

The northern part, known as Nablus Mountain consists of upfolds intertwined with internal basins, valleys, and isolated mountain blocks. Although this region is predominantly mountainous, tectonic uplifts of mountain blocks have resulted in the formation of relatively large stretches of plains extending between neighbouring hills. Notable examples are the plains of Libban, Howara, Sanour, Ya'abad, Deir Sharaf, and Anabta. The fertile soil (mostly terra rosa) and gentle slope of these areas permit patterns of farming which are much more intensive than that possible on adjacent slopes.

The structure of the southern hills, extending from Sinjel (midway between Nablus and Ramallah) to Hebron in the south, is more simple. It consists of a compact upfold or dome with only minor faults. Although no plains exist in the Hill Region, relatively large areas of gentle slopes extend over the plateau connecting Ramallah and Jerusalem. Hard limestone and dolomite rocks prevail in the higher parts of the hills, making commercial agriculture very difficult.

Western foothills are characterized by a gentle slope, softer chalky rocks, and a rainfall of 450 - 750 mm. This has permitted the use of modest indigenous forms of vegetation and animal life which help support a relatively dense population. It is such hills which constitute the bulk of cultivated land at the present and possess the potential for further expansion in agricultural production and rural settlement.

Eastern foothills are characterized by a much steeper slope and the impermeability of their chalky rocks. Absorption of rainwater by top rock layers is very low, which results in rapid surface runoff and active erosion. The flank of the upfold is broken by a number

