

Clay Mineralogy of Red and Black soils of Vegetable Growing area of Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Studies on six soil profiles representing black and red soils of vegetable growing area of Guntur District revealed that the black soils were clay to clay loam in texture and exhibited relatively higher cation exchange and base saturation values than red soils having sandy clay to sandy loam texture. Black soils were dominated by smectite group of minerals with minor quantities of illite and kaolinite. Kaolinite was the major mineral followed by illite in red soils, which did not contain any smectite minerals.

Keywords: Black soils, Clay mineralogy, Illite, Kaolinite, Red soils, Smectite.