

# Bearwallow

Bearwallow soils are moderately deep soils formed from weathered sandstone under annual grasses. They are moderately permeable soils of fair native fertility found across a range of convex-shaped slope positions on hills.



### Typical Profile:

0-1 ft.: dark brown Loam

1-3 ft.: strong brown to reddish brown heavy Loam

3 ft. +: soft, fractured sandstone

### Soil Properties of Interest:

Available water-holding capacity (typically 0 - 3 feet)	5.3 inches
Drainage class:	Well Drained
Permeability class:	Moderately Slow
Clay range in profile:	15 to 30% Increasing with depth
Sand range in profile:	45 to 35% Decreasing with depth
Coarse fragments in profile:	Less than 15% gravels in profile
Soil pH range:	6.6 to 5.3 Decreasing with depth



### Fitness for Use in Vineyards:

- **Nutrient Cycling:** Vineyard establishment practices should aim to retain the limited, nutrient-rich topsoil layer. Organic amendments and cover crops build fertility, improve tilth, and feed soil biology.
- **Water Relations:** Limited water-holding capacity due to depth. Soil cover enhances water penetration into the limited subsoil reservoir, particularly on steep slopes, maximizing vine performance.
- **Management Considerations:** Bearwallow soils are susceptible to soil compaction, rutting, and erosion on sloped ground. Steep, convex slopes are typically avoided due to instability and erosion.

### Winegrape varieties suited to Bearwallow:

Inland: Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel, Merlot

Coastal: Pinot noir; Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel

on ridge top locations



### Geography and Soil Climate:

Acres of Bearwallow\* in Mendocino Co: 30,500 ac.  
\*Bearwallow commonly occurs intermixed with similar soils such as Wolfey

Acres of Bearwallow soil under vines: over 1,276 acres

Annual precipitation: 35-60 inches  
Frost-free days: 150 to 250 days  
Elevation Range: 300' to 3,000'

Slope Range: 5 to 75%

