Central Bishop Soil Types

Map #	Name	Use
184	Dehy Loam	Prime farmland if drained and irrigated
185	Dehy Sandy Loam	
189	Dehy – Dehy Calcareous Complex	
246	Lucerne Loamy Fine Sand	Prime farmland if irrigated
370	*Xerofluvents*	Not prime farmland

Central Bishop's soils are mostly of the Dehy Series. Lucerne soils make excellent farmland. "Xerofluvents" are droughty river bottom type soils. They are gravelly drainages and are not suited for raising crops.

DEHY SOIL SERIES

The Dehy series consists of very deep, somewhat poorly drained soils that formed in alluvium derived from mixed sources. Dehy soils are on alluvial fans and low stream terraces. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent.

Topsoil is dark grayish sandy loam with somewhat blocky structure and a few pebbles. 2% to 8% organic matter. Soil pH is neutral (6.8) but in gardens it tends to be slightly acidic.

Seasonally, water table can be near or at surface. Local gardeners often notice issues with hydrophobic conditions when soils get dry for extended periods, and they can form crusts that interfere with seed germination.

These soils are subject to compaction when wet.

Soils in the calcareous area (189 on map) have issues with high pH, drainage, and some salinity. Part of the community garden is located in this area, but only a few residences are affected.

LUCERNE SOIL SERIES

The Lucerne series consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in alluvium from dominantly granitic sources. Lucerne soils are on alluvial fans, fan terraces and terraces and have slopes of 0 to 15 percent. A few pebbles can be found if the soil is tilled. This is soil Mormon tea and Joshua trees can be found growing on (only not in Bishop).

The pale brown topmost portion (A horizon) is only a few inches deep. Generally gardeners will be growing in the light, yellowish soil layer below which is very deep.

While slightly alkaline (7.2), the soil is not calcareous. Easily wind eroded.

Few residences in Bishop's city limits have this soil type.

It is not bad to garden in but will benefit from some organic matter added.