

# Microcline

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24 February 2016



**General Mineral Formula:**  $\text{KAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$

**Mineral Chemical Class:** Tectosilicates

**Specific Gravity:** 2.5-2.6

**Hardness:** 6

**Cleavage:** 2,1 basal, prismatic; 3,1 pinacoidal. Cleavage is 90 degrees.

**Luster:** Vitreous

**Streak:** White

**Characteristic Color(s):** White, green/blue, milky. Has adularescence.

**Crystal System:** Triclinic

**Crystal Class:**  $\bar{1}$

**Crystal Description (common forms, habit, etc.):** Typically green/white. it is white and pink with the presence of lead. Often confused with Orthoclase and sanadine. Large crystals with habitual cleavage and twinning.

**Environment (where you find the material:** Found in grainy and compact crystal systems. Prethitic, exolution temperatures.

**Common Mineral Associations (in samples, also consult text, notes:** Albite or other plagioclase feldspars in alternating patterns and forms a feldspar rock known as Perthite. Found with Quartz (especially smokey), Muscovite, and plagioclase feldspars.

**Scientific Usage/Significance:** None

**Industrial or Social Use/Significance:** Important for the manufacture of glass and ceramics. A gemstone and often polished into beads.

**Environmental Significance:** Fairly stable in the weathering environment, it is a common constituent of detrital sedimentary rocks.