

## 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 km<sup>2</sup>) 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 km<sup>2</sup>) is covered to a large extent (50.5%) by forests. Grasslands<sup>1</sup> cover about 84% of the UAA<sup>2</sup>. Cereals, particularly spelt and spring barley, are the main crops in the region. The Condroz (2,632 km<sup>2</sup>) is characterised by agricultural land covered with grasslands<sup>1</sup> (34% of the UAA) and cereal crops, sugar beet and oil plants. The grassland Region (1,878 km<sup>2</sup>) has relatively fertile land. The steep slopes or shallow soil depth make ploughing difficult. Grasslands<sup>1</sup> 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 km<sup>2</sup>) has

agricultural land consisting of grasslands<sup>1</sup> (68% of the UAA) and cereal crops. Primarily located in Flanders, the sandy-loamy Region (1,080 km<sup>2</sup>) is cropland used for a wide range of activities (cereals, sugar beets, potatoes, etc.). The Jurassic Region (1,032 km<sup>2</sup>), situated on the edge of the province of Luxembourg, is characterised by soil which allows a large diversity of activities. Grasslands<sup>1</sup> cover 81% of the UAA in this area. Cereals remain the main crop. Located in the east of Wallonia, the High Ardenne (828 km<sup>2</sup>) consists of a large (38.1%) wooded area. Grasslands<sup>1</sup> cover 95% of the UAA in this area. The agricultural land in Fagne (326 km<sup>2</sup>) is mainly grassland<sup>1</sup> (71% of the UAA), the rest being sown mainly to cereals and green fodder. Finally, the Hennuyere Campine (38 km<sup>2</sup>), landlocked in the sandy-loamy Region, has a naturally poor sandy soil. Cereals and green fodder are the main crops<sup>3</sup> here.

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

Map 5 Agricultural regions

