

## Map Unit Description

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions in this report, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. All the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement. Soils of a given series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

Additional information about the map units described in this report is available in other soil reports, which give properties of the soils and the limitations, capabilities, and potentials for many uses. Also, the narratives that accompany the soil reports define some of the properties included in the map unit descriptions.

## King County Area, Washington

### AgC—Alderwood gravelly sandy loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes

#### Map Unit Setting

*Elevation:* 50 to 800 feet

*Mean annual precipitation:* 25 to 60 inches

*Mean annual air temperature:* 48 to 52 degrees F

*Frost-free period:* 180 to 220 days

#### Map Unit Composition

*Alderwood and similar soils:* 95 percent

*Minor components:* 5 percent

## Description of Alderwood

### Setting

*Landform:* Moraines, till plains

*Parent material:* Basal till with some volcanic ash

### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 6 to 15 percent

*Depth to restrictive feature:* 24 to 40 inches to dense material

*Drainage class:* Moderately well drained

*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low  
to moderately low (0.00 to 0.06 in/hr)

*Depth to water table:* About 18 to 37 inches

*Frequency of flooding:* None

*Frequency of ponding:* None

*Available water capacity:* Very low (about 2.5 inches)

### Interpretive groups

*Land capability (nonirrigated):* 4s

### Typical profile

*0 to 12 inches:* Gravelly sandy loam

*12 to 27 inches:* Very gravelly sandy loam

*27 to 60 inches:* Very gravelly sandy loam

## Minor Components

### Norma

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent

*Landform:* Depressions

### Bellingham

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent

*Landform:* Depressions

### Seattle

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent

*Landform:* Depressions

### Tukwila

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent

*Landform:* Depressions

### Shalcar

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent

*Landform:* Depressions

## Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: King County Area, Washington

Survey Area Data: Version 6, Sep 22, 2009

## King County Area, Washington

### AmC—Arents, Alderwood material, 6 to 15 percent slopes

#### Map Unit Setting

*Mean annual precipitation:* 35 to 60 inches

*Mean annual air temperature:* 50 degrees F

*Frost-free period:* 150 to 200 days

#### Map Unit Composition

*Arents, alderwood material, and similar soils:* 100 percent

#### Description of Arents, Alderwood Material

##### Setting

*Landform:* Till plains

*Parent material:* Basal till

##### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 6 to 15 percent

*Depth to restrictive feature:* 20 to 40 inches to dense material

*Drainage class:* Moderately well drained

*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low  
to moderately low (0.00 to 0.06 in/hr)

*Depth to water table:* About 16 to 36 inches

*Frequency of flooding:* None

*Frequency of ponding:* None

*Available water capacity:* Very low (about 2.3 inches)

##### Interpretive groups

*Land capability (nonirrigated):* 4s

##### Typical profile

*0 to 26 inches:* Gravelly sandy loam

*26 to 60 inches:* Very gravelly sandy loam

## Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: King County Area, Washington

Survey Area Data: Version 6, Sep 22, 2009

Soil Map—King County Area, Washington  
(Robinswood Park)



122° 8' 40"



Map Scale: 1:4,500 if printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet.



Soil Map—King County Area, Washington  
(Robinswood Park)

### MAP LEGEND

**Area of Interest (AOI)**

 Area of Interest (AOI)

**Soils**

 Soil Map Units

**Special Point Features**

-  Blowout
-  Borrow Pit
-  Clay Spot
-  Closed Depression
-  Gravel Pit
-  Gravelly Spot
-  Landfill
-  Lava Flow
-  Marsh or swamp
-  Mine or Quarry
-  Miscellaneous Water
-  Perennial Water
-  Rock Outcrop
-  Saline Spot
-  Sandy Spot
-  Severely Eroded Spot
-  Sinkhole
-  Slide or Slip
-  Sodic Spot
-  Spoil Area
-  Stony Spot

-  Very Stony Spot
-  Wet Spot
-  Other

**Special Line Features**

-  Gully
-  Short Steep Slope
-  Other

**Political Features**

-  Cities
-  PLSS Section

**Water Features**

-  Oceans
-  Streams and Canals

**Transportation**

-  Rails
-  Interstate Highways
-  US Routes
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads

### MAP INFORMATION

Map Scale: 1:4,500 if printed on A size (8.5" × 11") sheet.

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for accurate map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>  
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 10N NAD83

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: King County Area, Washington  
Survey Area Data: Version 6, Sep 22, 2009

## Map Unit Legend

King County Area, Washington (WA633)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
AgC	Alderwood gravelly sandy loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	41.7	41.0%
AmC	Arents, Alderwood material, 6 to 15 percent slopes	59.1	58.0%
W	Water	1.1	1.1%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>101.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>