Rangeland Productivity and Plant Composition

Douglas-Plateau Area, Colorado, Parts of Garfield and Mesa Counties

Map symbol and soil name	Ecological site	Total dry-weight production			Characteristic vegetation	Rangeland composition
		Favorable year	Normal year	Unfavorable year		
		Lb/Ac	*Lb/Ac*	*Lb/Ac*		*Pct*
55:						
Parachute	Mountain Loam	1,800	1,500	1,200	Letterman's needlegrass	15
					Slender wheatgrass	15
					Arizona fescue	10
					Columbia needlegrass	10
					Mountain big sagebrush	10
					Big bluegrass	5
					Mountain snowberry	5
					Saskatoon serviceberry	5
					Yellow rabbitbrush	5
Irigul	Loamy Slopes	1,200	900	500	Bluebunch wheatgrass	10
					Mountain big sagebrush	10
					Prairie Junegrass	10
					Saskatoon serviceberry	10
					Western wheatgrass	10

Map Unit Description

Douglas-Plateau Area, Colorado, Parts of Garfield and Mesa Counties

55 Parachute-Irigul complex, 5 to 30 percent slopes

Setting

Elevation: 7600 to 8800 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 18 to 22 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 36 to 40 degrees F
Frost-free period: 65 to 90 days

Composition

Parachute and similar soils: 60 percent
Irigul and similar soils: 30 percent

Description of Parachute

Setting

Landform: Mountains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Shoulder, summit
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Convex
Parent material: Residuum weathered from shale and siltstone and/or residuum weathered from sandstone and shale

Properties and Qualities

Slope: 5 to 30 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: 20 to 40 inches to Paralithic bedrock
Drainage class: Well drained
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low or moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Calcium carbonate maximum: 0 percent
Gypsum maximum: 0 percent
Available water capacity: Very low (about 2.8 inches)

Interpretive Groups

Land capability (non irrigated): 6e
Ecological site: Mountain Loam (R048AY228CO)

Typical Profile

0 to 10 inches: loam
10 to 25 inches: very channery loam, extremely channery loam
25 to 29 inches: unweathered bedrock

Description of Irigul

Setting

Landform: Hills
Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope, footslope, shoulder, summit, toeslope
Down-slope shape: Convex
Across-slope shape: Convex
Parent material: Residuum weathered from sandstone and shale

Properties and Qualities

Slope: 5 to 30 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: 5 to 20 inches to Lithic bedrock
Drainage class: Well drained
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low or moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Calcium carbonate maximum: 0 percent
Gypsum maximum: 0 percent
Available water capacity: Very low (about 1.3 inches)

Interpretive Groups

Land capability (non irrigated): 7e
Ecological site: Loamy Slopes (R048AY303CO)

Typical Profile

0 to 6 inches: channery loam

6 to 13 inches: very channery loam
13 to 17 inches: unweathered bedrock