

Pedological and Edaphological concepts

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APPROACHES OF SOIL STUDY

Two Concepts: One treats soil as a natural body, weathered and synthesized product in nature (Pedology) while other treats soil as a medium for plant growth (Edaphology).

Pedological Approach: The origin of the soil, its classification and its description are examined in Pedology. (from Greek word *pedon*, means soil or earth). Pedology is the study of soil as a natural body and does not focus on the soil's immediate practical use. A pedologist studies, examines and classifies soil as they occur in their natural environment.

Edaphological Approach: Edaphology (from Greek word *edaphos*, means soil or ground) is the study of soil from the stand point of higher plants. Edaphologists consider the various properties of soil in relation to plant production. They are practical and have the production of food and fiber as their ultimate goal. They must determine the reasons for variation in the productivity of soils and find means for improvement.