

## READING GUIDE\*

### Inceptisols

see Buol et al. (2011), Chapter 14, p. 321-329

**OBJECTIVE:** *To understand the nature and properties of soils classified as Inceptisols, to know the potential uses and limitations of these soils, and to recognize the taxa associated with Inceptisols in Soil Taxonomy.*

1. What is the central concept for soils classified as Inceptisols?
2. In what soil forming environments are Inceptisols most commonly found?
3. Explain why Inceptisols are found in each of the following settings. Be sure to specify the pedogenic processes that occur (or do not occur) to promote the occurrence of Inceptisols. (a) steep slopes, (b) colluvial footslopes, (c) flood plains, (d) glacial deposits, (e) cold climates, (f) saturated materials, (g) young materials.
4. **What are the diagnostic properties of a cambic horizon?** What soil forming processes can lead to the development of a cambic horizon?
5. What properties may be associated with Inceptisols?
6. What types of land use problems may be associated with soils classified as Inceptisols? Explain why land use practices may be limited. Be specific.
7. What land use practices are commonly supported by soils classified as Inceptisols?
8. Which diagnostic horizons may be found in soils classified as Inceptisols?
9. What suborders are identified for soils classified as Inceptisols? What are the diagnostic properties of each?
10. What properties are used to distinguish the great groups of soils classified as Inceptisols?
11. Are Inceptisols merely soils on their way to developing into some other kind of soil? Explain your answer.

**SYNTHESIS:**

12. Where in West Virginia are soils classified as Inceptisols likely to be found? What are the suitabilities and limitations of these soils for various land uses?

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\* Questions in plain type represent basic facts and concepts. Questions in **bold** type are those that are answered in the text but require more careful consideration. The Synthesis questions at the end help you apply the facts and concepts to a relevant issue.