

TO THE PROBLEM OF SOIL CLASSIFICATION: ANALYTICAL REVIEW

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Problems of soil classification are the main subject of the paper. The fact that the information about soils is usually received in a discrete form results in some difficulties with soil classification. The soil horizon combination, presented as a combination of symbols, is seen as a possibility for generation of a universal soil classification.

The paper presents a critical analysis of two existing Russian soil classifications – genetic classification of soil profiles and factor-based soil classification, which are mainly rely on qualitative soil properties. The first classification provides exact description of Russian soil types with exact horizon combination but, as also the second classification, uses mainly qualitative soil properties. The necessity to found a universal soil data base with detailed information on measured soil properties is being discussed.