

Class 1 (arable)

Dark tone where farmed; light tone where not farmed or where converted from farming to other uses. Dark-toned class 1 land is capable of producing large crop yields, has a smooth surface, and slopes range from 0 to 1 percent. The soil is dominantly sandy loam and light loam with minor amounts of silt loam and clay loam. The soil is mellow and has a stable open structure that is readily penetrated by roots, air, and water. The soil drains freely and has good water-holding capacity; no drainage problems are anticipated. Light-toned class 1 land includes a few small areas of class 2 and class 3 land.

Class 2 (arable)

Dark tone where farmed; light tone where not farmed or where converted from farming to other uses. Class 2 land may produce smaller crop yields and (or) may be more expensive to farm than class 1 land. Class 2 land is similar to class 1 land but may exhibit soil deficiencies, such as excessive salt accumulation, limited soil depth, low permeability, or moderately low water-holding capacity. The main topographic deficiency is the relatively steep slopes that range from 1 to 3 percent; a less common topographic deficiency is uneven surface conditions that require leveling. Farm drainage or flood-diversion structures may be required to obtain full potential for crop production.

Class 3 (arable)

Dark tone where farmed; light tone where not farmed or where converted from farming to other uses. Class 3 land has greater soil, topographic, and drainage deficiencies than does class 2 land. Slopes range from 1 to 5 percent.

NOTE: Class 4 land, which is limited to the production of crops having a high salt tolerance because of the large salt content of the soil, is not present in the map area.

NOTE: Class 5 is a temporary designation used to signify uncertainty of class. All land temporarily so classified is reclassified into classes 1, 2, 3, 4, or 6.

Class 6 (nonarable)

Class 6 land has deficiencies that are too serious to meet the minimum requirements for arable land. The soil is very coarse or very fine textured, has a shallow depth, or has a critical drainage deficiency. Most class 6 land consists of bedrock and has a high degree of relief; slope generally is more than 5 percent.

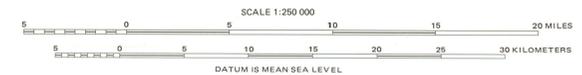
The dark-toned areas on the map are areas that are being farmed at the present time (1975) or that have been farmed in the last 5 years and are suitable for return to agricultural use. The light-toned areas are areas that have not been farmed or that were farmed at one time and have been converted to other uses. All the land requires irrigation water of suitable quality and efficient farming practices in order to attain the maximum crop yield. The cost of establishing efficient farms on class 3 land is greater than that on classes 1 and 2 land, and the cost of farming class 6 land is exorbitant in most places.

The data shown on the map by dark tones are from the Arizona Crop and Livestock Reporting Service (1974) and were updated by the author. Because of changes in irrigated acreage along the match lines on the arability map of the Phoenix area in 1973 and on the arability map of the Tucson area in 1975, the dark-toned areas do not coincide. The changes primarily are due to the expanding urban development near Eloy and Arizona City.

The data shown on the map by light tones were furnished by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service; the information is intended only for use in general planning. Additional information may be obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Room 6029, Federal Building, Phoenix, Ariz., 85025 or from the Arizona Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, Room 5400, Federal Building, Phoenix, Ariz., 85025.

REFERENCES

- Arizona Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, 1974, Cropland atlas of Arizona: Phoenix, Arizona Crop and Livestock Reporting Service duplicated report, 68 p.
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1973, Arability map of the Phoenix area, Arizona: U.S. Geol. Survey Misc. Inv. Ser. Map I-845-E, 1 sheet.



ARABILITY MAP OF THE TUCSON AREA, ARIZONA

Compiled by

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1977

Base from U.S. Geological Survey
410 1953-69, Lukeville 1963,
Tucson and Nogales 1956-62