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Desert Soil Collection at the JPL Soil Science Laboratory

A detailed report on the JPL desert soil collection is available. It is useful in desert agronomy, pedology, and other life studies.

Sections in this report include: Abstract, Introduction; Soils and Related Geologic Materials in the Collection; List of Samples; Soil Sample Information Sheets and Photographs of Areas, Sites, and Soils; References; and Acknowledgement.

Desert soils and other geologic materials collected from more than 100 sites comprise the JPL desert soil collection. This collection includes soil samples from eight states and four foreign countries. Arid and semiarid regions primarily in the United States are the source of approximately 400 samples obtained from the surface to depths of slightly more than one meter (no more than four feet deep). Most of the samples are from California deserts.

Uses for soils in the collection include test purposes in research related to extraterrestrial life detection, sampling, harsh environmental studies, and determination of suitability of areas for training U.S. astronauts for moon exploration.

Notes:

1. The JPL soil collection can serve as a foundation for the development of astropedology and extra-terrestrial soil science and technology, new fields which will become more important as space exploration continues.
2. Related information is found in NASA Tech Brief B69-10304, "Sampling and Handling of Desert Soils," August 1969, available from the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, Springfield, Virginia 22151, Price: 15¢.
3. Requests for further information may be directed to:
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Caltech/JPL
under contract to
NASA Pasadena Office
(NPO-11206)

Category 04