

Major Land Resource Area 191X

High Limestone Plateaus of the Mariana Islands

Accessed: 06/17/2026

Ecological site keys

ES Site Key, MLRA 191

I. Soil texture is Loamy Sand or soil particle size is Loamy Skeletal; Soils are excessively or somewhat excessively drained...(Shioya, Takpochao Variant) ... QX191X01X501 – Excessively and Somewhat Excessively Drained Coastal Strand

II. Soil texture or particle size are not as above; Soil is not excessively or somewhat excessively drained

A. Water-table depth is very shallow (0 to 10 inches); Soils are very poorly drained

1 Wet at ~ 0 inches; Surface soil is 8 inches muck over mucky clay loam...(Mesei variant) ... QX191X01X005 – Very Poorly Drained Muck

2 Wet at ~ 9 inches; Surface soil is 2 inches mucky clay over clay...(Inarajan variant) ... QX191X01X507 – Very Poorly Drained Mucky Clay

B. Water-table depth not as above; Soils are not very poorly drained

1 Landform is Coastal Plain; Soils are clays and sandy clay loams developed from argillaceous alluvium...(Inarajan) ... QX191X01X506 – Somewhat Poorly and Poorly Drained Valley Bottoms and Coastal Plains

2 Landform is Basin Floor Positions on Limestone Plateaus (see OSD); Soils are clays developed from tuff ... QX191X01X004 – Somewhat Poorly and Poorly Drained Limestone Basins

3 Landform is Limestone Plateaus

i. Soils are deep (40 to 60 inches) and very deep (60 inches or greater)...(Kagman, Saipan, Yigo will be added) ... QX191X01X502 – Deep and Very Deep Soils on Limestone Plateaus

ii. Soils are very shallow (0 to 10 inches), shallow (10 to 20 inches), or moderately deep (20 to 40 inches)

a. Frequently shrouded in clouds and fog...(Luta “MOIST” Phase) ... QX191X01X504 – Limestone Plateau Cloud Forest

b. Not frequently shrouded in clouds and fog

1) Subsurface soils contain 0 to 12% rock frags > 3 inches ... QX191X01X503 – Very Shallow to Moderately Deep Soils on Limestone Plateaus

2) Subsurface soils contain 13 to 40% rock frags > 3 inches...(Ritidian, Takpochao, Luta “DRY” Phase) ... QX191X01X505 – Very Low Available Water Capacity Soils on Limestone

Plateaus and Escarpments