – grassland soil, Ah horizon (high in organic matter)
7. Luvisol – forest soil, colour (clays) in A horizon is often washed out (eluviated), especially in coniferous soils, due to the acidity of the organic matter
8. Podzol – forest soil, hint: no Podzols in Manitoba
9. Vertisol – high clay content, shrinking and swelling
10. Brunisol - This one is hard! Forest soil that is not a Podzol or Luvisol – Evolutionarily speaking, it is more developed than a Regosol but has not yet developed into a Luvisol or Podzol.