



Initial soils of heaps of Mikhailovsky mining complex, Kurskiy region

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Soil forming processes were investigated on the spoil heaps of one of the biggest mines of Russian European part - Mikhailovsky mining complex. Soils formed on the different heaps were classified as Lithosols or Sod Lithosols and some soil-like bodies with essential features of surface erosion. The heaps physical parameters play a critical role in initial soil formation by regulation of soil thickness increasing rate and biogenic processes intensity. Important indicator for the research of young soils were pH, C, N values and Cha/Cfa ratios.

Humification degree in all soils investigated was lower than in natural Luvisols and Luvic Chernozems. The rate of humus accumulation decreases with increasing age of the soil. The humus content where rapidly increases in soil chronosequence.

Morphology, soil chemical composition and texture classes described in details in presentation with special reference to the reclamation procedures and ecosystem management.