

Table 4—Shapes and size classes of soil structure†

Size class	Shape of structure					
	Platy	Prismatic	Columnar	Angular blocky	Subangular blocky	Granular
	Units are flat and platelike. They are generally oriented horizontally and faces are mostly horizontal	Units are prismlike and bounded by flat to rounded vertical faces. Units are distinctly longer vertically than horizontally; vertices angular. Tops of units are indistinct and normally flat.	Units are blocklike or polyhedral with flat or slightly rounded surfaces that are casts of the faces of surrounding peds; nearly equidimensional Tops of units are very distinct and normally rounded.	Units are approximately spherical or polyhedral and are bounded by curved or very irregular faces that are not casts of adjoining peds Faces intersect at relatively sharp angles	Mixture of rounded and plane faces and the vertices are mostly rounded	
Very fine or very thin‡	<1	<10	<10	<5	<5	<1
Fine or thin‡	1-2	10-20	10-20	5-10	5-10	1-2
Medium	2-5	20-50	20-50	10-20	10-20	2-5
Coarse or thick‡	5-10	50-100	50-100	20-50	20-50	5-10
Very coarse or very thick‡	>10	>100	>100	>50	>50	>10

† From: Soil survey division staff. 1993. *Soil survey manual*, USDA-SCS Agric. Handb. 18. U.S. Gov. Print. Office, Washington, DC.

‡ In describing plates, *thin* is used instead of *fine* and *thick* is used instead of *coarse*.