Soils with paddy agric horizons (paddy soils) could be classified in a wide range of aquic suborders in *Soil Taxonomy*. Table 5 presents some properties of a paddy soil with a paddy agric horizon. The horizon designated W* (38–65 cm, 15–26 in.) might be identified as a paddy agric horizon in the proposed system.

**References**


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Hydric or Nonhydric? That is the Question!

Michael D. Sweeney¹

A hydric soil is defined as a soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part (National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils, 1987). One criterion for hydric soils is that they be in Aquic suborders or subgroups. The Aquic moisture regime implies a reducing regime that is virtually free of dissolved oxygen because the soil is saturated by groundwater or by water of the capillary fringe (Soil Survey Staff, 1987). For differentiation in the highest categories of soils that have an Aquic regime, the whole soil must be saturated. In the subgroups, only the lower horizons are saturated. The requirements of the swampbuster provision of the 1985 farm bill have led scientists to take a critical look at the criteria for defining wetlands.

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