

# Rangeland Productivity and Plant Composition

Douglas-Plateau Area, Colorado, Parts of Garfield and Mesa Counties

Map symbol and soil name	Ecological site	Total dry-weight production			Characteristic vegetation	Rangeland composition
		Lb/Ac				
		Favorable year	Normal year	Unfavorable year		
56:						
Parachute	Brushy Loam	3,000	2,000	1,500	Saskatoon serviceberry Elk sedge Mountain brome Western wheatgrass Columbia needlegrass Letterman's needlegrass Mountain big sagebrush Mountain snowberry	15 10 10 10 5 5 5 5
Irigul	Loamy Slopes	1,200	900	500	Bluebunch wheatgrass Bottlebrush squirreltail Mountain big sagebrush Prairie Junegrass Saskatoon serviceberry Western wheatgrass	10 10 10 10 10 10
Rhone	Brushy Loam	3,000	2,000	1,500	Saskatoon serviceberry Elk sedge Mountain brome Nodding brome Slender wheatgrass Letterman's needlegrass Mountain snowberry Rose	15 10 10 10 10 5 5 5

This report shows only the major soils in each map unit. Others may exist.

## Map Unit Description

Douglas-Plateau Area, Colorado, Parts of Garfield and Mesa Counties

### 56 Parachute-Irigul-Rhone association, 25 to 50 percent slopes

#### Setting

Elevation: 7600 to 8800 feet  
Mean annual precipitation: 18 to 22 inches  
Mean annual air temperature: 36 to 40 degrees F  
Frost-free period: 65 to 80 days

#### Composition

Parachute and similar soils: 35 percent  
Irigul and similar soils: 30 percent  
Rhone and similar soils: 20 percent

#### Description of Parachute

##### Setting

Landform: Mountains  
Landform position (two-dimensional): Shoulder, summit  
Down-slope shape: Linear  
Across-slope shape: Convex  
Parent material: Colluvium derived from sandstone and shale and/or residuum weathered from siltstone

##### Properties and Qualities

Slope: 25 to 50 percent  
Depth to restrictive feature: 20 to 40 inches to Paralithic bedrock  
Drainage class: Well drained  
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low or moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)  
Frequency of flooding: None  
Frequency of ponding: None  
Calcium carbonate maximum: 0 percent  
Gypsum maximum: 0 percent  
Available water capacity: Very low (about 2.8 inches)

##### Interpretive Groups

Land capability (non irrigated): 7e  
Ecological site: Brushy Loam (R048AY238CO)

##### Typical Profile

0 to 10 inches: loam  
10 to 25 inches: very channery loam, extremely channery loam  
25 to 29 inches: unweathered bedrock

#### Description of Irigul

##### Setting

Landform: Hills  
Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope, footslope, shoulder, summit, toeslope  
Down-slope shape: Convex  
Across-slope shape: Convex  
Parent material: Residuum weathered from sandstone and shale

##### Properties and Qualities

Slope: 25 to 50 percent  
Depth to restrictive feature: 5 to 20 inches to Lithic bedrock  
Drainage class: Well drained  
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low or moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)  
Frequency of flooding: None  
Frequency of ponding: None  
Calcium carbonate maximum: 0 percent  
Gypsum maximum: 0 percent  
Available water capacity: Very low (about 1.3 inches)

##### Interpretive Groups

Land capability (non irrigated): 7e  
Ecological site: Loamy Slopes (R048AY303CO)

##### Typical Profile

## Map Unit Description

Douglas-Plateau Area, Colorado, Parts of Garfield and Mesa Counties

0 to 6 inches: channery loam  
6 to 13 inches: very channery loam  
13 to 17 inches: unweathered bedrock

### Description of Rhone

#### Setting

Landform: Hills, mountains  
Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope, footslope, shoulder, summit  
Down-slope shape: Concave  
Across-slope shape: Concave  
Parent material: Colluvium derived from sandstone and shale and/or residuum weathered from sandstone and shale

#### Properties and Qualities

Slope: 25 to 50 percent  
Depth to restrictive feature: 40 to 60 inches to Paralithic bedrock  
Drainage class: Well drained  
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low or moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)  
Frequency of flooding: None  
Frequency of ponding: None  
Calcium carbonate maximum: 0 percent  
Gypsum maximum: 0 percent  
Available water capacity: Moderate (about 7.5 inches)

#### Interpretive Groups

Land capability (non irrigated): 7e  
Ecological site: Brushy Loam (R048AY238CO)

#### Typical Profile

0 to 10 inches: loam  
10 to 39 inches: channery loam  
39 to 55 inches: very channery loam  
55 to 59 inches: unweathered bedrock