Depth (m)

Long Lake







Landscape Development



Outwash



Outwash Stratigraphy



Kettle Formation



Kame Stratigraphy







Soil Formation







The Histosols

Histosols are formed by accumulation of organic matter in a water-logged basin or under a cold humid climate which inhibits the decomposition of plant and animal remains.

This soil formed under conditions of water saturation. Water stands in the bottom of pit.

Global Distribution of Histosols



The Spodosols

Spodosols are probably the most photogenic soils. They are acid characterized by a subsurface accumulation of humus and Al & Fe oxides.

Typically they have a light-colored E horizon overlying a reddish-brown spodic horizon.



The Oxisols

Oxisols are found in the tropics, generally yellowish to reddish in color, deep, loamy to clayey. These soils contain few weatherable minerals and are often rich in Fe and Al oxides.

There are only minor differences in properties with depth.

Global Distribution of Oxisols



The Aridisols



Aridisols occur in arid regions and the soil does not moisten for more than a few weeks a year. Under such conditions, salts and other minerals accumulate in the subsurface.

This white layer in the subsoil is a calcic horizon or accumulation of calcite.



Global Distribution of Aridisols



The Mollisols



Mollisols are soils of the Prairie; they have a thick dark surface horizon, very friable and easy to cultivate. They are among some of the most important and productive agricultural soils in the world.

The white subsoil is due to the accumulation of calcium carbonates





Global Distribution of Mollisols





Alfisols form in semiarid to humid areas, typically under a hardwood forest cover. They have a clay-enriched subsoil and relatively high native fertility. "Alf" refers to aluminium (Al) and iron (Fe).





Soil Order and Yield

	Mollisol Iowa	Alfisol Ohio	Ultisol Georgia	Oxisol Brazil
Corn Yield	175 bu	150 bu	140 bu	130 bu
Additional Fertilizer & Lime Costs			\$20	\$30











Figure 6-12 Dorothy Merritts, Andrew de Wet, Kirsten Menking ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY: AN EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE APPROACH

