

ARGONAUT SERIES

The Argonaut series consists of well-drained soils underlain by metabasic or basic rock. These soils are gently sloping to moderately steep and are on uplands. Slopes are often concave and range from 2 to 30 percent. The vegetation is mostly annual grasses and forbs, and areas of oak, digger pine, and brush. Wiregrass, sedge, and some stipa are also present. Elevation ranges from 300 to 2,500 feet. The annual rainfall is 26 to 50 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 60°F. The frost-free season is 235 to 260 days.

In a representative profile the surface layer is about 2 inches of brown gravelly loam. Reaction is slightly acid. The upper part of the subsoil is about 8 inches of reddish-brown gravelly loam. Reaction is slightly acid. The lower 11 inches of the subsoil is light yellowish-brown clay loam and weathered diabase. Reaction is slightly acid. Weathered basic rock is at a depth of about 28 inches.

Permeability is very slow in these soils. Effective rooting depth is 18 to 36 inches. Some plant roots are restricted by the gravelly clay subsoil. Available water holding capacity is 2.5 to 4 inches. The Argonaut soils are used mostly for annual range, but small acreages are used for irrigated pasture and improved dry pasture.

Individual Soil Types	Rock Outcrop	Runoff	Erosion	Capability Unit	Uses
Argonaut gravelly loam 2 to 15% slopes (ArC)	Less than 10%	Slow to Medium	Slight – Moderate	IVe-1	Annual range, limited improved dry pasture
Argonaut-Rock Outcrop Complex 2 to 30% slopes (AsD)	10 to 25%	Slow to Medium	Slight – Moderate	VIIs-1	Annual range, too rocky for pasture