

SIERRA SERIES*

The Sierra series consists of well-drained soils underlain by weathered granodiorite. These soils are undulating to steep and are on the lower and middle parts of foothills. Slopes are 2 to 50 percent. The vegetation is mostly annual grasses and forbs, and blue oak, live oak, manzanita, and scattered or open stands of ponderosa pine. Elevation ranges from 400 to 2,000 feet. The annual rainfall is 28 to 38 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 60°F. The frost-free season is 240 to 260 days.

In a representative profile the surface layer is 9 inches of brown or dark-brown sandy loam. Reaction is slightly acid. The subsoil is about 36 inches of reddish-brown heavy sandy loam and yellowish-red and reddish-yellow sandy clay loam. Reaction in the subsoil is slightly acid and medium acid. Coarse-grained, well-weathered granodiorite is at a depth of about 45 inches.

Permeability is moderately slow in these soils. Effective rooting depth is 42 to 60 inches or more. Available water holding capacity is 6 to 9 inches.

Individual Soil Types	Rock Outcrop	Runoff	Erosion	Capability Unit	Uses
Sierra sandy loam 2 to 9% slopes (SfB)	Up to 10%	Medium	Slight – Moderate	IIIe-1	Annual range, improved and irrigated pasture
Sierra sandy loam 9 to 15% slopes (SfC)	Up to 10%	Medium to Rapid	Slight – High	IVe-1	Annual range, improved and irrigated pasture
Sierra sandy loam 15 to 30% slopes (SfD)	Up to 10%	Medium to Rapid	High	VIe-1	Annual range, improved and irrigated pasture
Sierra-Rock Outcrop Complex 15 to 30% slopes (SkD)	10 – 25%	Medium to Rapid	High	VIIs-1	Annual range
Sierra-Rock Outcrop Complex 30 to 50% slopes (SkE)	10 – 25%	Rapid	Very High	VIIIs-1	Annual range

**Applies in general to all individual soil types*