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Appropriate classification of three Swedish soils for agrarian and environmental management

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Abstract

Classification of soils according to internationally agreed criteria forms a valuable base for scientific and political analysis. The objectives of this study were to evaluate two soil classification systems and relate them to agricultural and environmental conditions, principally phosphorus leakage, by classifying three Swedish, arable soils. The Bjärröd soil was classified as a Rupti-Endogley according to the World Reference Base for Soil Resources and as a coarse-loamy, mesic Oxisol according to the Soil Taxonomy. Bjelkesta was classified as an Orthic Gleysol and a fine, frigid, Typic Endoaquept, respectively, and Götala as a Haplic frigid Typic Udipsamment. We evaluated some changes to the classification systems proposed by Nordic scientists and found the classification of Bjärröd misleading and suggest it being classified as a Cambisol/Inceptisol and that information of the characteristic high water saturation in Bjelkesta and the spodic character in Götala being included in their names. This information is useful for decisions on agrarian and environmental management of the soils.

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