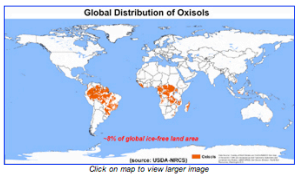
***Oxisols*** are very highly weathered soils that are found primarily in the intertropical regions of the world. These soils contain few weatherable minerals and are often rich in Fe and Al oxide minerals.

Oxisols occupy ~7.5% of the global ice-free land area. In the US, they only occupy ~0.02% of the land area and are restricted to Hawaii.

Most of these soils are characterized by extremely low native fertility, resulting from very low nutrient reserves, high phosphorus retention by oxide minerals, and low cation exchange capacity (CEC). Most nutrients in Oxisol ecosystems are contained in the standing vegetation and decomposing plant material. Despite low fertility, Oxisols can be quite productive with inputs of lime and fertilizers.

Oxisols are divided into 5 suborders: *Aquox*, *Torrox*, *Ustox*, *Perox*, and *Udox*. Click here for more information about these suborders. Click here to view a map of their distribution in the US.


*Click on map to view larger image*

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## SUBORDERS

***Aquox*** - Oxisols with a water table at or near the surface for much of the year

***Torrox*** - Oxisols of arid climates

***Ustox*** - Oxisols of semiarid and subhumid climates

***Perox*** - Oxisols of continuously humid climates, where precipitation exceeds evapotranspiration in all months

***Udox*** - Oxisols of humid climates

*Click here to view suborder diagram*


*Click on map to view larger image*