

Growing Crops on Phosphatic Clay Soil

Phosphatic Clay

- By-product of phosphate mining
- Covers approximately 120,000 acres
- Only suitable for natural areas & Agriculture.



Phosphatic Clay Reclamation



Physical Properties

- Shrinking/swelling clay
- High water holding capacity
- Requires good surface drainage
- No field access when wet



Phosphatic Clay Fertility

- High pH - 7.2 to 8.2
- No Fertilizer for legumes
- N only for non-legumes
- Mild manganese deficiency on some legumes



Vegetable Crops

- Cole crops in winter most successful.
 - Broccoli
 - Cabbage
 - Cauliflower



Vegetable Crops Cont.

- Cole crops followed by spring crops
 - Cucumbers
 - Yellow squash



Vegetable Crops Cont.

- Most productive crops
 - Okra
 - Zucchini squash
 - Southern peas.



Summary

- Phosphatic Clay is a unique and potentially productive soil.
- High fertility & water holding capacity.
- Needs good surface drainage.

