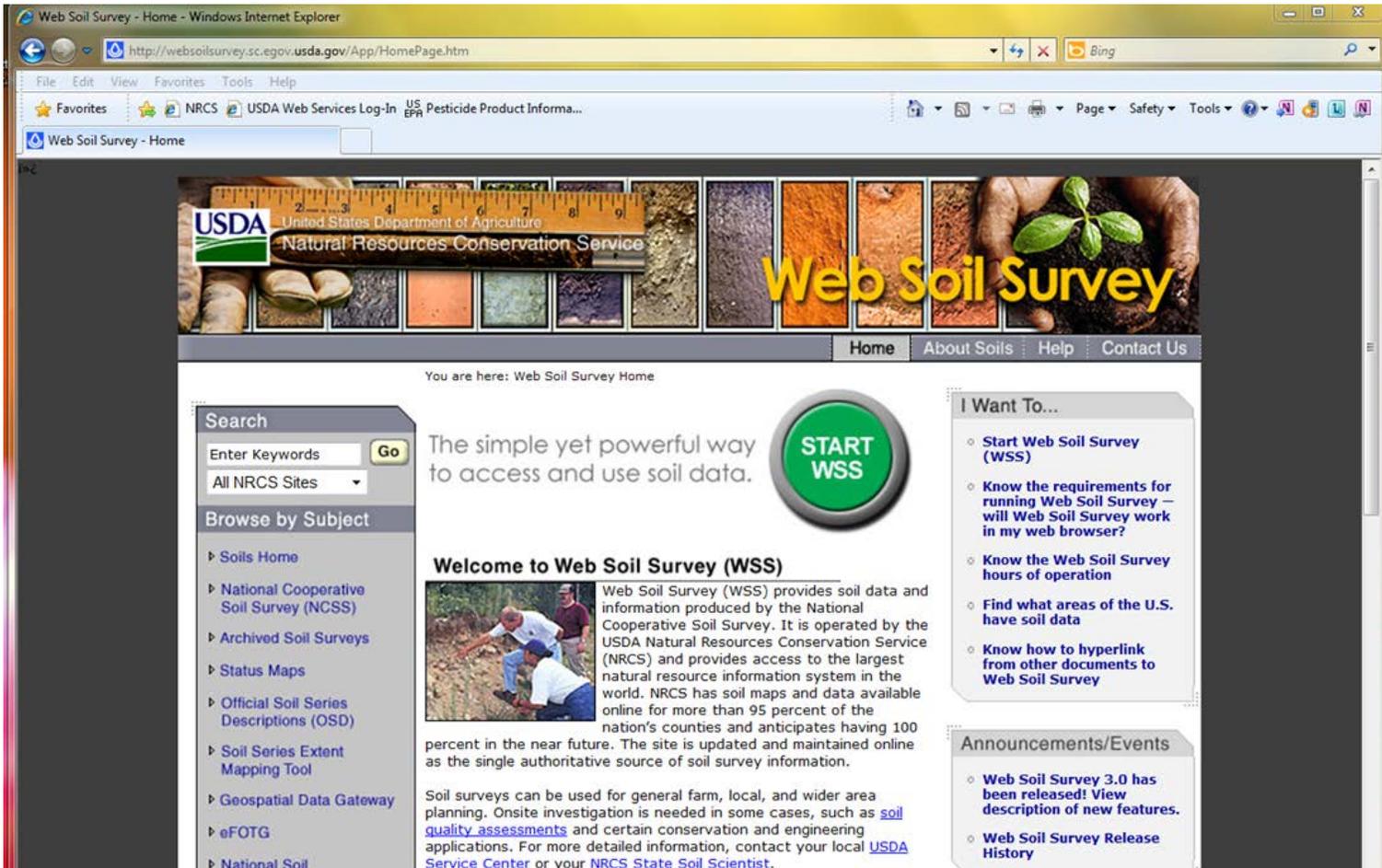


Downloading Soils Data from Web Soil Survey

Here are some quick instructions on using Web Soil Survey. Once you have downloaded the zip file for your county, the instructions are much the same as with the data mart (unzipping, populating the database, etc.).

1) Go to Web Soil Survey <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>



The screenshot shows the Web Soil Survey homepage in a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar displays the URL: <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>. The page features a header with the USDA logo and the text "United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service". The main heading is "Web Soil Survey". Below the heading, there is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About Soils", "Help", and "Contact Us". The page content includes a search box, a "Browse by Subject" menu, a "Welcome to Web Soil Survey (WSS)" section with a "START WSS" button, and a "I Want To..." section with several links. The "I Want To..." section includes links for "Start Web Soil Survey (WSS)", "Know the requirements for running Web Soil Survey", "Know the Web Soil Survey hours of operation", "Find what areas of the U.S. have soil data", and "Know how to hyperlink from other documents to Web Soil Survey". The "Announcements/Events" section includes links for "Web Soil Survey 3.0 has been released! View description of new features." and "Web Soil Survey Release History".

Search

Enter Keywords

All NRCS Sites

Browse by Subject

- Soils Home
- National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS)
- Archived Soil Surveys
- Status Maps
- Official Soil Series Descriptions (OSD)
- Soil Series Extent Mapping Tool
- Geospatial Data Gateway
- eFOTG
- National Soil

You are here: Web Soil Survey Home

The simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data.

START WSS

Welcome to Web Soil Survey (WSS)

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information.

Soil surveys can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning. Onsite investigation is needed in some cases, such as [soil quality assessments](#) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) or your [NRCS State Soil Scientist](#).

I Want To...

- Start Web Soil Survey (WSS)
- Know the requirements for running Web Soil Survey – will Web Soil Survey work in my web browser?
- Know the Web Soil Survey hours of operation
- Find what areas of the U.S. have soil data
- Know how to hyperlink from other documents to Web Soil Survey

Announcements/Events

- Web Soil Survey 3.0 has been released! View description of new features.
- Web Soil Survey Release History

2) Click on the big green button. That will open up this page.

The screenshot shows the Web Soil Survey web application. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Contact Us, Subscribe, Archived Soil Surveys, Soil Survey Status, Glossary, Preferences, Link, Logout, and Help. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with buttons for Area of Interest (AOI), Soil Map, Soil Data Explorer, Download Soils Data, and Shopping Cart (Free). The main content area is divided into two sections. On the left, there is a search and navigation panel. It includes a search bar, an 'Area of Interest' section with an 'Import AOI' button, and a 'Quick Navigation' section with fields for Address, State and County, and Soil Survey Area. The 'Soil Survey Area' section has buttons for 'Set AOI', 'Select Map Units', and 'View'. Below these are dropdown menus for State (Minnesota) and County (optional) (McLeod). A table lists the selected area's details:

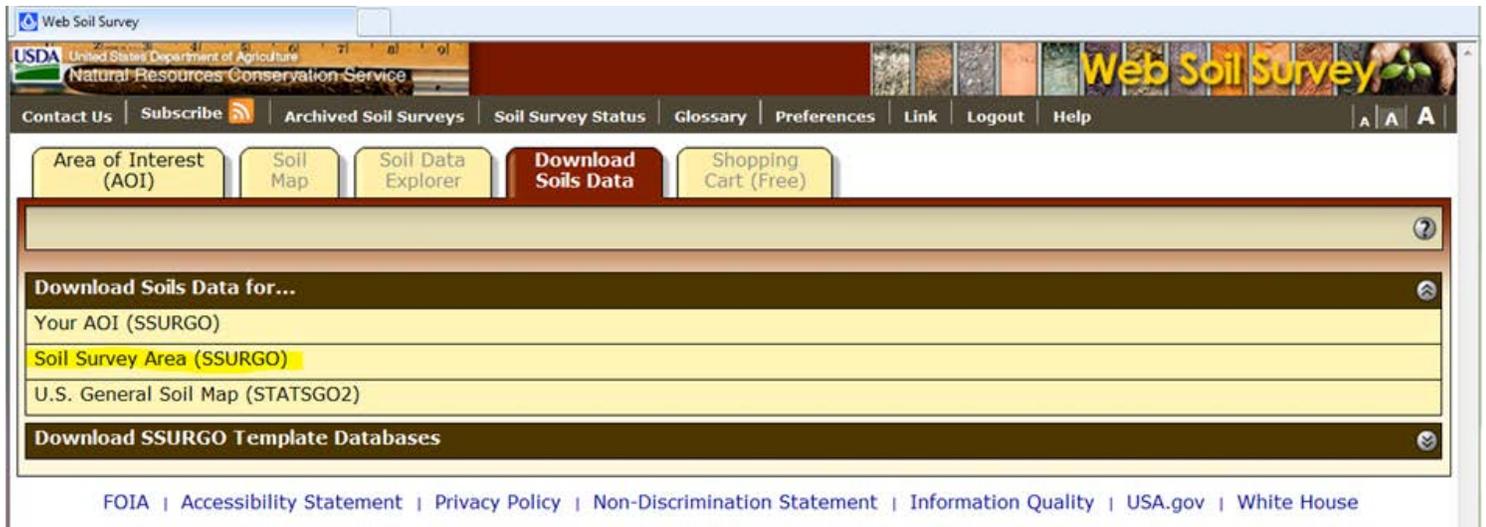
Name	Area Symbol	Data Availability	Version
McLeod County, Minnesota	MN085	Tabular and Spatial, complete	Survey Area: Version 10, Mar 28, 2013 Tabular: Version 7, Jul 3, 2012 Spatial: Version 4, Mar 28, 2013

On the right, the 'Area of Interest Interactive Map' section features a map of the contiguous United States with state boundaries and abbreviations. A legend is visible on the left side of the map. The map includes a scale bar (0 to 700 miles) and a 'View Extent' dropdown menu set to 'Contiguous U.S.'. The browser's status bar at the bottom indicates 'Local intranet | Protected Mode: Off' and a zoom level of 125%.

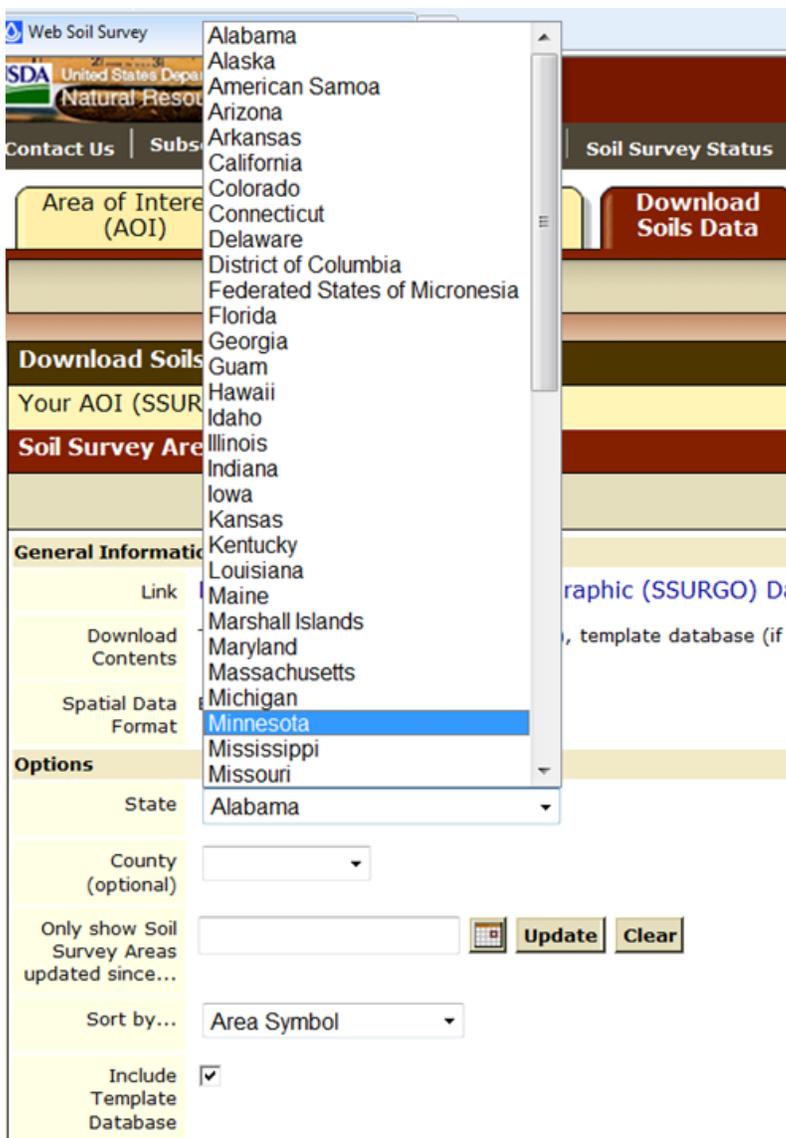
3) Choose the tab labeled "Download Soils Data"

This screenshot shows the Web Soil Survey interface with the 'Download Soils Data' tab selected. The navigation bar at the top is identical to the previous screenshot. The secondary navigation bar now highlights the 'Download Soils Data' button. The main content area is titled 'Download Soils Data for...' and contains three options: 'Your AOI (SSURGO)', 'Soil Survey Area (SSURGO)', and 'U.S. General Soil Map (STATSGO2)'. Below these options is a section for 'Download SSURGO Template Databases'. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows 'Local intranet | Protected Mode: Off' and a zoom level of 125%.

4) Choose "Soil Survey Area (SSURGO)" (I've highlighted it in the screen capture below):



5) Choose your State and County.



6) Click on the link (in this case: “wss_SSA_MN085_soildb_MN_2003_[2013-03-28].zip”) under the header “Download Link” (highlighted, lower right hand corner).

Your AOI (SSURGO)

Soil Survey Area (SSURGO)

General Information

Link [Description of Soil Survey Geographic \(SSURGO\) Database](#)

Download Contents Tabular data, spatial data (if available), template database (if selected), and FGDC metadata

Spatial Data Format ESRI Shapefile, Geographic WGS84

Options

State

County (optional)

Only show Soil Survey Areas updated since...

Sort by...

Include Template Database

Soil Survey Area (SSURGO) Download Links

Name	Area Symbol	Data Availability	Version	Template Database	Download Size	Download Link
McLeod County, Minnesota	MN085	Tabular and Spatial, complete	Survey Area: Version 10, Mar 28, 2013 Tabular: Version 7, Jul 3, 2012 Spatial: Version 4, Mar 28, 2013	soildb_MN_2003 Access 2003 Version 36	21.7 MB	wss_SSA_MN085_soildb_MN_2003_[2013-03-28].zip

U.S. General Soil Map (STATSGO2)

Download SSURGO Template Databases

Once you download the zipped soil file, you’ll have to unzip and “populate” the access MDB (note: the database names are different in these different examples, but it works the same).

You must have Microsoft Access 2003 or newer installed on your computer to “populate” the database. You do not need Microsoft Access to run WIN-PST 3.1.x.

You will also need some basic Microsoft Windows skills to unzip files, navigate around your computer, find and move downloaded files, and copy and paste folder paths.

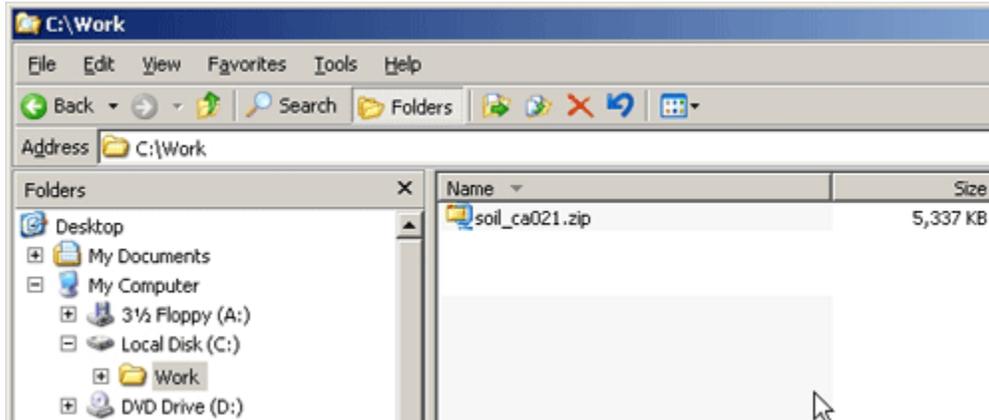
Instructions for populating the downloaded soil survey database are found on the next page.

Populating the soils database (i.e., SSURGO template database)

When the database (e.g., soildb_US_2003.mdb) is downloaded from Web Soil Survey, it is empty and must be populated with raw data found in the tabular folder before it can be used in WIN-PST.

Step 1 - Unzip

The file 'soil_ca021.zip' is a SSURGO export file downloaded from **Web Soil Survey**.



A SSURGO export file can be unzipped using WinZip or an equivalent application. When an export file is unzipped, the following directory hierarchy is produced in the directory to which the export file was unzipped:

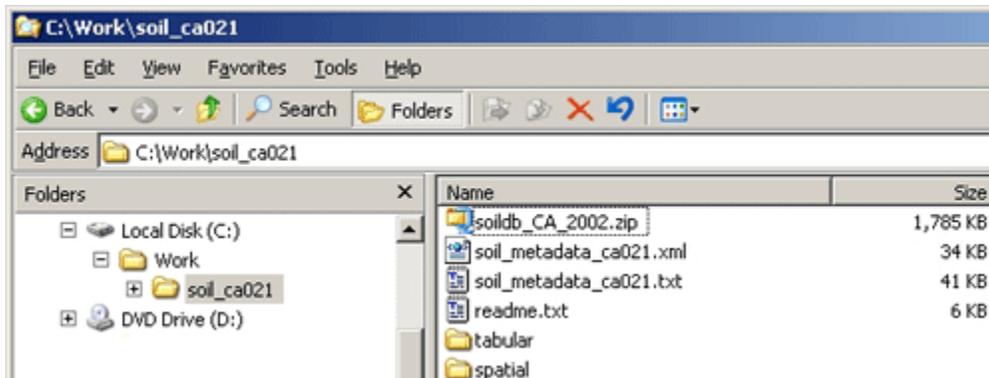
- soil_ssasymbol
- tabular
- spatial

where ssasymbol is the symbol of the corresponding soil survey area.

Step 2 - Unzip the Microsoft Access database

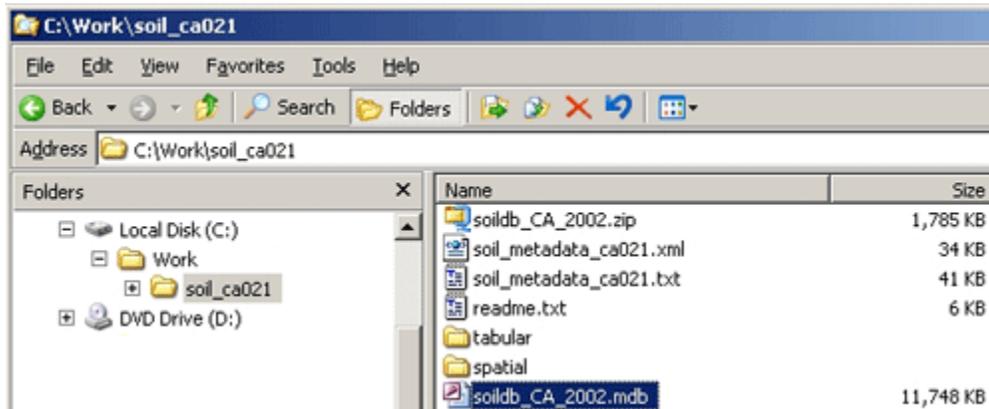
The file 'soildb_CA_2002.zip' is a zipped Microsoft Access database, into which the tabular soil data can be imported. This file will only exist if the person who generated this export requested its inclusion. The embedded Microsoft Access database is referred to as a 'SSURGO template database'.

A) Unzip the soildb_CA_2002.zip' into the same directory to which the export file was unzipped.

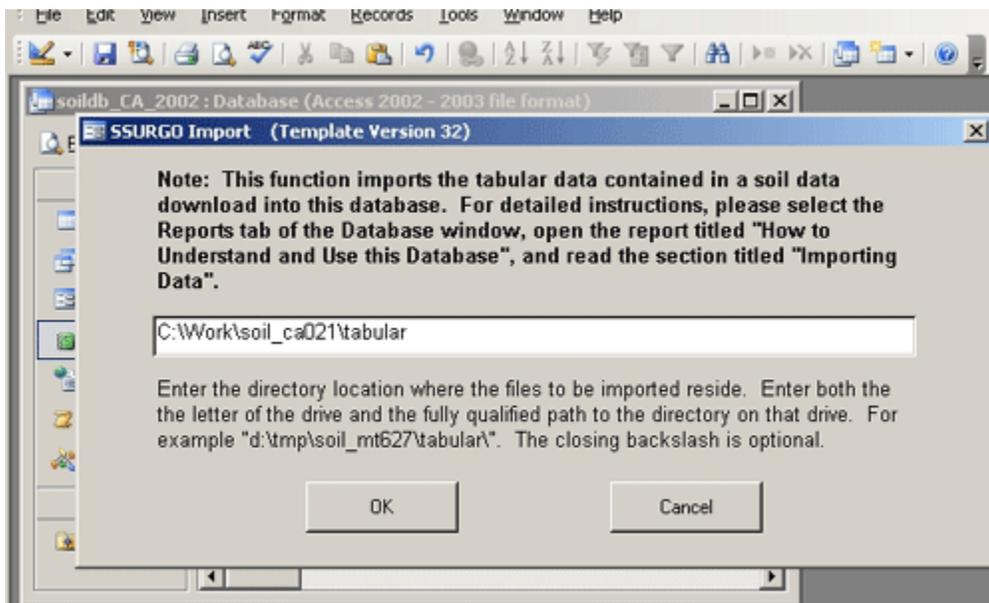


Step 3 - Import the tabular data

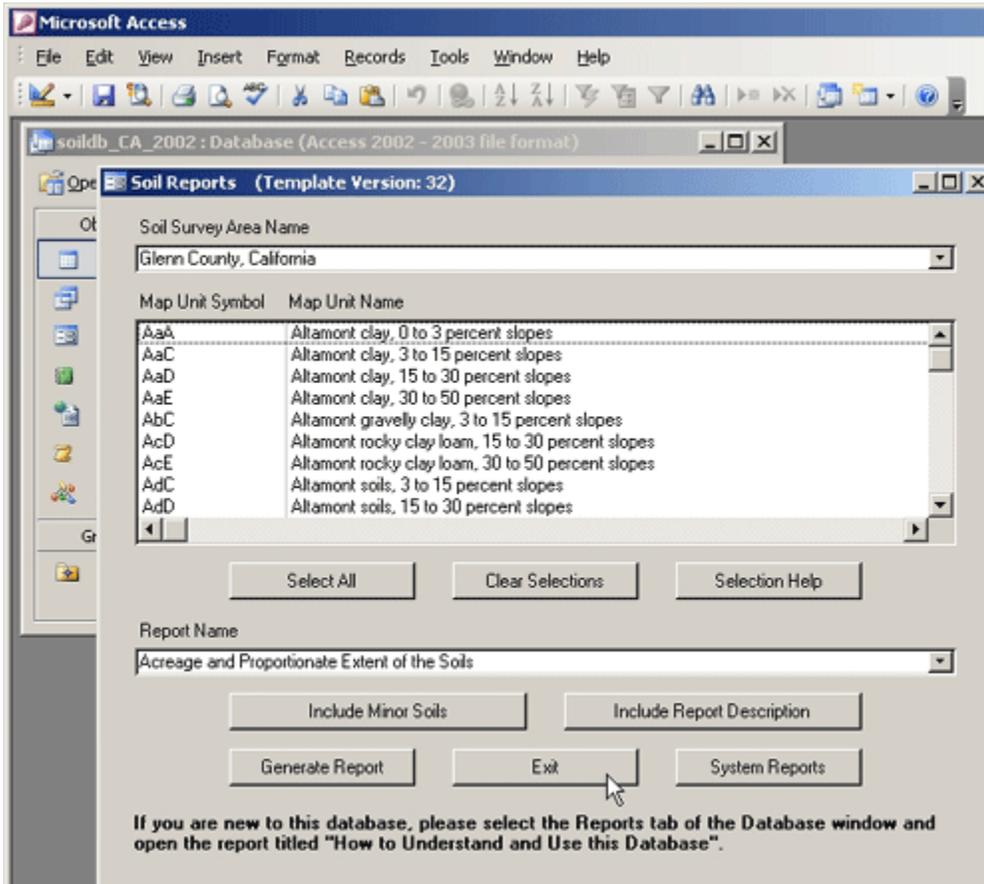
- A) Open the unzipped database 'soildb_CA_2002.mdb' by either double or single clicking on it. Remember, this database is empty and must be populated with data.



- B) Enter the directory location of the 'tabular' data and click the OK button.



- C) Following the tabular data import, click the Exit button to close Soil Reports and then exit Microsoft Access by using the red X in the upper right hand corner of the Access application.



Done! The SSURGO database is ready for use with WIN-PST and can be moved to another more permanent directory location if necessary.