Soil Color Standards.*

In order that there may be uniformity in the designation of the color of soils, it is proposed that a set of color standards be prepared in which those colors which occur in soils and subsoils may be represented. Such a set of standards would be of great value to soil survey workers and would certainly lead to a better understanding of the descriptions of soils from the various regions of the United States and of the earth as a whole.

In order that such a set of color standards might be published, representative soils from all parts of the United States would need to be examined. No doubt the Bureau of Soils of the United States Department of Agriculture could lead in the work, and by consultation with various State Soil Surveys and with the Soil Surveys of other nations standardize the colors and publish reproductions of them as Robert Ridgway did in his "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature", (published by the author, Washington, D. C., 1912). If it should seem impracticable to name all colors, a numerical system could be devised. The writer has felt the need of such a set of color standards in the Soil Survey work in South Dakota. Perhaps others may have felt the same need.

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