

Feliz

Feliz soils are very deep soils formed from young, mixed alluvium under scattered oak and annual grasses. They are permeable soils of good native fertility found on flat to gently sloping alluvial plains and fans across Mendocino County.



Typical Profile:

0-1.5 ft.: very dark grayish brown loam

1.5-3 ft.: brown clay loam

3-5+ ft.: brown loam or clay loam; gravelly layers are present in some areas, but not common.

Soil Properties of Interest:

Available water-holding capacity (0 - 5 feet)	Variable; 8 to 10 inches
Drainage class:	Well Drained
Permeability class:	Moderate
Clay range in profile:	15 to 30%
Sand range in profile:	35 to 60% variable Decreases with depth
Coarse fragments in profile:	<15% typical; some profiles have 15-50% in lower part of profile
Soil pH range:	6.1 to 7.5 Decreasing with depth



Fitness for Use in Vineyards:

- **Nutrient Cycling:** Practices should aim to retain the topsoil layer with its organic matter and nutrient supply.
- **Water Relations:** Soil cover improves water infiltration and serves to moderate soil temperatures. Gravelly strata in the lower horizons are not common, but their presence may cause perching of water in the overlying finer-textured horizon during wet periods.
- **Management Considerations:** Irrigation methods and varieties may need to be adjusted to account for soils with gravelly layers. Feliz soils are susceptible to organic matter losses when disturbed.
- **Winegrape varieties suited to the Feliz soil:**
 - Inland and Coastal: Chardonnay, Sauvignon blanc, Pinot gris
 - In areas with gravel subsoils: suitable for many red varieties



Geography and Soil Climate:

Acres of Feliz in Mendocino County: 10,620 acres

Acres of Feliz soil under vines: over 1,595 acres

Annual precipitation: 32-60 inches

Frost-free days: 175 to 250 days

Elevation Range: 160' to 1,750'

Slope Range: 0 to 8%

