



GROW YOUR OWN FOOD

SOIL MAP – HOW TO USE IT

Soils form the foundations of your garden, much like the foundations on your house. If your house foundations are weak, the house will be unstable. The same is true for your garden. If you have strong soil foundations you will be providing an ideal base for your plants to grow and they will respond favourably.

HOW TO USE THE SOIL MAP

Step 1

Identify where you live using the soil map on display.

Step 2

Work out if your home is located in Soil Type A or B area.

These two categories form a general overview of the typical soil characteristics found within the Ballarat district. Of course there are multiple layers and large variations in soil due to factors such as geology, residential development, gold mining, agriculture and other natural factors.

SOIL TYPE A

Within this region the soil geology and age is:

Ordovician (505 to 438 million years ago):
marine sandstone and shale
Quaternary (2 million years ago to present):
basalt and alluvium

Typical annual rainfall: 780mm

The soil is derived from: Weathered sandstone and shale and can be generally described as either loamy clay or gravelly loam – it will generally be red mottled, brown, grey or yellow texture contrast soil

Depth: This can range from half a metre to 1.5 metres

pH level: This will lie in the acidic range

SOIL TYPE B

Within this region the soil geology and age is:

Quaternary (2 million years ago to present): basalt
Ordovician (505 to 438 million years ago): marine
sandstone and shale

Typical annual rainfall: 710mm

The soil is derived from:

Basalt or sandstone and shale and can be generally described as fine sandy clay loam – it will generally be neutral mottled brown, grey or yellow texture contrast soils

Depth: This can range from 1.5 metres to 2 metres

pH level: Acidic



TICKNER'S TIP

Michael Tickner, Adv Cert Hort (read Michael's profile at www.chw.net.au)

"The above two descriptions are of a general nature only and should only be used as a guide. Your soil characteristics may vary from those listed. It is recommended that you take a soil sample in to your local nursery professional for a complete analysis."

If you would like further information on soils within the Ballarat region, visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/vro and click on the soil link.

chw.net.au/gyof