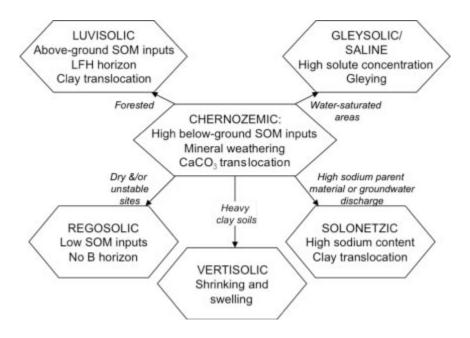


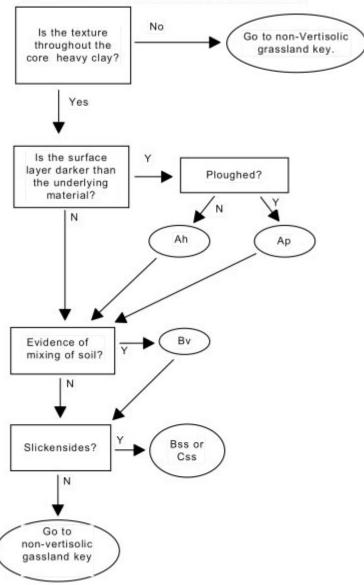
# **Grassland Soils**

As a generalization, soils found in regions of Canada that are currently or historically dominated by grassland vegetation will fall into one of these soil Orders.



The Grassland Soils Key that follows can be used to identify the major mineral horizons present in Grassland soils. When properly described (link to CSSC online (http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/publications/manuals/1998-cssc-ed3/cssc3\_manual.pdf#CSSC)), diagnostic horizons can be used to classify a given soil profile to the Order level (see Table in Orders Overview (../orders /orders.php#Orders)) and provide information about which Great Group and Subgroup are appropriate, as well.

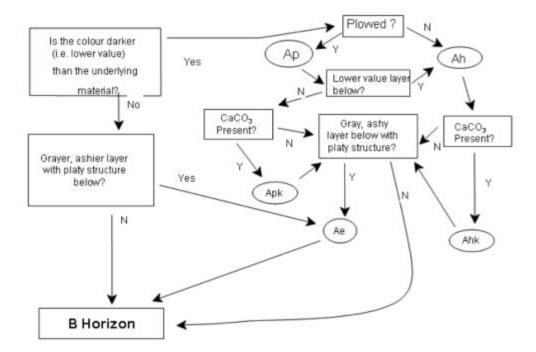
#### Grassland Soils Key: Vertisolic versus non-Vertisolic soils



## **Grassland Soil Key**

(Non-Vertisolic Soils)

#### A Horizon Key



page).

If not, return to top of B horizon key

#### **B Horizon Key** Increase in Clay Bt or relative to A Bnt Horizon? N Evidence of salts, N gypsum, or dark stains on peds Redoximorphic + Bg features?\* Redoximorphic Bnt features?\* Btg Ν Redoximorphic features?\* Bntg N Stronger structure, brighter chromas than N underlying? Bm Bm or Bmk Is the next layer a N 🗖 C horizon? (next

\*See section on the description of redoximorphic features

For Bm, Bt, Bnt, and Bmk horizons with evidence of weakly developed redoximorphic

features a gj suffix is added (e.g. Bmgj, Btgj etc.)

Bmk

Carbonates?

### C Horizon Key Concentration of Are carbonates carbonate in present? Cca upper part of layer? N N Unweathered C Carbonates evenly sand? distributed? N Redoximorphic features? Ν Redoximorphic features? Cg Ckg Is there another C horizon below the one you just classified? If yes, return to C horizon key.

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