

AIKEN SERIES*

The Aiken series consists of well-drained soils underlain by cobble andesitic tuff and conglomerate. These soils are on tabular volcanic ridges and colluvial side slopes. The soils on ridges are undulating to steep, and those on side slopes are strongly sloping to steep. Slopes are 2 to 50 percent. The vegetation is conifer-hardwood forest and an understory of brush, forbs, and sparse grass. Elevation ranges from 2,000 to 4,000 feet. The annual rainfall is 48 to 58 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 56°F. The frost-free season is 140 to 230 days.

In a representative profile the uncultivated surface layer is littered with such forest debris as pine needles, oak leaves, and other vegetative material. Similar material below the surface becomes more decomposed as depth increases. The mineral surface layer is about 21 inches of dark brown and yellowish-red loam and heavy loam. Reaction is slightly acid and medium acid. The subsoil is about 43 inches of yellowish-red and reddish-yellow heavy loam to heavy clay loam and clay. Reaction in the subsoil is medium acid. Weathered andesitic tuff and conglomerate is at a depth of about 64 inches.

Permeability is moderately slow in these soils. Effective rooting depth is 48 to 60 inches or more.

The Aiken soils are generally used for timber production. Small acreages are used for pasture, grazing, or deciduous orchards.

| Individual Soil Types | Water Holding Capacity | Runoff | Erosion | Capability Unit | Uses |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--|
| Aiken loam 2 to 9% slopes (AfB) | 8" – 12" | Slow to Medium | Slight – Moderate | Ile-1 | Timber production, limited deciduous orchards, grazing |
| Aiken loam 9 to 15% slopes (AfC) | 8" – 12" | Medium | Slight – Moderate | IIle-1 | Timber production, limited deciduous orchards, grazing |
| Aiken loam 15 to 30% slopes (AfD) | 8" – 12" | Medium to Rapid | Moderate - High | IVe-1 | Timber production, limited deciduous orchards, grazing |
| Aiken loam 30 to 50% slopes (AfE) | 8" – 12" | Medium to Rapid | Moderate - High | VIe-3 | Limited grazing, timber production |
| Aiken cobble loam 2 to 30% slopes (AgD) | 7" – 10" | Slow to Medium | Slight - Moderate | IVe-1 | Limited grazing, timber production, deciduous orchards |
| Aiken cobble loam 30 to 50% slopes (AgE) | 7" – 10" | Medium to Rapid | High | VIe-1 | Timber production, limited grazing |

**Applies in general to all individual soil types*