

# Soil Illuviation Encyclopedia Article

## Soil Illuviation

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# Soil Illuviation

When water moves through the **soil**, it moves small colloidal-sized particles with it. These particles of clay, iron, **humus**, and calcium carbonate will be deposited in zones below the surface or in the **subsoil**. The zones are called illuvial zones and the process is referred to as illuviation. Illuvial zones are most often referred to as B horizons, and the subscript with the B designates the kind of material translocated (i.e.,  $B_t$  = clay accumulation).