

AGRICULTURAL REGIONS

The natural characteristics and agro-economic potential of agricultural land are not homogeneous. Belgium has 14 distinct agricultural regions. Of these, 10 are located in Wallonia, 3 of which also extend to the Flemish Region (the sandy-loamy Region, the loamy Region and the grassland Region).

Agricultural regions defined by legislation

The agricultural regions within Walloon territory are defined by Belgian and Walloon legislation (Royal Decree of 24/02/1951 and its successive amendments and Walloon Government Decree of 24/11/2016), according to their natural characteristics and their agro-economic potential.

The diversity of agricultural regions

Wallonia's agricultural regions are briefly presented below in decreasing order of area. The loamy Region (3,941 km²) consists of fertile agricultural land and is mainly planted with cereals, sugar beet and potatoes. Fruit crops are also present locally. The Ardenne (3,479 km²) is covered to a large extent (50.5%) by forests. Grasslands¹ cover about 84% of the UAA². Cereals, particularly spelt and spring barley, are the main crops in the region. The Condroz (2,632 km²) is characterised by agricultural land covered with grasslands¹ (34% of the UAA) and cereal crops, sugar beet and oil plants. The grassland Region (1,878 km²) has relatively fertile land. The steep slopes or shallow soil depth make ploughing difficult. Grasslands¹ cover 86% of the UAA in this area. Fruit crops are present in the region, but are rarely exploited. Located between the Condroz and the Ardenne, the Famenne (1,708 km²) has

agricultural land consisting of grasslands¹ (68% of the UAA) and cereal crops. Primarily located in Flanders, the sandy-loamy Region (1,080 km²) is cropland used for a wide range of activities (cereals, sugar beets, potatoes, etc.). The Jurassic Region (1,032 km²), situated on the edge of the province of Luxembourg, is characterised by soil which allows a large diversity of activities. Grasslands¹ cover 81% of the UAA in this area. Cereals remain the main crop. Located in the east of Wallonia, the High Ardenne (828 km²) consists of a large (38.1%) wooded area. Grasslands¹ cover 95% of the UAA in this area. The agricultural land in Fagne (326 km²) is mainly grassland¹ (71% of the UAA), the rest being sown mainly to cereals and green fodder. Finally, the Hennuyere Campine (38 km²), landlocked in the sandy-loamy Region, has a naturally poor sandy soil. Cereals and green fodder are the main crops³ here.

[1] Permanent and temporary grasslands | [2] Utilised agricultural area | [3] → AGRI 1

Map 5 Agricultural regions

