American Soil Scientists have given little attention to buried or fossil soils, although over a considerable area of the United States, these soils occur. In Iowa, these buried soils present problems of both scientific and economic interest.

A number of foreign pedologists have called attention to the character and wide extent of the buried soils in Europe and Asia.

Glinka discusses five possible cases of the burying of soils; first, by marine deposits; second, by glacial deposits; third, by alluvial deposits; fourth, by volcanic deposits; and fifth, by aeolian deposits. He mentions the bog formations under the boulder clays in Saratow (described by Zemjatchesisky), the organic horizons between the marly clays of Poltava (Agnfionoff), the fossil peats in the province of Smoliensk (Glinka) and the fossil soils and provinces of Minok and Chernigow.

Buried soils in the south Russian steppes were described by Nabokich, Laskareff, Florow, Krasuk, Krokos, Machoff, and Soboleff. Some of these soils were regarded as a basis for establishing several stages of glaciation. Glinka was doubtful however, in regard to the origin of at least some of these soils. Sketches made by Krasiuk in the provinces of Volyn and Podolsk resemble very little a fossil soil.

Floroff points out that; (1) buried humus containing horizon (province of Kiev) stands out from its upper surface into the overlying loess in pockets and tongues; (2) the buried soil is mottled with a great number of brown ochre spots and bean like concretions; (3) the dark horizon of buried Humus containing soil is underlain by a light pale calcareous horizon, sometimes mottled with coarse nests of CaCO3.

Zacharoff states that soils can be perfectly preserved by a gradual burying of them by aeolian deposits. Soils buried under loess are quite extensive and not infrequently are found under sand dunes. He observed several well preserved genetic horizons of buried soils in the Ukraine, some being of the bog type, giving evidence of a more humid climate in the past glacial period.