



Soil maps of Europe

Map Legend

International boundary	
Major road	
Major river	
National capital	
Locality (by population)	
1 000 000 – 5 000 000	
250 000 – 1 000 000	
100 000 – 250 000	
25 000 – 100 000	
10 000 – 25 000	
How does the legend work?	

A legend is intended to ease the understanding of a soil map and consists typically of a symbol or a series of symbols within a specific colour repeated on the map sheets and consistent over all the maps presented. It is followed by the name of the dominant soil in the mapping unit, the characteristics of which can be deduced from the tables included in the soil classification section.

The symbols used in the legend are those that appeared on the original Soil Map of Europe at 1:1 million scale in 1985. However, since then the soil classification scheme has changed and the names of the units represented have been reclassified in the World Reference Base. This may have led to small errors in boundaries between some units, while the correlation itself between the two systems may not be perfect in places. The colours corresponding with each Reference Soil Group are those used by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with slight modifications.

Example: Gmc Calcareous-mollic Gleysol

The colour of all Gleysols is dark blue and they are all having the symbol G indicating the dominant soil in the unit. (Note that not all Reference Soil Groups in the legend have the same letter symbol as some have been correlated with different soil types due to differences between the soil classification used).

All mapping units with the symbol Gmc would have as dominant soil Calcareous-mollic Gleysols characterized by a high water table for a long time during the year, being calcareous between 20 and 50 cm depth and having a nutrient- and organic carbon-rich, dark coloured topsoil.

WRB Major Reference Group Legend

	Acrisol
	Albeluvisol
	Andosol
	Anthrosol
	Arenosol
	Calcisol
	Cambisol
	Chernozem
	Cryosol
	Fluvisol
	Kastanozem
	Gleysol
	Gypsisol
	Histosol
	Leptosol
	Luvisol
	Phaeozem
	Planosol
	Podzol
	Regosol
	Solonchak
	Solonetz
	Umbrisol
	Vertisol

Codes for soil types on regional maps

	Beg	Eutri-gleyic Cambisol
	Bev	Eutri-vertic Cambisol
	Bg	Gleyic Cambisol
	Bgc	Calcareo-gleyic Cambisol
	Bgg	Stagnic Cambisol
	Bgv	Gleyi-vertic Cambisol
	Bkf	Calcareo-fluvic Cambisol
	Bv	Vertic Cambisol
	Bvc	Calcareo-vertic Cambisol
	Ba/Bec/Ec	Calcaric Cambisol
	Bx	Gelic Cambisol
	To	Eutri-stagnic Cambisol
	Tg	Gleyic Andosol
	Th	Umbric Andosol
	Tha	Haplic Andosol
	Tv	Vitric Andosol
	ATc	Terric Anthrosol
	ATA	Arenic Anthrosol
	Q	Arenosol
	Qa	Albic Arenosol
	Qc	Haplic Arenosol
	Qcc	Calcaric Arenosol
	Qcd	Dystric Arenosol
	QI	Lamellic Arenosol
	Qld	Dystri-lamellic Arenosol
	Bcl	Luvic Calcisol
	Bk/Bkh	Haplic Calcisol
	Bkv	Vertic Calcisol
	Xk	Aridic Calcisol
	Bc	Chromic Cambisol
	Bcc	Chromi-calcaric Cambisol
	Bd	Dystric Cambisol
	Bda	Dystri-andic Cambisol
	Be	Eutric Cambisol
	Bea	Eutri-andic Cambisol
	Bef	Eutri-fluvic Cambisol
	Beg	Eutri-gleyic Cambisol
	Bgs ¹	Dystri-stagnic Gleysol
	Ge	Eutric Gleysol
	Gef	Eutri-fluvic Gleysol
	Ges ¹	Eutri-stagnic Gleysol

Gev	Eutri-vertic Gleysol	Lo	Haplic Luvisol	Sof	Fluvic Solonetz
Gfm	Fluvi-mollie Gleysol	Lv	Vertic Luvisol	U	Umbrisol
Gh/Ghh ²	Humic Gleysol	Lvk	Calci-vertic Luvisol	Bh	Haplic Umbrisol
Gm	Mollie Gleysol	Hc/Heb	Calcaric Phaeozem	Ud	Leptic Umbrisol
Gmc	Calcari-mollie Gleysol	Hcf	Calcaric-fluvic Phaeozem	Qh	Arenic Umbrisol
Gmf	Fluvi-mollie Gleysol	Hen	Sodic Phaeozem	Bds	Endoskeletal Umbrisol
Gtz	Thionic Gleysol	Hg	Gleyic Phaeozem	Vcc	Calcaric-chromic Vertisol
Xy	Aridic Gypsisol	Hgc	Calcaric-gleyic Phaeozem	Vc	Chromic Vertisol
Od	Dystric Histosol	Hgs	Stagnic Phaeozem	Ve	Eutric Vertisol
Oe	Eutric Histosol	Hh/Ho	Haplic Phaeozem	Vg	Gleyic Vertisol
Ox	Gelic Histosol	Hi/Lh	Luvic Phaeozem	Vk	Calcic Vertisol
Kh	Haplic Kastanozem	Hlv	Luvi-vertic Phaeozem	Vp	Pellic Vertisol
Kk	Calcic Kastanozem	Mo	Greyic Phaeozem	Vpc	Calcaric-pellic Vertisol
Kkb	Vermi-calcic Kastanozem	Wd	Dystric Planosol	Vpg	Gleyi-vertic Vertisol
Kl	Luvic Kastanozem	We	Eutric Planosol		Urban
E	Leptosol	Wev	Eutri-vertic Planosol	sdm	Soil disturbed by man
Eh/Eo	Rendzic Leptosol	Wm	Mollie Planosol		Water body
I	Lithic Leptosol	Pg	Gleyic Podzol	m	Marsh
Ic/Ich	Calcaric-lithic Leptosol	Pgh	Histic Podzol	g	Glacier
Id	Dystri-lithic Leptosol	Pgs	Stagnic Podzol	r	Rock outcrops
Ie	Euri-lithic Leptosol	Ph	Carbic Podzol		
Im	Molli-lithic Leptosol	Phf/Po	Haplic Podzol		
Io	Hapli-lithic Leptosol	Pl	Episkeletic Podzol		
Iu	Umbri-lithic Leptosol	Plh/Pof	Skeleti-umbric Podzol		
Lgs/Gls	Stagnic Luvisol	Poh	Rustic Podzol		
La	Albic Luvisol	Pp	Placic Podzol		
Lc	Chromic Luvisol	Re	Calcaric Regosol		
Ler	Rhodic Luvisol	Rd	Dystric Regosol		
Lev	Chromi-vertic Luvisol	Re	Eutric Regosol		
Ldg	Dystri-gleyic Luvisol	RI	Leptic Regosol		
Lf	Ferric Luvisol	Z	Solonchak		
Lg/Lgp	Gleyic Luvisol	Zg	Gleyic Solonchak		
Lga	Albi-gleyic Luvisol	Zo	Haplic Solonchak		
Lk	Calcic Luvisol	Sg	Gleyic Solonetz		
Lke	Chromi-calcic Luvisol	Sm	Mollie Solonetz		
Lker	Rhodi-calcic Luvisol	So	Haplic Solonetz		

¹ Recent re-evaluation of this soil type has lead to a re-classification as Stagnic Cambisol, because of slowly permeable subsoil that causes stagnating water to create a perched watertable.

² Recent re-evaluation of this soil type has lead a re-classification as Stagnic Umbrisol in the British Islands, where they have slowly permeable subsoil causing a perched watertable.