SIMPLIFIED KEY TO SOIL ORDERS

If soil has:

	Order*
Permafrost within 200 cm of the ground surface	G**el**isols
Other soils with more than 30% organic matter to depth of 40 cm	H**ist**osols
Other soils with a Spodic horizon within 2 m	Sp**od**osols
Other soils with > 35 cm of Andic soil properties and no Albic horizon	**And**isols
Other soils with an Oxic horizon with 1.5 m and no Kandic horizon, or those that contain ≥ 40% clay in the surface 18 cm and have a Kandic horizon within 1.5 m	**Ox**isols
Other soils with more than 30% clay in all horizons; some cracks when dry at 50 cm	V**ert**isols
Soils that are dry more than 50% of the year and have no Mollic epipedon	Ar**id**isols
Other soils that have an Argillic or Kandic horizon but a B.S. at pH 8.2 less than 35% at a depth of 1.8 m	**Ult**isols
Other soils that have a Mollic epipedon with BS ≥ 50% throughout	M**oll**isols
Other soils that have an Argillic or Kandic horizon	**Alf**isols
Other soils that have an Umbric, Mollic, or Plaggen epipedon, or a Cambic horizon	Inc**ept**isols
Other soils	**Ent**isols

B.S. = [(Exchangeable Ca^{2+} + Mg^{2+} + K^{+} + Na^{+})/CEC] x 100; CEC = cation exchange capacity.

*The bold and underlined part is what shows up in a taxonomic name. E.g. Argixer**oll** ends with oll meaning Mollisol.