DESCRIPTION FOR LAYMEN OF CLARINDA SOIL

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This unit consists of very poorly drained, and gosh awful wet soils in uplands on side hills or around heads of water waterways. Example: Clarinda silty clay loam, 5- to 9% slopes, moderately eroded (222-7-2).

The surface layer is not bad except when you walk through it. It might be friable but it's hard to catch it when moist so it's sticky when wet or just plain muddy. On rare occasions when it dries out it's harder than a lime chunk, and cracks wide open into the subsoil. With the next hard rain these cracks close like a clam shell.

The subsoil layer is a gray sticky, messy clay about as permeable as an old-fashioned crock. It holds lots of water, and when saturated, hangs on to it until the next general drouth like 1934.

It won't let go of any water, and sure doesn't need any more. Consequently, excess water trying to get away from above just oozes out over it. It can't soak in so spoils some other good land below.

It is unsuited for normal farming like cropland, pasture or good trees, but well suited to cattails and healthy smartweeds. It occurs in small areas very strategically located to cause the most trouble on side slopes. When intended for pasture, this unit ends up as a good hog wallow.

These areas normally manage themselves. Being small they offer a challenge to young inexperienced tractor operators. They can drive in, but they can't back out. They go steadily forward for 30 seconds to the exact center then spend two days digging out.