



Topic: Alfisols
Chapter: 12
Page: 366

Date: November 24, 2019
Time: 1:12 p.m.
Location: Irvine
Description: Alfisols used in Orange
County to grow Plants

Alfisols are “widespread throughout the United States” and are “distinguished by a subsurface clay horizon and a medium to generous supply of basic cations, plant nutrients, and water” which is why it is popular to have in Orange County (Hess 366). Alfisols form mostly “under forest vegetation” and have a “base saturation of more than 35%” (United States Department of Agriculture, n.d., para. 1, Plant & Soil Sciences, n.d., para. 1). In the photo above, the soil that is in focus are Alfisols that fertilize the trees in the background. Orange County uses Alfisols because they are clay rich soils with “water content adequate for at least three consecutive months of growing season” (Britannica, n.d, para. 1). In addition, they are composed of “22% pH” and have “calcium carbonate, aluminum, and iron bearing minerals” (Britannica, n.d., para. 2, Mayes 2012, para. 1). Agricultural crops such as “corn, wheat, and wine grapes” can grow on Alfisols because of the high clay content and its ability to hold water (Britannica, n.d., para. 1). Due to its high fertility, Orange County uses it to grow trees and plants in neighborhoods and communities which allows Orange County to look beautiful. However, a lot of Alfisols brought in could contribute to the increasing amount of pH levels which could affect climate change if there is a large amount of rain and the soil runs into the ocean or sewers. This shows how people prioritize the way their communities look and ignore potential damage it could cause to our environment.