

Olustee Series, Sandy Subsoil Variant

Soils of the Olustee series, sandy subsoil variant, are very poorly drained and are nearly level. They are on uplands and stream terraces, where they formed in Coastal Plain and alluvial sediment. A seasonal high water table is at or near the surface.

In a typical profile, the surface layer is black loamy sand about 12 inches thick. Beneath the surface layer and extending to a depth of about 18 inches is a layer of dark reddish-brown fine sand that is coated with organic matter. To a depth of about 42 inches, the next layers are grayish-brown and light brownish gray fine sand. Below them and extending to a depth of about 85 inches are layers of light-gray sand and coarse sand.

Natural fertility is very low, and the content of organic matter is medium. Available water capacity is low. Permeability is rapid, and shrink-swell potential is low. In areas that have not received lime, reaction is strongly acid or very strongly acid.

These soils are of only minor importance for farming. The seasonal high water table, frequent flooding for brief periods, and very low natural fertility are the major limitations to their use. Most of the acreage is in forest, and the rest is chiefly in cultivated crops or pasture. Where crops are grown, response is fairly good to recommended applications of fertilizer and lime.

Representative profile of Olustee loamy sand, sandy subsoil variant, 2 miles east of Grifton, 200 feet south of State Road No 1753, and 20 feet east of State Road No. 1915:

Ap-0 to 12 inches, black (10YR 2/1) loamy sand; weak; fine; granular structure; very friable; many small roots; very strongly acid; clear, smooth boundary.

Bh-12 to 18 inches, dark reddish-brown (5YR 2/2) fine sand; weak, fine, granular structure; friable; many small and few medium roots; sand grains well coated with organic matter; very strongly acid, clear, wavy boundary.

C1g-18 to 30 inches, grayish-brown (10YR 5/2) fine sand; single grain; loose; few medium roots; very strongly acid; gradual, wavy boundary.

C2g-30 to 42 inches, light brownish-gray (10YR 6/2) fine sand; single grain; loose; strongly acid; gradual, wavy boundary.

C3g-42 to 75 inches, light-gray (10YR 7/1) sand; single grain; loose; strongly acid; gradual, wavy boundary.

C4g-75 to 85 inches, light-gray (10YR 7/1) coarse sand; single grain; loose; few fine pebbles; strongly acid.

Combined thickness of the sandy horizons is more than 80 inches. The A horizon is black or very dark gray and is 10 to 20 inches thick. The Bh horizon is 4 to 8 inches thick. The sand grains in that horizon are well coated with organic matter, and they give the Bh horizon a dark reddish-brown color. The C horizon is grayish-brown and light brownish-gray to light gray fine sand to coarse sand. It ranges from 60 to more than 70 inches in thickness.

These soils are variants to the Olustee series. Bt horizons are lacking beneath the Bh horizon, but the profile is otherwise similar to that of normal Olustee soils.

Olustee loamy sand, sandy subsoil variant (Oe) – This is a very poorly drained sandy soil on smooth flats and in slight depressions in the uplands and on stream terraces. It occurs in areas of irregular shape that are 3 to 15 acres in size. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. The surface layer is black loamy sand about 12 inches thick. It is underlain by a layer of dark reddish-brown fine sand that is coated with organic matter and is about 6 inches thick. To a depth of about 42 inches, the next layers are grayish-brown and light brownish-gray fine sand. Below these layers and extending to a depth of about 85 inches are layers of light-gray sand and coarse sand.

Included with this soil in mapping were a few areas of soils that have a similar profile but that have a surface layer of loamy fine sand. Also included were small areas of soils that have a similar profile but that lack the dark reddish-brown layer that is stained with organic matter. Other inclusions consist of small areas of Osier, Tuckerman, Pantego and Portsmouth soils.

Infiltration is rapid. Runoff is slow.

This soil is fairly easy to keep in good tilth and can be satisfactorily worked throughout a wide range of moisture content. Most of the acreage is in forest, however, and the rest is chiefly in cultivated crops or pasture. Wetness is a very severe limitation, and use of this soil is limited by seasonal high water table, frequent flooding and very low natural fertility. Artificial drainage is needed for most uses. If properly drained, this soil is fairly well suited to a few of the locally grown crops. Areas that are farmed are used mainly for corn, soybeans, and pasture. Capability unit IVw-1; woodland suitability group 3w2.