Green Earths

Green Earths are with divalent iron green colored, highly lightfast Iron-(II)-Silicates.

Iron compounds color a large part of our visible world:

- Iron-(III)-Compounds are green
- Iron-(II)/(III)-Compounds are black
- Iron-(III)-Compounds are yellow or red

Depending on the purity of the iron silicate, the color and suitability for different binders change. The purer the earth, the less contamination of yellow or red parts, the brighter and more bluish the color tone. The blue-green Cypriot Earth is a particularly beautiful variety.

The natural occurrences of Green Earths are rather small to very small. Mining is usually very difficult and many deposits are exhausted today. Therefore, Green Earths are only extracted for artistic purposes and for restoration.

Green Earths are often used in landscape painting. The Veronese Green Earth, the Bohemian Green Earth and the Bavarian Green Earth also serve as background for incarnate. The newly discovered Earth Green Opalite from Colorado is particularly suitable for acrylic painting.

Crystalline green iron silicates contain very little swellable components and are suitable for all binders (including water glass, acrylic, tempera and oil):

- #11110, #11111 Russian Green Earth, intense green
- #11150, #11151 Epidote, yellow-green like grass in winter
- #11181, #11182, #11183 Andeer Green, a green gneiss, coarser
- #11200 Green Jasper
- #11210 Green Quartz
- #11230 Opal Green, also available in larger quantities
- #11250 Celadonite, actually a kind of green sandstone from the Maritime Alps
- #11552 Brimisvellir Green, from Icelandic volcanic rock

Earth created by sedimentation processes or directly from clay-containing layers contain more swellable components and are therefore not suitable for acrylic and silicate. These include the actual Green Earths:

- #11000, #11010 Verona Green Earth, from the mountains near Verona
- #11100 Bavarian Green Earth, from the Alpine foothills south of Munich
- #11120 Volkonskoite, particularly green due to a natural proportion of chrome oxide green
- #11152 Florentine Green, made of green basalt
- #17400, #17410 Green Earth, from Cyprus, especially for Greek and Russian icon painting
- #40800 Green Earth light, from Germany, swellable and easy to dye with dyes
- #40810 Bohemian Green Earth, remaining stock
- #40821 Green Earth from Verona

Because of the low availability of Green Earths, there have been around for a long time beautiful or adulterated Green Earths. Mixtures with chromium oxide hydrate green, phthalo green, cobalt blue or even green dyes were and are common:

- #40830 Green Earth from France, imitation
- #41700 Verona Green Earth, imitation
- #41750 Vagone Green Earth
- #41770 Nicosia Green (similar to bluish Cyprus Green Earth)
- #41800 Bohemian Green Earth, imitation
- #41820 Verona Green Earth, imitation