

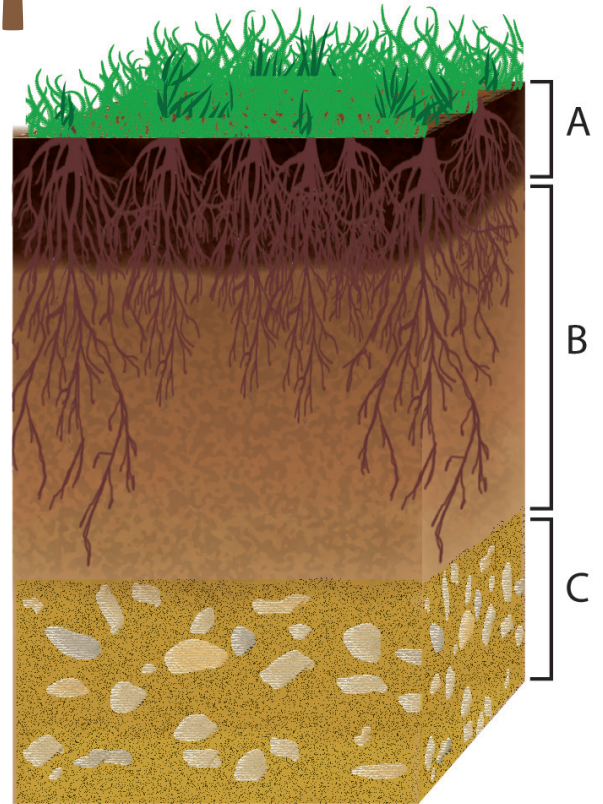
THREE-LIFT SOIL MANAGEMENT

AN OPTION FOR FARM SOILS CROSSED BY PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

There are parts of Wisconsin where the upper layer of the subsoil is significantly higher in quality than the lower subsoil. When pipeline construction occurs on such soils, three-lift soil handling can be used to reduce the time it takes for crop yields to return to pre-construction levels. When properly identified and implemented, three-lift soil handling can be an effective tool to maintain the health of your soil.

Pipeline Construction

Most pipeline construction requires excavating a trench. It is during this time that topsoil and subsoils may become mixed and affect future crop yields. To prevent this, the contractor will segregate topsoil from subsoils. During typical trench construction, topsoil is stripped from the full width of the right-of-way and stockpiled apart from any excavated subsoils.



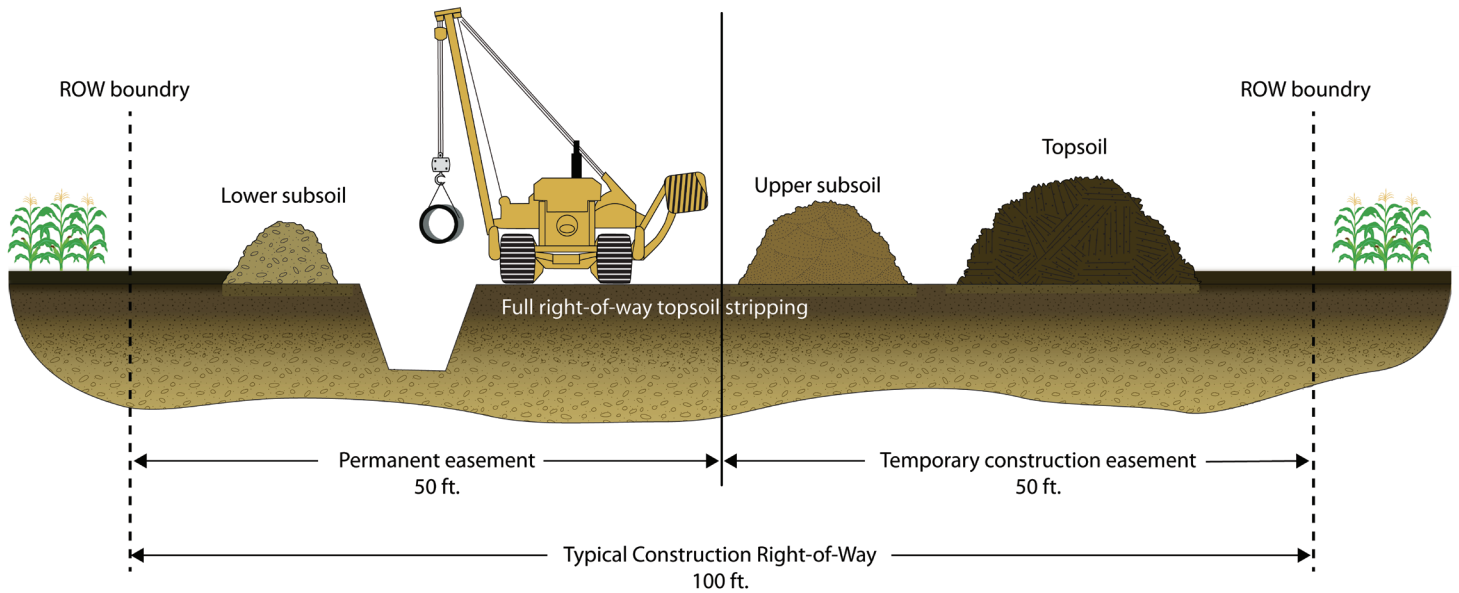
After the pipe is installed, the trench is refilled with the subsoils. Last of all, the topsoil is distributed over the full width of the right-of-way.

In some locations, the upper part of the subsoil is better soil than the lower layers. The upper subsoil has more organic matter and the lower subsoil may be more rocky or sandy. Mixing these two layers may cause similar damage to mixing topsoil with the subsoil.

Three-lift soil handling may minimize the damage to your soils.



Typical Three-Lift Soil Handling Construction Sequence



1. Strip the topsoil from the full width of the right-of-way
2. Stockpile topsoil apart from any subsoil
3. Excavate the upper organic subsoil from the trench and stockpile in separate pile
4. Excavate the lower sandy/rocky subsoil from the trench and stockpile in separate pile
5. Install the pipe
6. Backfill the trench with the lower subsoil first, then the upper subsoil
7. Distribute the topsoil over the full width of the right-of-way

Will Three-Lift Soil Handling Benefit You?

Not every field is a candidate for three-lift soil handling. There must be a significant difference between the subsoil layers and the layers must be of sufficient quantity. You can find out whether your fields might benefit by contacting the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

You can also find this information in the project-specific agricultural impact statement that the department publishes. The statement will include a list of soils that are candidates for this process, and the landowners who may have these soils on their property.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Agricultural Impact Statement Program
Phone: (608) 224-4650
Email: datcpagimpactstatements@wi.gov
Online: <https://datcp.wi.gov>

