

Depth to bedrock

Depth to bedrock (lithic contact) is the thickness of the unconsolidated material overlying consolidated rock (Table 1). The boundary between bedrock and overlying unconsolidated material affects the soil's available water and vulnerability to upward migration of coarse fragments as a result of human action such as drainage improvement operations. As an impedance layer, it affects preferential water flow and plant root development.

Table 1. Definition of depth classes

Class	Depth to bedrock (cm)	Area (%)
Very shallow	20 - 50	0.2
Shallow	50 - 100	2.2
Deep	≥100	97.6

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Depth to bedrock is virtually homogeneous in the study area, with 97.6% of the soils being deep and only 2.4% of them shallow (e.g. Boucherville series (BC3m) or very shallow (e.g. Du Mont series). The latter occur mainly in Chambly County, where unconsolidated

deposits overlie the Lorraine and Utica formations, and around the two Monteregian Hills, Mount Saint-Bruno and Mount Rougemont, where they overlie igneous rocks.