

Decision tree

Drainage class

Characteristics

Are there gravel or cobbles in the top 100 cm (and no permafrost)? **Yes** →

Well-drained

*Little moisture in the surface
Thin organics (<20 cm, often much less)
Oxidized colors in mineral soil*

No

Is there permafrost between 75–150 cm and no persistent water table? **Yes** →

Moderately well-drained

*Moderate surface moisture
Silty mineral soil
Blocky structure*

No

Is there permafrost above 75 cm and no persistent water table? **Yes** →

Somewhat poorly drained

*Considerable surface moisture
Clay mineral soils
Blocky structure
Slightly oxidized colors in mineral*

No

Is the surface (~10–30 cm) saturated but only for part of the growing season? **Yes** →

Poorly drained

*When not saturated surface still moist
Clay mineral soils
Gleyed mineral soil
Mottles
Massive structure*

No

Is the surface (~0–30 cm) saturated for the entire growing season? **Yes** →

Very poorly drained

*Saturated surface
Gleyed mineral soil*

Slope modifier:

If the slope of the site is greater than 5%, the site should be better drained by one drainage class.

For example, a somewhat poorly drained site would become a moderately well-drained site.



Well-drained



Somewhat poorly drained



Gleyed soil found in frozen poorly and very poorly drained soils