

## *Wickham Series*

The Wickham series consists of well-drained, nearly level and gently sloping soils on stream terraces. These soils formed in alluvial sediment. A seasonal high water table is below a depth of 5 feet.

In a typical profile, the surface layer is dark-brown and reddish-yellow sandy loam about 11 inches thick. The subsoil is about 31 inches thick. It is reddish-yellow, friable sandy loam in the upper part and is yellowish-red, friable sandy clay loam and sandy loam in the lower part. Below the subsoil and extending to a depth of about 80 inches is reddish-yellow and yellow loamy sand and sand mottled with light gray.

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

The Wickham soils of Pitt County are of only minor importance for farming, but most of the acreage is cultivate or in pasture. The rest is chiefly in forest and in housing developments or other nonfarm uses. Major limitations to use of these soils are slope and, in nearly level areas, infrequent flooding for brief periods. Crops grown on these soils respond well to recommended applications of fertilizer and lime.

Representative profile of Wickham sandy loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes, 2 miles west of Belvoir, 130 feet north of State Road No. 1001, and 75 feet west of State Road No. 1408:

- Ap – 0 to 6 inches, dark-brown (10YR 4/3) sandy loam; weak, fine, granular structure; very friable; many small roots; medium acid; abrupt, smooth boundary.
- A2 – 6 to 11 inches, reddish-yellow (7.5 YR 6/6) sandy loam; weak, medium, granular structure; very friable; few small and medium roots; medium acid; abrupt, smooth boundary.
- B1t – 11 to 17 inches, reddish-yellow (5YR 6/8) sandy loam; weak, medium, subangular blocky structure; friable; few medium roots and root channels; few, thin, patchy clay films on faces of peds; strongly acid; abrupt, wavy boundary.
- B2t – 17 to 37 inches, yellowish-red (5YR 5/8) sandy clay loam; weak, medium, subangular blocky structure; friable, slightly sticky and slightly plastic; few medium roots and root channels; few, thin, patchy clay films on faces of peds; common fine mica flakes; very strongly acid; clear, wavy boundary.
- B3t – 37 to 42 inches, yellowish-red (5YR 5/8) sandy loam; weak, medium, subangular blocky structure; friable; few, thin, patchy clay films on faces of peds; few fine mica flakes; very strongly acid; clear, wavy boundary.
- IIC1 – 42 to 52 inches, reddish-yellow (7.5 YR 6/8) loamy sand; single grain; loose; few fine mica flakes; strongly acid; clear, wavy boundary.
- IIC2 – 52 to 72 inches, yellow (10 YR 7/6) sand; single grain; loose; few fine mica flakes; strongly acid; clear, wavy boundary.
- IIC3 – 72 to 80 inches, yellow (10 YR 7/6) sand; few, coarse, distinct, light-gray (10YR 7/1) mottles; single grain; loose; strongly acid.

Thickness of the solum ranges from about 40 inches to less than 60 inches. Thickness of the A horizon ranges from 5 to 20 inches. The Ap or A1 horizon is dark brown to dark gray, and the A2 horizon is reddish yellow to light brown. The B horizon is reddish-yellow to yellowish-red sandy loam, sandy clay loam, and it is 30 to 37 inches thick. The C horizon is reddish-yellowish, yellowish-red, or yellow loamy sand or sand, and it is commonly mottled with light gray or gray. Few to common fine mica flakes are in the B and the C horizons.

**Wickham sandy loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes (WkB)** – This is a well-drained soil on broad, smooth divides on stream terraces. It occurs in areas that are long and narrow or irregular in shape and that are long narrow or irregular in shape and that are 4 to 12 acres in size. The surface layer is dark-brown and reddish-yellow sandy loam about 11 inches thick. The subsoil is about 31

inches thick. It is reddish-yellow, friable sandy loam in the upper part and is yellowish-red, friable sandy clay loam and sandy loam in the lower part.

Included with this soil in mapping were a few areas of soils that have a similar profile but that have a surface layer of fine sandy loam, loamy fine sand, or loamy sand. Also, included were small areas of Masada and Altavista soils.

Infiltration is moderate. Runoff is slow to medium.

This soil is easy to keep in good tilth and can be satisfactorily worked throughout a wide range of moisture content. Most of the acreage is cultivated or in pasture. The rest is chiefly in forest and in housing developments or other nonfarm uses. This soil is well suited to all the locally grown crops. Erosion is a moderate hazard in the sloping areas, however, and infrequent flooding for brief periods occurs in the nearly level areas. Practices that effectively control runoff and that reduce erosion are needed if the sloping are cultivated. Cultivated areas are used mainly for row crops, especially for tobacco, peanuts, and cotton. Capability unit IIe – 1; woodland suitability group 207.