

# THE SOILS OF TEXAS

by  
 Roy L. Donahue, Extension Agronomist  
 Edward H. Templin, Soil Scientist  
 M. K. Thornton, Extension Agricultural Chemist  
 and E. A. Miller, Extension Agronomist, Agronomy Department












**EXTENSION SERVICE**  
 A. & M. College of Texas, Cooperating with U. S.  
 Department of Agriculture  
 Ide P. Trotter, Director  
 College Station, Texas

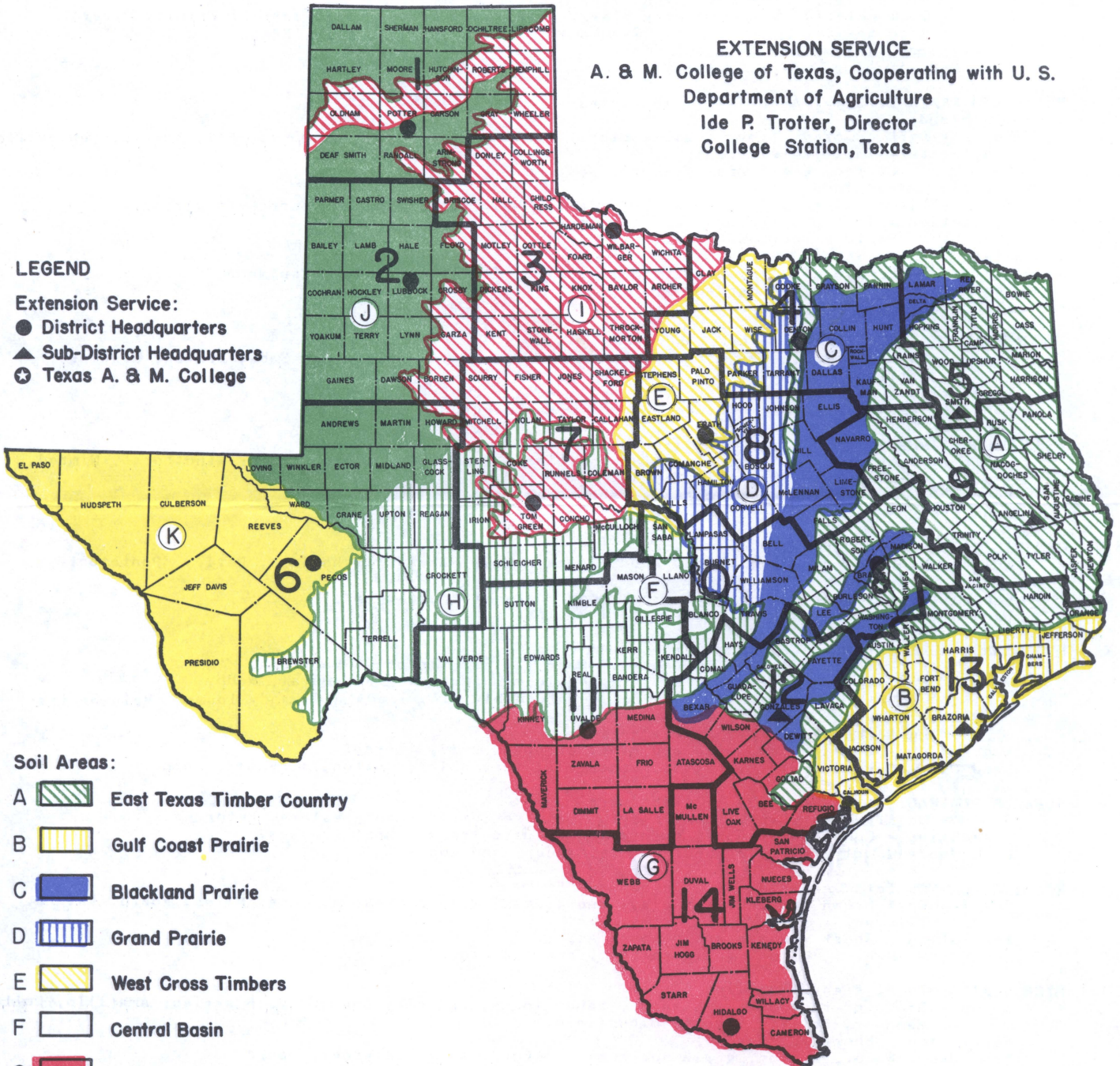
**LEGEND**

**Extension Service:**

- District Headquarters
- ▲ Sub-District Headquarters
- ⊙ Texas A. & M. College

**Soil Areas:**

- A  East Texas Timber Country
- B  Gulf Coast Prairie
- C  Blackland Prairie
- D  Grand Prairie
- E  West Cross Timbers
- F  Central Basin
- G  Rio Grande Plain
- H  Edwards Plateau
- I  Rolling Plains
- J  High Plains
- K  Mountains and Basins



Adapted from Texas Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 431, by W. T. Carter. See other side for soil descriptions.

## A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SOILS OF TEXAS

- A. **EAST TEXAS TIMBER COUNTRY** (including East Cross Timbers): Total Area-26 million acres
- Upland  
Soils - Light colored, acid sandy loams and sands. Main series: Bowie, Norfolk, Ruston, Kirvin, Nacogdoches, Boswell, Lufkin, Lakeland.  
Vegetation - Loblolly and shortleaf pine and oaks.  
Land Use - Timber, pasture, truck crops.
- Bottomland  
Soils - Dark colored, acid sandy loams and clays. Main series: Bibb, Iuka, Ochlockonee.  
Vegetation - Bottomland hardwoods.  
Land Use - Pasture, meadow, timber.
- B. **GULF COAST PRAIRIE**: Total Area-8 million acres  
Soils - Dark colored, black to gray clays, some sandy loams, (acid east of Trinity River).  
Main Series: Lake Charles, Beaumont, Harris, Hockley, Katy, Edna.  
Vegetation - Tall bunch grasses.  
Land Use - Pasture, rice, cotton.
- C. **BLACKLAND PRAIRIE**: Total Area-11 million acres
- True Blackland  
Soils - Dark colored, limy, crumbly clays. Main series: Houston, Hunt, Bell, Austin, Lewisville.  
Vegetation - Tall prairie grasses.  
Land Use - Cotton, small grains, corn, pasture.
- Gray Prairie (mixed land)  
Soils - Light colored, acid loams and clays. Main series: Wilson, Crockett, Irving.  
Vegetation - Tall prairie grasses, some oaks.  
Land Use - Pasture, cotton, corn.
- Bottomland  
Soils - Dark colored, limy clays. Main series: Trinity, Catalpa, Kaufman.  
Vegetation - Bottomland hardwoods.  
Land Use - Cotton, pasture, corn.
- D. **GRAND PRAIRIE**: Total Area-7 million acres  
Soils - Dark colored, limy, crumbly, stony clays. Main series: San Saba, Denton, Crawford, Tarrant.  
Vegetation - Tall prairie grasses, some live oak, cedar.  
Land Use - Small grains, pasture, range, corn, sorghums, cotton.
- E. **WEST CROSS TIMBERS**: Total Area-7 million acres  
Soils - Light colored, slightly acid sandy loams and sands. Main series: Windthorst, Nimrod, Stephenville, Darnell, May.  
Vegetation - Tall and short grasses, scrub oak.  
Land Use - Range, pasture, peanuts, peaches, grain sorghum.
- F. **CENTRAL BASIN**: Total Area-2 million acres  
Soils - Reddish, non-limy, stony sandy loams. Main Series: Tishomingo, Harley, Pontotoc, Pedernales.  
Vegetation - Mesquite trees, live oak, post oak, mixed grasses.  
Land Use - Range, grain sorghums, small grains.
- G. **RIO GRANDE PLAIN**: Total Area-22 million acres  
Soils - Dark soils: Black, limy clays. Main series: Victoria, Monteola.  
Red soils: Non-limy, reddish sandy loams. Main series: Duval, Webb.  
Grayish-brown soils: Non-acid, deep crumbly clay loams and sandy loams. Main Series: Hidalgo, Willacy, Brennan.  
Loose sands: Mainly Nueces series.  
Vegetation - Grasses, mesquite and other shrubs, mostly thorny.  
Land Use - Range, pasture, citrus, commercial vegetables, cotton, sorghums, corn.
- H. **EDWARDS PLATEAU**: Total Area-22½ million acres  
Soils - Mostly dark, limy, stony clays. Main series: Tarrant, Valera, Ector.  
Vegetation - Cedars, live oak, shin oak, mesquite trees, short grasses.  
Land Use - Mostly range for beef cattle, sheep, and goats.
- I. **ROLLING PLAINS**: Total Area-24½ million acres  
Soils - Dark brown to red, limy clays and loams. Main series: Abilene, Miles, Foard, Valera, Tillman.  
Vegetation - Short grasses and bunch grasses.  
Land Use - Range, cotton, grain sorghum, small grains.
- J. **HIGH PLAINS**: Total Area-21 million acres  
Soils - Brown or red, non-limy sands, sandy loams, and clay loams. Main series: Amarillo, Pullman, Mansker, Potter, Tivoli, Brownfield.  
Vegetation - Short grasses.  
Land Use - Wheat, cotton, grain sorghums, pasture, Irish potatoes, range.
- K. **MOUNTAINS AND BASINS**: Total Area-17 million acres  
Soils - Light colored, limy stony sands and clays. Main series: Reeves, Reagan, Verhalen, Brewster, Ector, Rough stony land.  
Vegetation - Short grass, desert shrubs.  
Land Use - Range; under irrigation, cotton, alfalfa, sorghums, cantaloupes.