TABLE 1. Relative soil moisture regime classes and characteristics[a]

MOISTURE REGIME	DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS		FIELD RECOGNITION CHARACTERISTICS						SLOPE GRADIENT
			SOIL PROPERTIES						
	DESCRIPTION	PRIMARY WATER SOURCE	SLOPE POSITION	TEXTURE	DRAINAGE	DEPTH TO IMPERMEABLE LAYER	HUMUS FORM DEPTH	AVAILABLE WATER STOR. CAP.	
VERY XERIC 0	Water removed extremely rapidly in relation to supply, soil is moist for a neglible time after ppt	precipitation	ridge crests, shedding	very coarse (gravelly-S), abundant coarse fragments	very rapid	very shallow (<0.5m)	very shallow	extremely low	very steep
XERIC 1	Water removed very rapidly in relation to supply; soil is moist for brief periods following ppt	precipitation			rapid				
SUBXERIC 2	Water removed rapidly in relation to supply; soil is moist for short periods following ppt	precipitation	upper slopes, shedding	coarse to mod. coarse (LS-SL); mod. coarse frag.	rapid to well	shallow (<1m)	shallow	very low	steep
SUBMESIC 3	Water removed rapidly in relation to supply; water available for moderately short periods following ppt	precipitation						low	moderate
MESIC 4	Water removed somewhat slowly in relation to supply; soil may remain moist for a significant, but sometimes short period of the year. Available soil moisture reflects climatic inputs	precipitation in moderately to fine-textured soils & limited seepage in coarse textured soils	mid-slope, normal, rolling to level	moderate to fine (L-SiL), few coarse fragments	well to moderately well	moderately deep (1-2m)	moderately deep	moderate	
SUBHYGRIC 5	Water removed slowly enough to keep the soil wet for a significant part of the growing season; some temporary seepage and possibly mottling below 20 cm	precipitation and seepage			moderately well to imperfect	deep (>2m)	deep	high	slight
HYGRIC 6	Water removed slowly enough to keep the soil wet for most of the growing season; permanent seepage and mottling present; possible weak gleying	seepage	lower slopes, receiving	variable, depending on seepage	imperfect to poor	variable, depending on seepage		variable, depending on seepage	
SUBHYDRIC 7	Water removed slowly enough to keep the water table at or near the surface for most of the year; gleyed mineral or organic soils; permanent seepage less than 30 cm below the surface	seepage or permanent water table			poor to very poor		very deep		
HYDRIC 8	Water removed so slowly that the water table is at or above the soil surface all year; gleyed mineral or organic soils	permanent water table	depressions, receiving	variable, depending on seepage	very poor	variable, depending on seepage		variable, depending on seepage	flat

[a] From Walmsley *et al.* (1980), and Luttmerding *et al.* (1990).