



Soils of Lone Pine, California

Most of Lone Pine's residents are represented by 4 soil types. On the periphery of town there are other soil types that will blend together. The map shows a clearer delineation between soil types than you would see in real life. Expect bordering areas to share traits both good and bad.

Dehy Loam

Dehy soils are common in the Owens Valley in the wetter locations. They are slightly acidic (pH 6.2), poorly drained, but are high in organic matter (about 4-5%). They are easily compacted when wet. They seem to be prone to crusting during seed germination so take care to keep the seed bed wet during this time. They can be hard to wet if they become bone dry at length. These soils are dark grey with a slight tinge of brown. They are often blended in with Cartago and Shabbell soils in this area. Other than drainage and compaction, these are good soils for gardens and landscaping.

Goodale-Cartago Very Gravelly Loamy Sand.

This is a mashup of two soil types. Mostly this is Goodale which is brown in color and is often found in this area near Dehy soils. It is well-drained and neutral (pH 7.2) in reaction. The soil is very permeable so it is difficult to furrow irrigate and the soil has little capacity to hold moisture and nutrients. Sometimes hard to keep seeds wet.

Shabbell Sandy Loam

Although excessively drained, this is fairly good soil with irrigation. The soil is not acidic and contains some organic matter (about 3%). It is well-suited for root crops. This soil is best irrigated via sprinklers due to a high infiltration rate. Subject to wind erosion. Expect to find patches of the other soil types listed here in this area.

Inyo Gravelly Loamy Coarse Sand

This soil has nearly as poor a water holding capacity as the Goodale type above. Sandy soils can be a challenge to grow in. Not considered good farmland. This soil is distinguished from the others around it by having a gravelly surface layer. Gardeners should try to build up organic matter in this soil which naturally contains almost none.

Winnedumah Silt Loam

Only a small portion of Lone Pine lives atop this soil, however adjoining areas will experience some of its effects. This soil has a very high pH (9), is saline, and contains up to 3% calcium carbonate. It is poorly drained. This soil has few good features. In the spring, the water table may raise to 4 to 5 feet below the surface. Adjacent soils may have elevated salinity and calcium levels.

“Sandy Complex”

These are Mazourka, hard substratum-Mazourka-Eclipse Complex Soils. In other words, a mix of salty, alkaline soil types. Some are poorly drained. Others excessively so. All are alkaline and tend to get more so with depth. Some areas have a hardpan. Subject to wind erosion. Best to grow on raised beds, containers or in another location altogether if you have to raise plants here. In Lone Pine, most of this soil is at the cemetery so there's probably not a lot of demand to garden here.