

Slope

Percent slope affords a means of describing relief by expressing the ratio between difference in level and horizontal distance. A 3% slope, for example, means a difference in level of 3 m over a horizontal distance of 100 m. Five classes of simple slope (i.e. slopes with regular surfaces) were selected for mapping purposes (Table 1). Percent slope is an important item of information for purposes of assessing areas that

Table 1. Definition of slope classes

Slope class	%
Flat land or depressions	<0.5
Very gentle	0.5-2
Gentle	2-5
Moderate	5-9
Steep to abrupt	≥9

Taken from pedology reports

are vulnerable to water erosion and likely to cause surface water pollution. Relief also affects type of machinery, crop selection and tillage practices. A relief map is a quick means of identifying the best locations for some uses, such as recreational areas.

The relief of the southeastern part of the Montreal plain is fairly flat. Flat land and depressions account for 3.9% of the total area,

occurring mainly in association with organic soils or soils with a peaty or humic surface layer (e.g. peaty Pierreville series). The greater part of the area consists of very gently to gently sloping land, accounting for 44.4% (e.g. Saint-Urbain series) and 50.6% (e.g. Providence series) of the study area respectively. There are a few moderate slopes (0.7%), such as those bordering the anastomosed channels of the Lanoraie delta and along the channel of the Salvail River near Sainte-Madeleine (e.g. Du Moine series). Steep to abrupt slopes (e.g. Rougemont and Montarville series) occur only on and around Mount Saint-Bruno (0.4%) and on Mount Rougemont (shown as a terrain type on the map).