

ORGANIC CONTENT OF ORGANIC SOILS

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The low lying marshy areas of Colombo and suburbs, which had been previously considered unsuitable for development, are presently undergoing a development boom. The sub soils of these marshy areas are essentially organic, which are formed by the decomposition of the native vegetation.

Organic content is the major variable governing shear strength and compressibility characteristics of these soils. From the samples collected at various locations of the low lying areas in and around Colombo, some simple correlations are developed between the engineering characteristics of organic soils and the organic content.

A series of ignition tests is performed on several samples of organic soils of Colombo and suburbs, to determine the optimum temperature and duration of heating. These recommendations would be very useful in the future study of organic content of similar soils.