

Table 5. Shapes and size classes of soil structure.†

Shape of Structure						
	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.	Units are blocklike or polyhedral with flat or slightly rounded surfaces that are casts of the faces of surrounding peds; nearly equidimensional.		Mixture of rounded and plane faces and the vertices are mostly rounded	Units are approximately spherical or polyhedral and are bounded by curved or very irregular faces that are not casts of adjoining peds.
Size class	Platy	Prismatic	Columnar	Angular blocky	Subangular blocky	Granular
	mm					
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.