

Soil water

Saturated soil	A soil with all its pores completely filled with water.
Waterlogged soil	A saturated soil from which little or no drainage occurs.
Perched (crowned) water table	Level below which soil and rocks are saturated with water above a raised impervious layer of soil or rock.
Field capacity	Maximum amount of water (as a %) that a soil will hold against the force of gravity.
Permanent wilting point	The moisture content of the soil (as a %) at which normal plants remain wilted, even in humid conditions.
Temporary wilting	This is wilting which occurs in very hot sun, even if there is plenty of water in the soil. It is due to excess evaporation from the leaf surface and reverses when the temperature drops.
Gravitational water	Water which drains from the soil under the influence of gravity.
Available water	Water that is available to plants between field capacity and permanent wilting point.
Capillary water	Water that can move through soil pores by capillarity and is available to plants.
Hygroscopic water	Water remaining in the soil at permanent wilting point which is unavailable to plants.
Available water capacity (AWC)	Amount of available water held by a soil (shown as mm of water per 500mm depth of soil).
Soil moisture tension	The surface tension holding water in the soil (shown in atmospheres or bars).
Soil moisture deficit (SMD)	The amount of water required to restore the soil to field capacity (mm of water).
Potential evapotranspiration (PE)	The combined water loss from soil and plants by evaporation and transpiration, when the plants are not subject to any soil water shortage (mm of water).