User Guide
National Commodity Crop Productivity Index (NCCPI)
Version 1.0, 2008

Cover Pictures

***Top.*—Harvesting wheat in an area of Washington State. Photo by USDA, NRCS.**

***Middle.*—A field of cotton in New Madrid County, Mississippi. Photo by Lynn Betts, USDA, NRCS.**

***Bottom.*—Contour stripcropping in an area of York County, Pennsylvania. Photo by Ron Nichols, USDA, NRCS.**

Nondiscrimination Statement

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Preface

Introduction

The National Commodity Crop Productivity Index (NCCPI) model is a national soil interpretation that is not intended to replace other crop production models developed by individual states. At present, NCCPI is used in the National Soil Information System (NASIS) environment and is not available through the Soil Data Mart. It presently deals only with nonirrigated crops, but at a later date it will be expanded to include irrigated crops, rangeland, and forestland productivity.

The user guide for NCCPI, version 1.0, arrays soils according to their inherent capacity to produce dryland (nonirrigated) commodity crops. Most of the NCCPI criteria relate directly to the ability of soils, landscapes, and climates to foster crop productivity. A few criteria relate to factors that can limit use of the land (e.g., surface boulders). All criteria used in the index affect crop culture and production and are referred to as factors affecting inherent productivity. The rating indices can be obtained through a computer program in NASIS.

Inherent productivity is considered nearly invariant over time. Temporary fluctuations in productivity caused by good or bad management and year-to-year variations in weather are not addressed. More permanent changes in soil properties that cause significant changes in productivity can affect the NCCPI index when current NASIS information is used. Extreme erosion, compaction, land leveling, and salinization are examples that could cause such changes.

Traditional steps in creating soil survey interpretations are:

1. Studying an array of soils having known, documented performance.
2. Constructing conceptual and mathematical relationships that predict soil performance.
3. Using the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) soil database (NASIS) to generate predictions on a wider array of soils.
4. Testing predictions against the soil survey knowledge base, that is, known local relationships that are accumulated from personal experience; field observations by soil scientists (soil surveyors) and NCSS cooperators and collaborators; and the scientific literature.

Why the NCCPI Was Developed

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) of USDA provided one stimulus to develop the NCCPI. The inherent capacity of soil to produce commodity crops is one factor needed to adjust average rental payments. A soil model that is consistent across political boundaries and over time is required for many uses. Crop varieties, management scenarios, and yields vary from place to place and over time, reflecting choices made by farmers and ranchers. These factors partially mask inherent soil quality. Except for the extreme circumstances mentioned above, inherent soil quality or inherent soil productivity varies little over time or from place to place for a specific soil (map unit component) identified by the NCSS.

Staff of the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, developed the NCCPI to use soil survey information that is accessible in every county where commodity crops are grown. The system arrays soils according to their relative productivity for commodity crops and avoids the inequities that are possible when yield data alone are used to rate soils.

Although the immediate NCCPI focus is on commodity crops, productivity for certain other crops was considered in those areas where other crops dominate.

Why the NCCPI Uses the NASIS Database

The NCCPI uses soil data stored in NASIS. It rates all soils that are used for the production of commodity crops. The NCCPI model data parameters are items that are (1) uniformly available across the Nation, (2) calculated and/or produced by the same standards throughout the Nation, (3) accessible electronically throughout the Nation, (4) capable of producing results through a system that uses routinely maintained data and information, and (5) detailed enough to accurately represent a few acres in highly variable soils. The NASIS database meets these criteria. Some other attributes important to plant growth do not occur in the NASIS database. These attributes include such information as day length and photosynthetically active radiation. The United States was therefore divided into areas that commonly produce specific commodity crops. These areas have climatic factors that remain fairly constant. In some cases criteria from *Soil Taxonomy* (Soil Survey Staff, 1999) are used as effective surrogates for specific climatic variables.

The NASIS database provides information and soil data for nearly all of the Nation's farmland. After soils and their properties in a specific field have been identified, recorded, stored in a database, and published, the database can be queried to obtain data about soil properties and accessory information about landscape features, soil climate, parent material, and taxonomic classes.

As NCCPI development continues and is expanded to include other land uses, the expert knowledge of soil scientists that collected the data and populated the database will be used to calibrate the NCCPI indices across the Nation. As known relative productivities and geographic relationships of soils and crop growth become more clearly understood, new information will be added and used to refine aspects of the model.

Each database entity used in the calculation of NCCPI ratings is called a map unit component. A map unit component is a phase or type of a soil series or higher taxonomic unit. Numerical values for each soil property of each component stored in the database are typical values for each map unit component of the soil series or higher taxa within a soil survey area. Thus, the index for a soil series may differ from place to place because of the geographic variability of the soils in the series. Many map units consist of more than one component. Not every component name is included in map unit names, but components are identified by name in map unit descriptions and within the database.

Short-term soil variations caused by differences in land management are not yet in the database. Dynamic soil properties, the sampling protocol, and data storage are currently under discussion as parts of projected adjustments in standard NCSS protocols and in the NASIS database structure. Results from soil survey data are applicable to the current norms for each soil component of each map unit within the NCCPI.

Present Applicability

In version 1.0 of NCCPI, the model arrays soils only according to their productivity for nonirrigated crops. The focus is on commodity crops in the United States, except for areas where commodity crops are not important. The best soils for the growth of commodity crops generally are the best soils for the growth of other crops.

The NCCPI model focuses on a relative productivity index or ranking over periods of years, not for a single year. Productivity during a single year may be dramatically affected by annual weather or changes in management practices.

This user guide is intended to provide a general overview of NCCPI and is therefore not a rigorous scientific treatment of soil productivity. A future series of peer- reviewed publications will provide more detailed background information.

User Guide
National Commodity Crop Productivity Index (NCCPI)
Version 1.0

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The National Commodity Crop Productivity Index is an interpretation in the National Soil Information System (NASIS). It is not intended to replace models developed by individual states. It is for nonirrigated commodity crops only. The interpretation uses natural relationships of soil, landscape, and climate factors to model the response of commodity crops. The NASIS interpretations generator uses a fuzzy systems approach to modeling. Each soil, climate, or landscape characteristic is given a rating (score) determined by a comparison of its value to an empirical optimum value (see Appendix 2). These scores are manipulated in various ways to produce the index. The model only uses data available in the NASIS data structure. The following discussion will identify attribute data used and illuminate relationships among the soil, landscape, and climatic properties and the productivity index for each commodity crop category.

The model has three main submodels (fig. 1), each of which represents the response of a suite of crops to soil, landscape, and climatic conditions. The "OR" operator indicates that the highest of the ratings calculated by three main submodels is reported as the NCCPI for the map unit component. This system has the flexibility to add more crop submodels if needed. The three current submodels (categories) are Corn and Soybeans, Small Grains, and Cotton. These categories represent three major divisions of commodity crops, in terms of climatic, landscape, and soil adaptation. Each of the three submodels will be examined in this publication. While

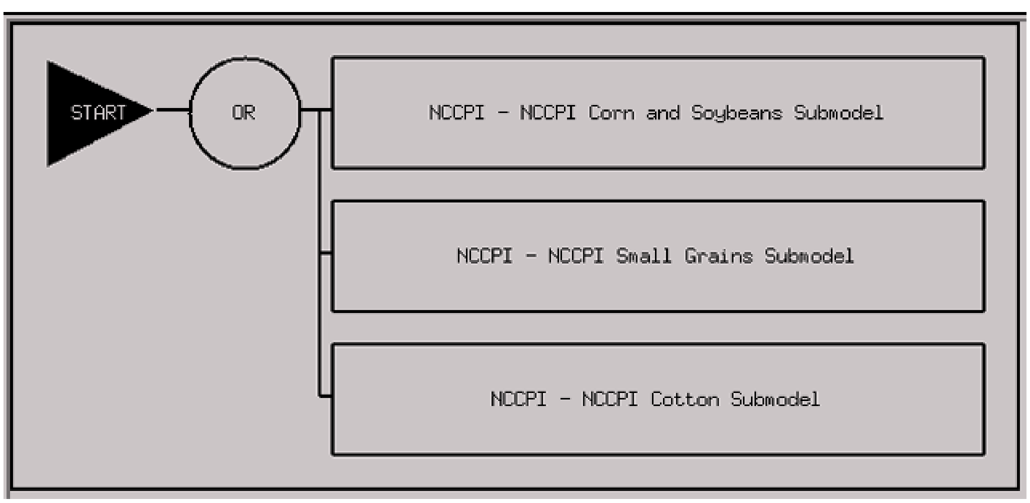


Figure 1.—The Main Model of NCCPI.

the overall look of the three submodels is similar, the inner workings are somewhat different.

The Corn and Soybeans Submodel

Figure 2 illustrates the Corn and Soybeans Submodel. Five of the subrules in this submodel have reasonable fuzzy logic relationships, while two of the subrules utilize crisp relationships. Crisp relationships are used because the data available for specific parameters, such as those for erosion, are not of a continuous nature but instead are class data. This information is not of sufficient quality to develop a fuzzy relationship, since the quantitative impact of an erosion class on crop productivity is generally unknown.

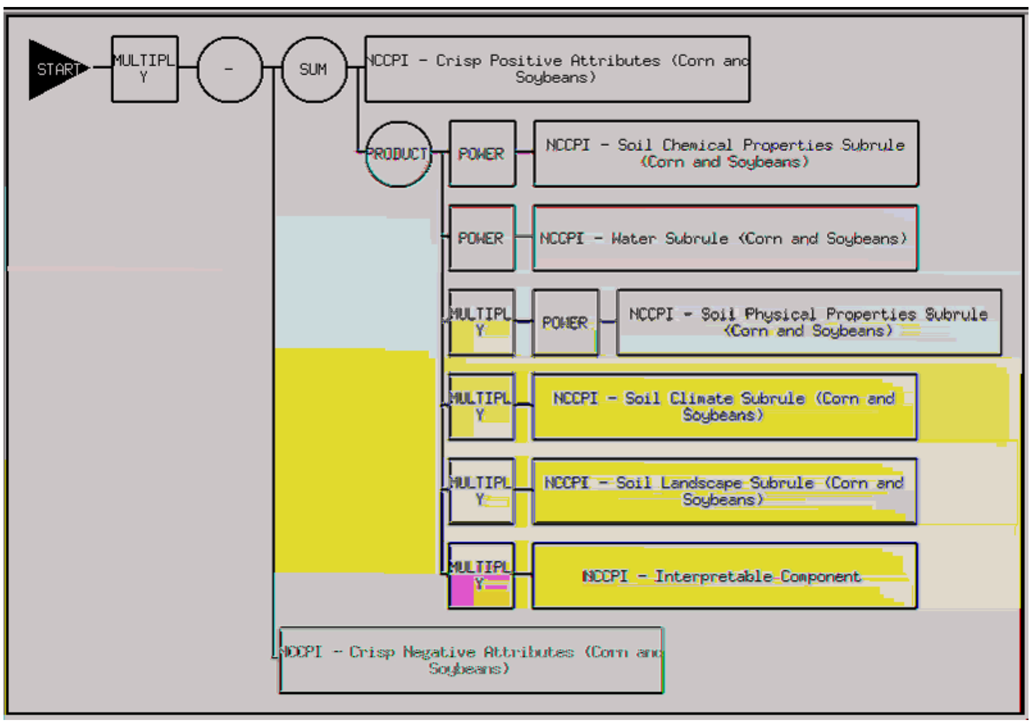


Figure 2.—The Corn and Soybeans Submodel.

In the calculation of the corn and soybeans index, ratings from the chemical, water, physical, climate, and landscape subrules are multiplied together in a manner similar to that of the Storie Index model used in California (Storie, 1937, 1978). The crisp factors are added or subtracted from the score, depending upon whether they enhance or impair soil productivity.

The Interpretable Component Subrule occurs in all three submodels. It is the method used to ensure that soil components that should not be rated are not rated. Without affecting the ratings of arable soils, it causes miscellaneous areas to be rated as zero.

The Soil Chemical Properties Subrule (Corn and Soybeans), shown in figure 3, quantifies the effects of pH, CEC, organic matter, and adverse chemical properties in the root zone, which is considered to be from the soil surface to a depth of 150 cm or to a root-limiting layer. The effects of pH are considered for depths of 0 to 20 cm and 20 to 150 cm. The most limiting of the two scores is used in the calculation. The CEC

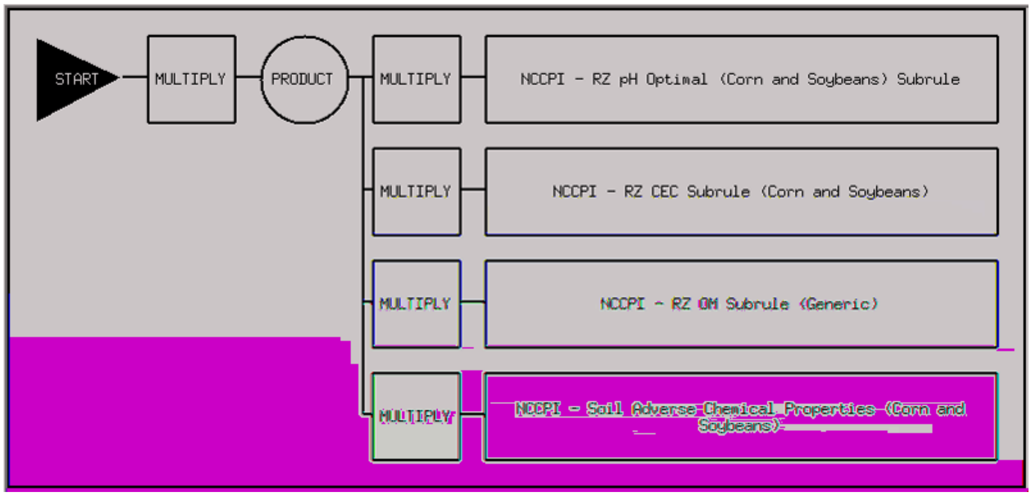


Figure 3.—The Soil Chemical Properties Subrule (Corn and Soybeans).

influence is based on the total exchange capacity in a 1-cm-square area extending from the soil surface to a depth of 150 cm or to a root-restricting layer (see Appendix 5.2). Horizon CEC, content of rock fragments, and bulk density are used in the calculation. A small input of CEC is allowed for soils having a water table. Organic matter also is considered for the depth ranges of 0 to 20 cm and 20 to 150 cm. The average condition is then used in the calculation. Adverse chemical properties, namely, SAR, EC, and gypsum content, are considered in a third-level subrule, and the most limiting of the three is used in the chemical properties calculation.

The Water Subrule (Corn and Soybeans), shown in figure 4, quantifies the capability of the soil, climate, and landscape to supply water for crop growth. Four sources of water are considered: available water-holding capacity in the root zone (RZ AWC), precipitation during the growing season (Precipitation Recharge), the effects of subirrigation (Water Table Recharge), and surface contributions (Water-Gathering Surface). RZ AWC is the amount of plant-available water a soil can store between the surface and a root-limiting layer or between the surface and a depth of 150 cm, whichever is less.

Precipitation Recharge is intended to represent the effect of rainfall during the growing season (see Appendix 5.7). The amount of rainfall indicated for a component

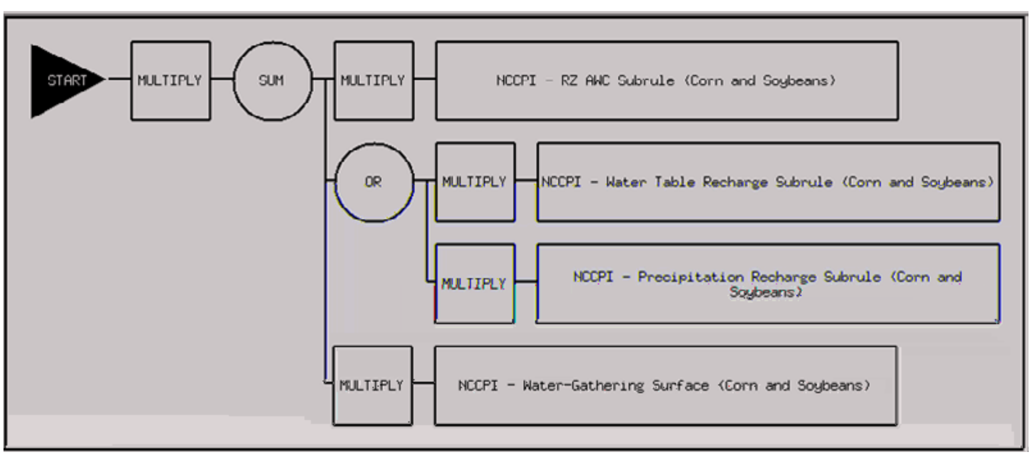


Figure 4.—The Water Subrule (Corn and Soybeans).

in the database is decreased because of the effects of temperature, and a proportion is assigned for crop use. For example, consider two soils, both receiving 1,000 mm of rainfall per year. One soil is hot thermic, while the other is cool mesic. The rainfall on the cooler site is more readily available for crop growth, and so the cool mesic component receives a higher “precipitation recharge” score. This adjustment lessens the negative effect on crop yields that is observed in soils having a low RZ AWC. For soils that receive timely rainfall, AWC is less important. Therefore, if the soil component occurs in a high rainfall area, the “precipitation recharge” becomes important if the temperature is not too high. Conceptually, “precipitation recharge” is an oversimplified Thornthwaite-style calculation (Thornthwaite, 1948) using available NASIS data fields.

Water Table Recharge quantifies the effects of a saturated zone deep within the root zone where roots can exploit water during summer or during other parts of the growing season. The Water-Gathering Surface Subrule accounts for additions of water (run on) resulting from the position of the soil on the landform.

This calculation uses the highest score of either the water table or precipitation i(This calculofeitheLEP son sface Sseason.)1atihe ef horizon of the map unit component. The soil depth subrule examines the thickness of soil material over a root-limiting zone (see Appendix 4).

In the Soil Climate Subrule (Corn and Soybeans), shown in figure 6, two major aspects of climate—mean annual frost-free days and mean annual precipitation—are considered. Data for both of these are extracted from the Component Table of NASIS. Multiplying the scores together determines the soil climate rating.

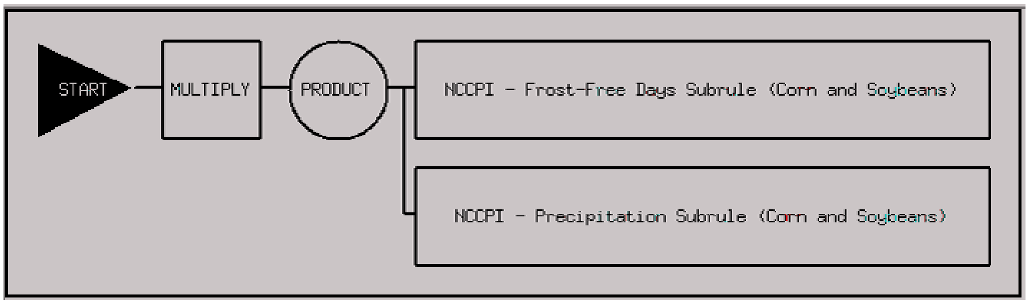


Figure 6.—The Soil Climate Subrule (Corn and Soybeans).

The Soil Landscape Subrule (Corn and Soybeans), shown in figure 7, uses slope gradient, depth to a water table during the growing season (see Appendix 5.6), and the occurrence of ponding (see Appendix 5.5) and flooding (see Appendix 5.4) during the growing season to calculate an index for the landscape component of corn and soybean productivity. Determining the actual depth to a water table is difficult when soils are drained. To adjust for drainage, the Component Local Phase and the Component SIR Phase are queried for the word “drained.” If a component is listed as drained, the water table is assumed to be a depth of 160 cm. Another enigma is determining when the growing season actually occurs. This time period is based on the taxonomic temperature regime, populated in the Component Table, and is the same as the growing season used by the hydric soil calculation.

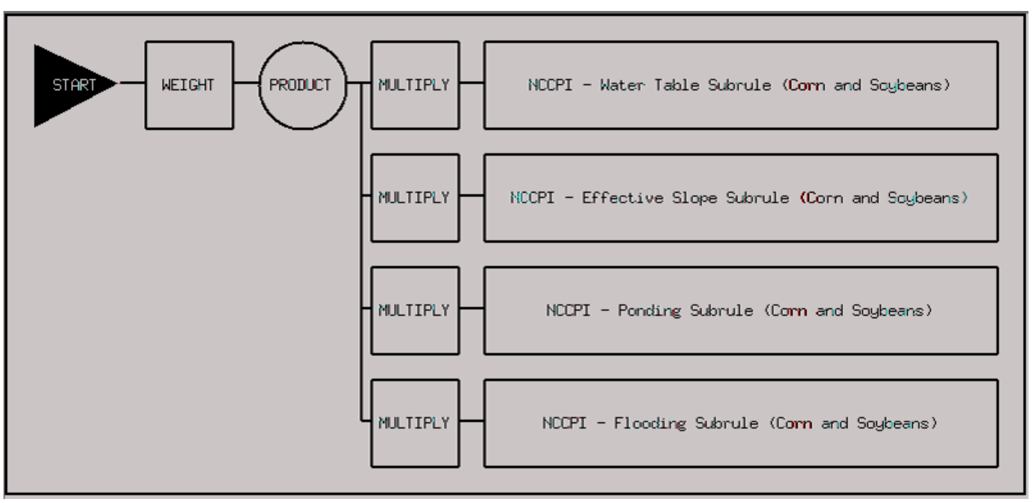


Figure 7.—The Soil Landscape Subrule (Corn and Soybeans).

The Crisp Positive Attributes Subrule (Corn and Soybeans), shown in figure 8, quantifies soil attributes that foster high productivity but cannot, at present, be reasonably represented by fuzzy set methods. Currently, the corn and soybeans model recognizes the benefits of loess as a parent material, which is observed for at least Wisconsinan-aged loess material. This relationship may or may not hold true for older loess deposits. The result of the crisp positive attributes score is added to the fuzzy score.

Figure 8.—The Crisp Positive Attributes Subrule (Corn and Soybeans).

The Crisp Negative Attributes Subrule (Corn and Soybeans), shown in figure 9, quantifies the effect of detrimental soil conditions for which obtaining a fuzzy set is difficult. This difficulty may result from the lack of consistent NASIS data or from the need for more time to analyze existing data. Surface rock fragments, erosion, rock outcrop, surface degradation, and lack of a surface outlet are the current crisp attributes considered. Negative attributes are summed, and the summed total is subtracted from the sum of the fuzzy and crisp positive features.

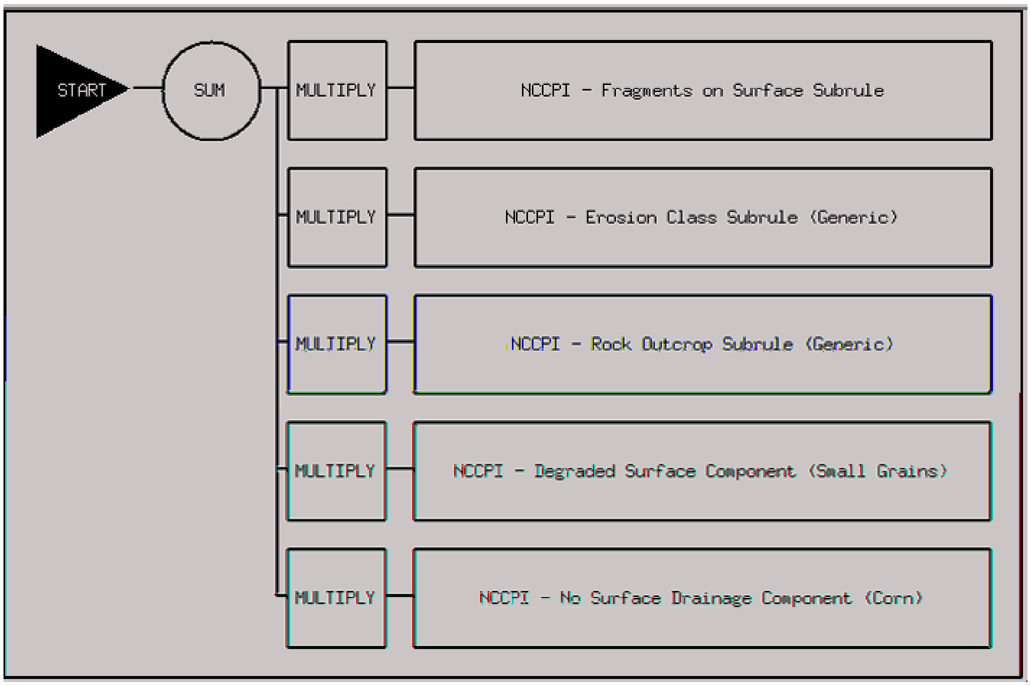


Figure 9.—The Crisp Negative Attributes Subrule (Corn and Soybeans).

The Small Grains Submodel

Figure 10 illustrates the Small Grains Submodel. Five of the subrules in this submodel have reasonable fuzzy relationships. One crisp negative relationship also is used in this calculation. Crisp relationships are used because the data available for specific parameters, such as those for erosion, are not of a continuous nature but instead are class data. This information is not of sufficient quality to develop a fuzzy relationship, since the quantitative impact of an erosion class on crop productivity is generally unknown. The results of soil chemical properties, water, soil physical properties, climate, and soil landscape subrules are multiplied together in a manner similar to that of the Storie Index model (Storie, 1937, 1978). The quantity of the negative effects of the crisp negative attributes is subtracted from this product.

The Interpretable Component Subrule occurs in all three submodels. It is the method used to ensure that soil components that should not be rated are not rated. Without affecting the ratings of arable soils, it causes miscellaneous areas to be rated as zero.

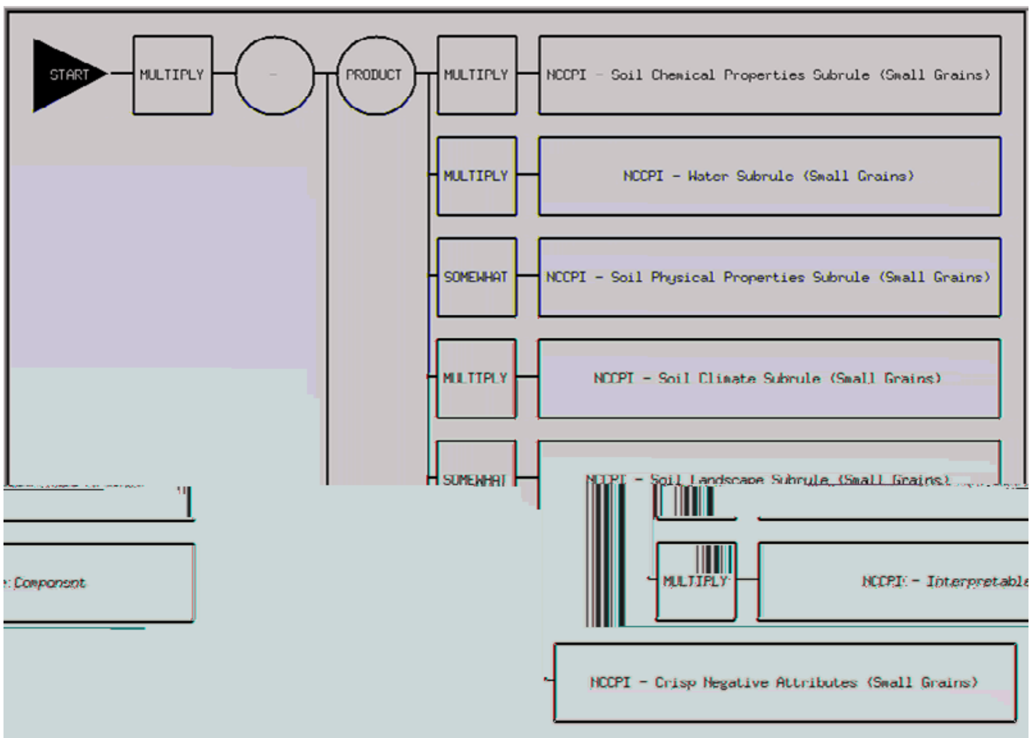


Figure 10.—The Small Grains Submodel.

The Soil Chemical Properties Subrule (Small Grains), shown in figure 11, quantifies the effects of pH, CEC, organic matter, and adverse chemical properties in the root zone, which is considered to be from the soil surface to a depth of 150 cm or to a root-limiting layer. The effects of pH are considered for depths of 0 to 20 cm and 20 to 150 cm. The most limiting score is used in the calculation. The CEC influence is based on the calculated total exchange capacity of a 1-cm-square area extending from the surface to a depth of 150 cm or to a root-limiting layer (see Appendix 5.2). Horizon CEC, content of rock fragments, and bulk density are used in this calculation. A small input of CEC is allowed for soils having a water table. Organic matter also is

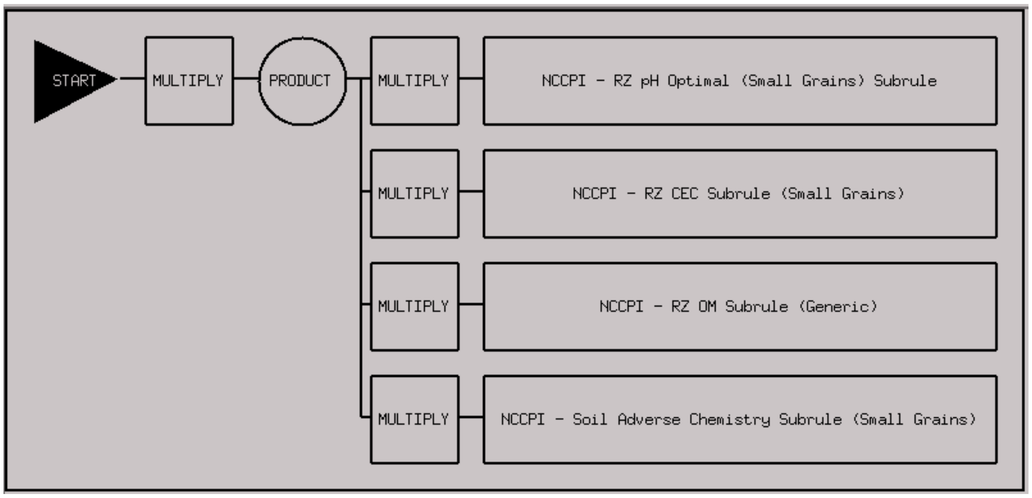


Figure 11.—The Soil Chemical Properties Subrule (Small Grains).

considered for the depth ranges 0 to 20 cm and 20 to 150 cm. The average condition is then used in the calculation. Adverse chemical properties, namely, SAR, EC, and gypsum content, are considered in a third-level subrule, and the most limiting of the three properties is used in the chemical properties calculation.

The Water Subrule (Small Grains), shown in figure 12, quantifies the effect of the water-supplying capability of the soil, landscape, and climate on crop growth. Four sources of water are currently considered: available water-holding capacity in the root zone (RZ AWC), precipitation during the growing season (Precipitation Recharge), the effects of subirrigation (Water Table Recharge), and surface contributions (Water-Gathering Surface). RZ AWC is the amount of plant-available water a soil can store between the surface and a root-limiting layer or between the surface and a depth of 150 cm, whichever is less.

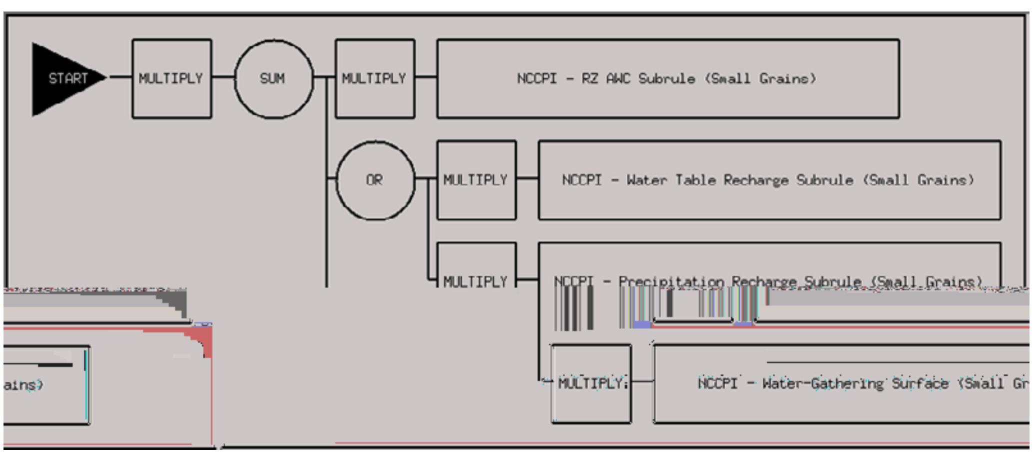


Figure 12.—The Water Subrule (Small Grains).

Precipitation Recharge is intended to capture the effect of rainfall during the growing season (see Appendix 5.7). The amount of rainfall considered is decreased because of the effects of temperature and some proportion of crop use. For example, consider two soils, both receiving 1,000 mm of rainfall per year. One soil is hot thermic, while the other is cool mesic. The rainfall on the cooler site is more readily available for crop growth, and so the cool mesic component receives a higher “precipitation recharge” score. This adjustment lessens the negative effect on crop yields that is observed in soils having a low RZ AWC. If the soil receives timely rainfall, AWC is less important. If a soil is in a higher rainfall area, the “precipitation recharge” becomes important if the temperature is not too high. Conceptually, Precipitation Recharge is an oversimplified Thornthwaite-style (Thornthwaite, 1948) calculation using the data fields available in NASIS. The various subrule components are tailored to the response of small grains to water.

Water Table Recharge quantifies the effects of a saturated zone deep within the root zone where roots can exploit the water during summer or during other parts of the growing season. The Water-Gathering Surface Subrule accounts for water additions (run on) resulting from the position of the soil on the landform.

This calculation uses the highest score of either the water table or precipitation recharge. This score is added to the RZ AWC score. About 25 percent of the water available for crop growth is attributed to water table or precipitation recharge, and 75 percent is attributed to to RZ AWC.

Figure 13 shows the Soil Physical Properties Subrule (Small Grains), which quantifies the effects of Ksat, linear extensibility percent (LEP), bulk density, content of rock fragments, and soil depth on small grain production. The actual entity used for the Ksat calculation is the logarithm of saturated hydraulic conductivity multiplied by LEP, which is used to account for the effects of cracks on aeration and water movement in highly expansive soils (see Appendix 5.3). The effect of this product is estimated for soil depths of 0 to 50 cm, 50 to 100 cm, and 100 to 150 cm. The populated LEP value is used in the calculation of the LEP subrule. The effect of bulk density on soil productivity is estimated by comparing the deviation of the populated bulk density for the set of layers of a component from depths of 0 to 150 cm to a calculated optimal density for that soil (see Appendix 5.1). The score for the content of rock fragments is based on the weighted average of the volumetric estimates for each soil horizon of a map unit component. The soil depth subrule examines depth of soil material over a root-limiting zone (see Appendix 4).

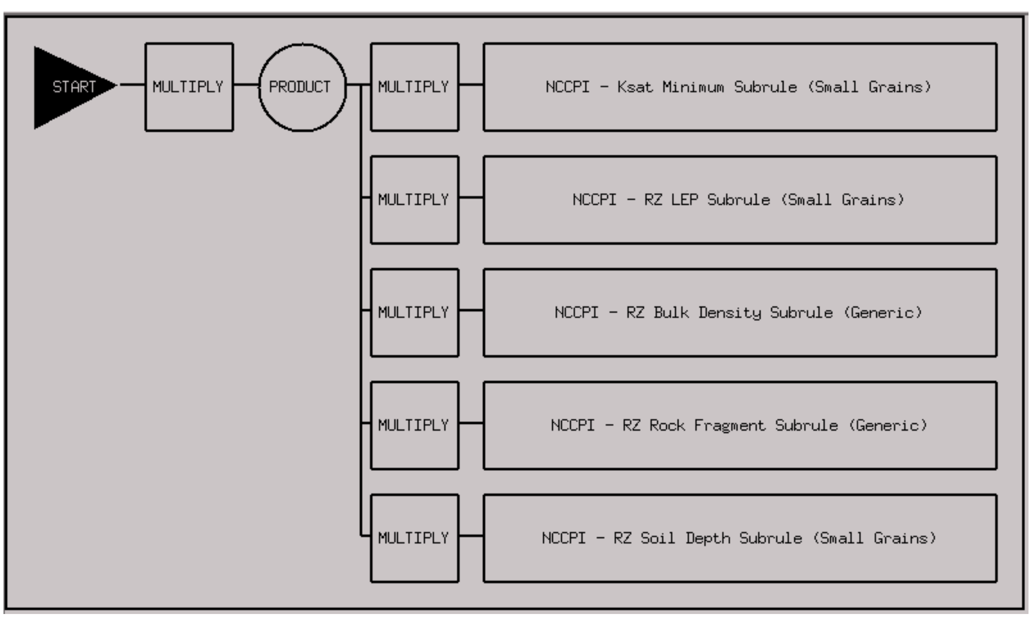


Figure 13.—The Soil Physical Properties Subrule (Small Grains).

In the Soil Climate Subrule (Small grains), shown in figure 14, two major aspects of climate—mean annual frost-free days and mean annual precipitation—are considered. Data for both aspects are drawn from the Component Table of NASIS. Multiplying the scores together determines the soil climate rating.

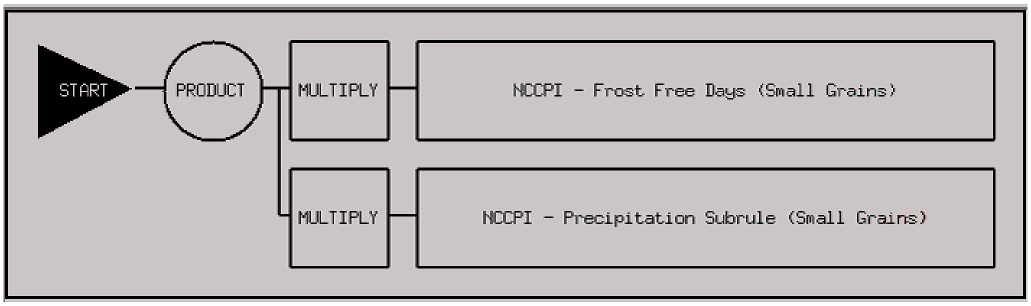


Figure 14.—The Soil Climate Subrule (Small grains).

The Soil Landscape Subrule (Small Grains) is shown in figure 15. The Effective Slope Subrule quantifies the effect of slope gradient. The Excess Water Subrule calculates the combined effects of a water table (see Appendix 5.6), ponding (see Appendix 5.5), and flooding (see Appendix 5.4) in the context of a crop that is often seeded in the fall and begins to grow very early in the growing season. Determining the actual depth to a water table is difficult when soils are drained. To adjust for drainage, the Component Local Phase and the Component SIR Phase are queried for the word "drained." If a component is listed as drained, the water table is assumed to be a depth of 160 cm. Another enigma is determining when the growing season actually occurs. This time period is based on the taxonomic temperature regime, populated in the Component Table, and is the same as the growing season used by the hydric soil calculation. This result is multiplied by the results of the Fragments on the Surface and Effective Slope Subrules to obtain the score for landscape factors.

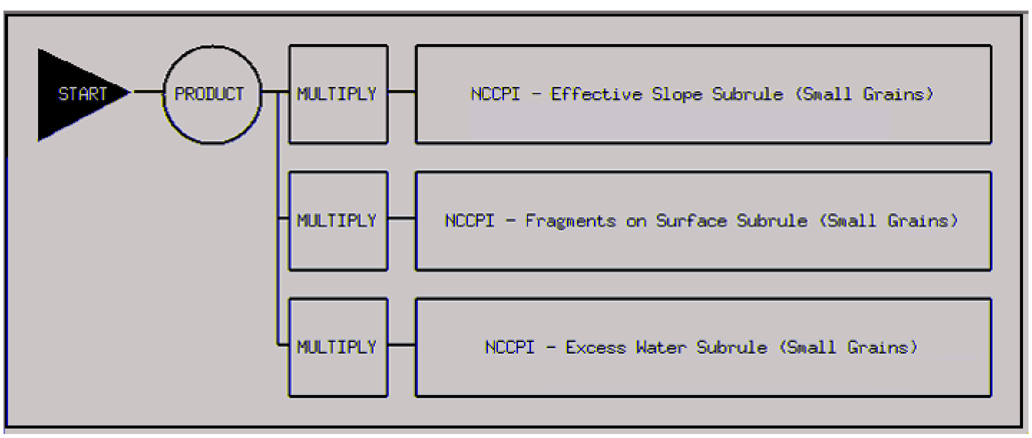


Figure 15.—The Soil Landscape Subrule (Small Grains).

The Crisp Negative Attributes Subrule (Small Grains) is shown in figure 16. The most intriguing feature of this subrule is the Not Xeric Climate Subrule. A Mediterranean climate (wet winters and dry summers) has been shown to be highly

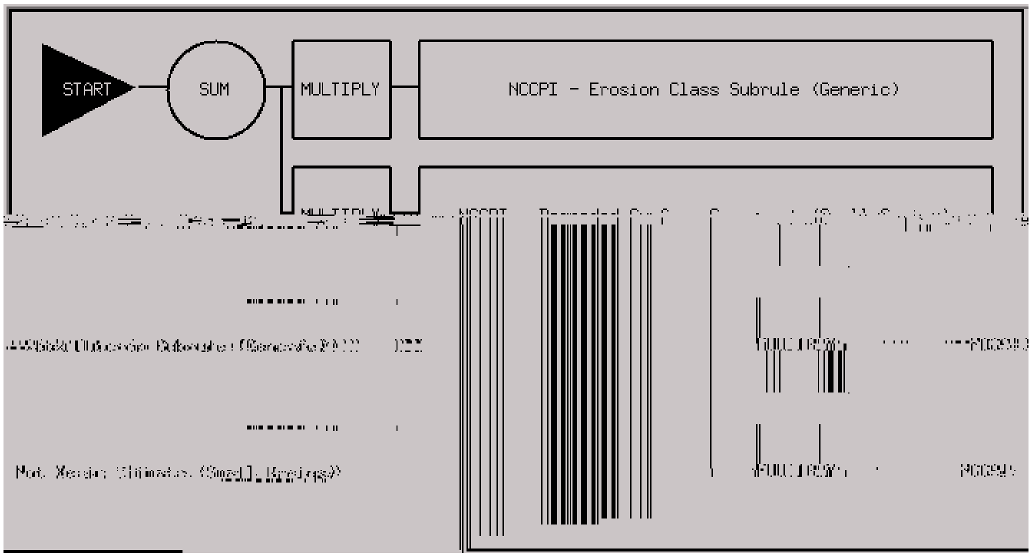


Figure 16.—The Crisp Negative Attributes (Small grains).

conducive to winter and spring wheat growth. When a soil component does not have a xeric soil moisture regime, its score is lowered by a given amount. The Degraded Surface Subrule provides a stored rating for such characteristics as “channeling,” gullies, “impacted,” or “undrained,” as indicated in the map unit name. Erosion and rock outcrop are known to negatively impact crop yields, but the relationships are not well quantified. The rating for each of these factors is summed to obtain the crisp negative attributes score. The crisp negative attributes score is subtracted from the fuzzy soil properties score.

The Cotton Submodel

Cotton is a unique crop requiring a very warm climate (by U.S. standards), a climate significantly warmer than that required for the production of corn and soybeans and much warmer than that required for the production of small grains. The Cotton Submodel is shown in figure 17. Five of the subrules have realistic fuzzy logic relationships, while two of the subrules utilize crisp relationships. The crisp relationships are used because the data available for some parameters, such as those for erosion, are not of a continuous nature but rather are class data. This information is not of sufficient quality to develop a fuzzy relationship.

In the calculation of the cotton index, the ratings from the chemical, water, physical, climate, and landscape subrules are multiplied together, as in the Storie Index model (Storie, 1937, 1978). The crisp factors are added or subtracted from the score, depending on whether they enhance or impair soil productivity.

The Interpretable Component Subrule occurs in all three submodels. It is the method used to ensure that soil components that should not be rated are not rated. Without affecting the ratings of arable soils, it causes miscellaneous areas to be rated as zero.

The Soil Chemical Properties Subrule (Cotton), shown in figure 18, quantifies the effects of pH, CEC, and adverse chemical properties within the root zone, which is considered to be from the surface to a depth of 150 cm or to a root-limiting layer. The effects of pH are considered for depths of 0 to 20 cm and 20 to 150 cm. The most limiting of the two scores is used in the calculation. The pH adaptation for cotton is broader than that for the submodels for corn and soybeans or for small grains. The

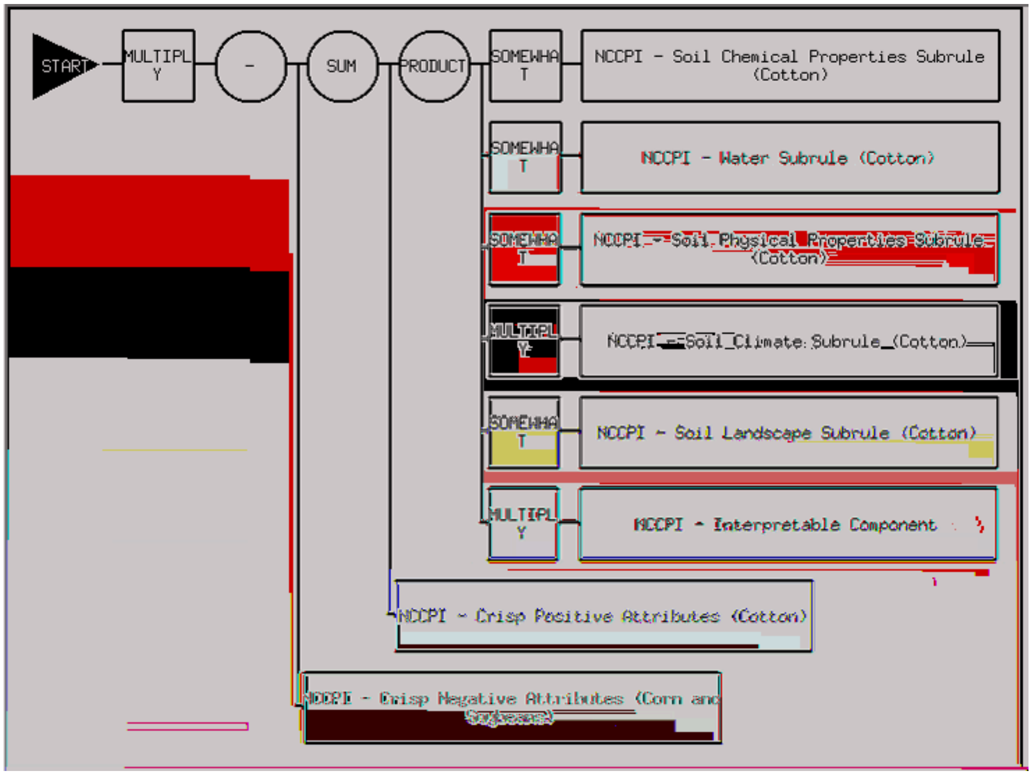


Figure 17.—The Cotton Submodel.

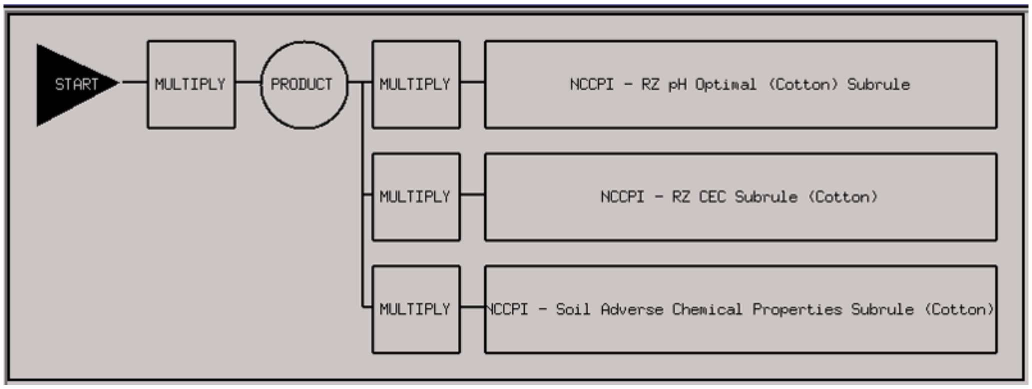


Figure 18.—The Soil Chemical Properties Subrule (Cotton).

CEC influence is based on the calculated total exchange capacity of a 1-cm-square area extending from the surface to a depth of 150 cm or a root-limiting zone (see Appendix 5.2). Horizon CEC, content of rock fragments, and bulk density are used in the calculation. A small input of CEC is allowed for soils having a water table. Since cotton is quite often grown in low CEC soils, management techniques largely mask responses related to clay activity. Adverse chemical properties, namely, SAR, EC, and gypsum content, are considered in a third-level subrule, and the most limiting of the three is used in the chemical properties calculation. The salinity tolerance of cotton is broader than that of corn and soybeans. Multiplying the scores of the three subrules together determines the chemical properties score for the cotton submodel.

The Water Subrule (Cotton), shown in figure 19, quantifies the capability of the soil and climate to supply water for crop growth. Three sources of water are currently considered: the available water-holding capacity in the root zone (RZ AWC), precipitation during the growing season (Precipitation Recharge), and the effects of subirrigation (Water Table Recharge). RZ AWC is the amount of water the soil can store between the surface and a root-limiting layer or between the surface and a depth of 150 cm, whichever is less.

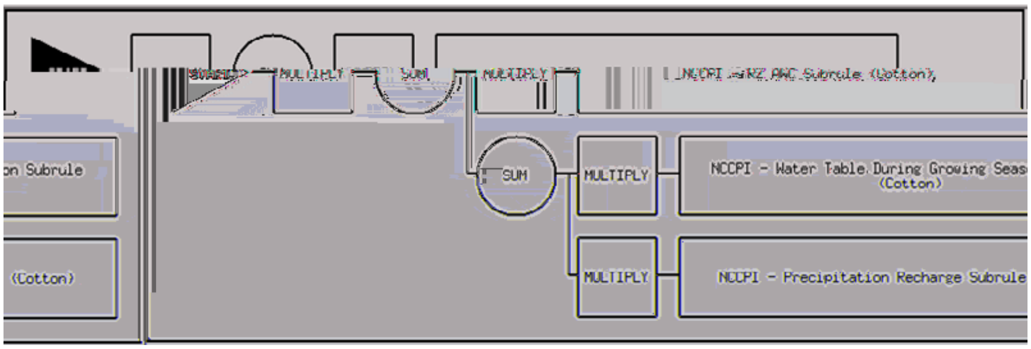


Figure 19.—The Water Subrule (Cotton).

Precipitation Recharge is intended to represent the effect of rainfall during the growing season (see Appendix 5.7). The amount of rain that falls on a component is reduced because of the effects of temperature and crop use. For example, consider two soils, both receiving 1,000 mm of rainfall per year. One soil is hot thermic, while the other is cool mesic. The rainfall on the cooler site is more readily available for crop growth, and so the cool mesic component receives a higher “precipitation recharge” score. This calculation lessens the negative effect on soil productivity that may be predicted but not observed for soils having a low RZ AWC. If the soil receives timely rainfall during the growing season, the AWC is less important. Thus, if the soil is in a high rainfall area, the “precipitation recharge” contributes a significant amount of water to crop growth if the temperature is not too high. Conceptually, “precipitation recharge” is an oversimplified Thornthwaite-style calculation (Thornthwaite, 1948) using the data fields available in NASIS.

Water Table Recharge quantifies the effects of a saturated zone deep within the root zone where roots can exploit the water during summer during or other parts of the growing season. In the calculation, a proportion of the water table, precipitation recharge, and RZ AWC scores is added to obtain the final score for the Water Subrule.

The Soil Physical Properties Subrule (Cotton), shown in figure 20, is used to index the effects of Ksat, linear extensibility percent (LEP), bulk density, content of rock fragments, and soil depth on cotton production. The actual entity used in the Ksat calculation is the logarithm of saturated hydraulic conductivity multiplied by the LEP (see Appendix 5.3). LEP is used in this context to account for the effects of cracks on aeration and water movement in highly expansive soils. The effect of this product is estimated for soil depths of 0 to 50 cm, 50 to 100 cm, and 100 to 150 cm or from the surface to to a root-limiting layer. The most limiting result is used in the calculation. A weighted average of linear extensibility from the surface to a depth of 150 cm or a limiting layer is used to obtain the score for the LEP Subrule.

The effect of bulk density on soil productivity is estimated by comparing the deviation of the populated bulk density for the set of layers of a map unit component from the surface to a depth of 150 cm or a root-limiting layer to a calculated optimal

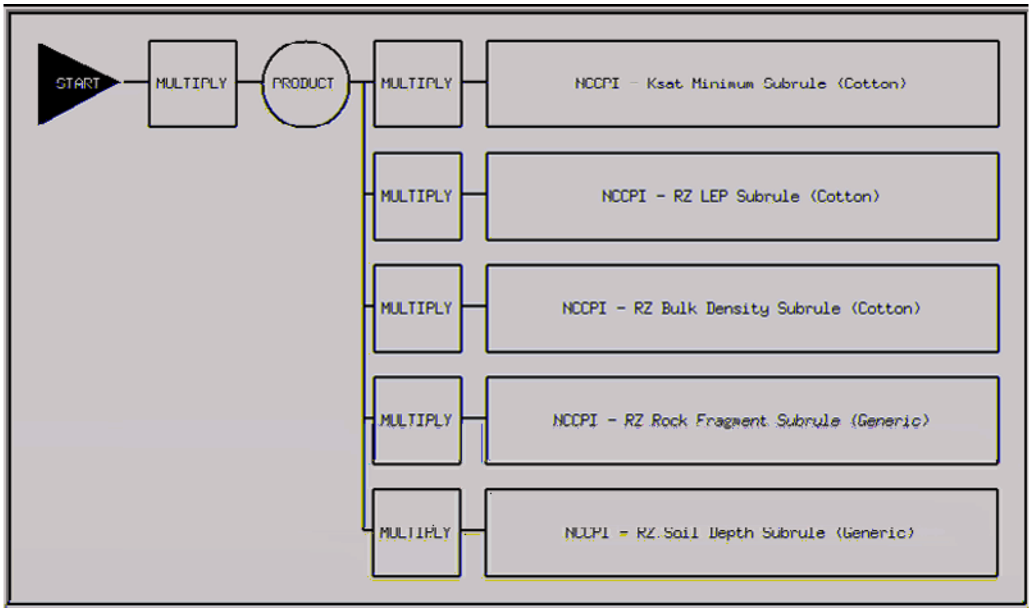


Figure 20.—The Soil Physical Properties Subrule (Cotton).

density for that soil (see Appendix 5.1). The score for the content of rock fragments is based on the weighted average of the volumetric estimates for the component. The soil depth subrule examines the depth of soil material over a root-limiting zone (see Appendix 4).

The Soil Climate Subrule (Cotton), shown in figure 21, calculates the effect of precipitation, frost-free days, and mean annual air temperature on cotton yields. The index is calculated by multiplying the precipitation score by the score for the mean annual air temperature or for frost-free days, whichever is lower.

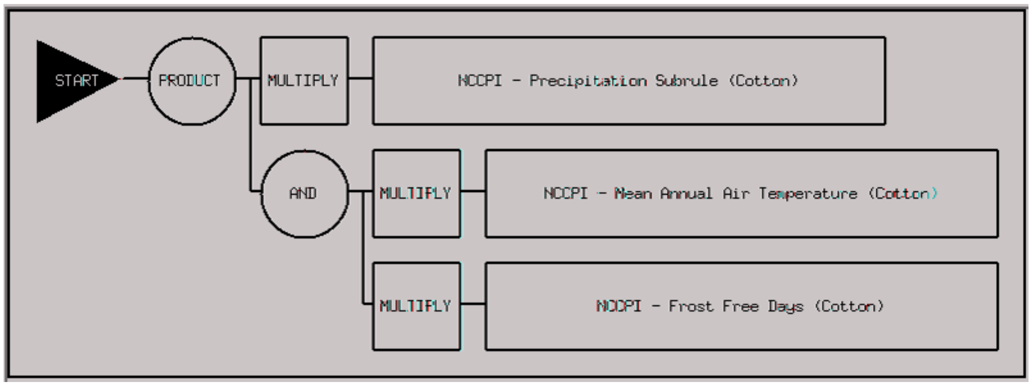


Figure 21.—The Soil Climate Subrule (Cotton).

The Soil Landscape Subrule (Cotton), shown in figure 22, uses the slope gradient, depth to a water table during the growing season (see Appendix 5.6), ponding during the growing season (see Appendix 5.5), and flooding during the growing season (see Appendix 5.4) to calculate an index for the landscape component of cotton productivity. Determining the actual depth to a water table is difficult when soils are drained. To adjust for drainage, the Component Local Phase and the Component SIR

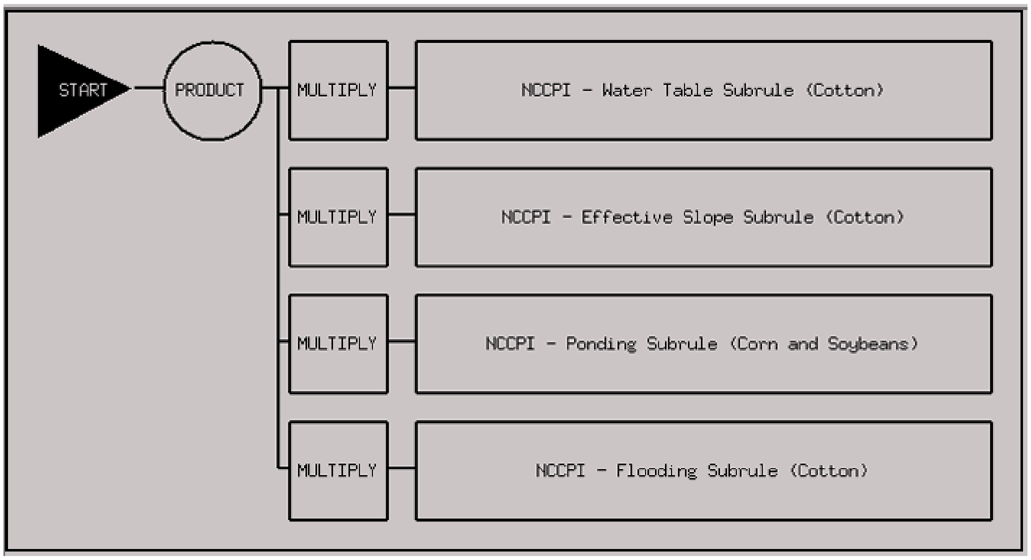


Figure 22.—The Soil Landscape Subrule (Cotton).

Phase are queried for the word "drained." For components listed as drained, the water table is assumed to be at a depth of 160 cm. Another problem is addressing when the growing season actually occurs. This time period is based on the taxonomic temperature regime, populated in the Component Table, and is the same as the growing season used by the hydric soil calculation.

The Crisp Negative Attributes Subrule (Cotton), shown in figure 23, quantifies the effect of detrimental soil conditions for which obtaining a fuzzy set is difficult. The difficulty can result from the lack of consistent data within NASIS or from the need for

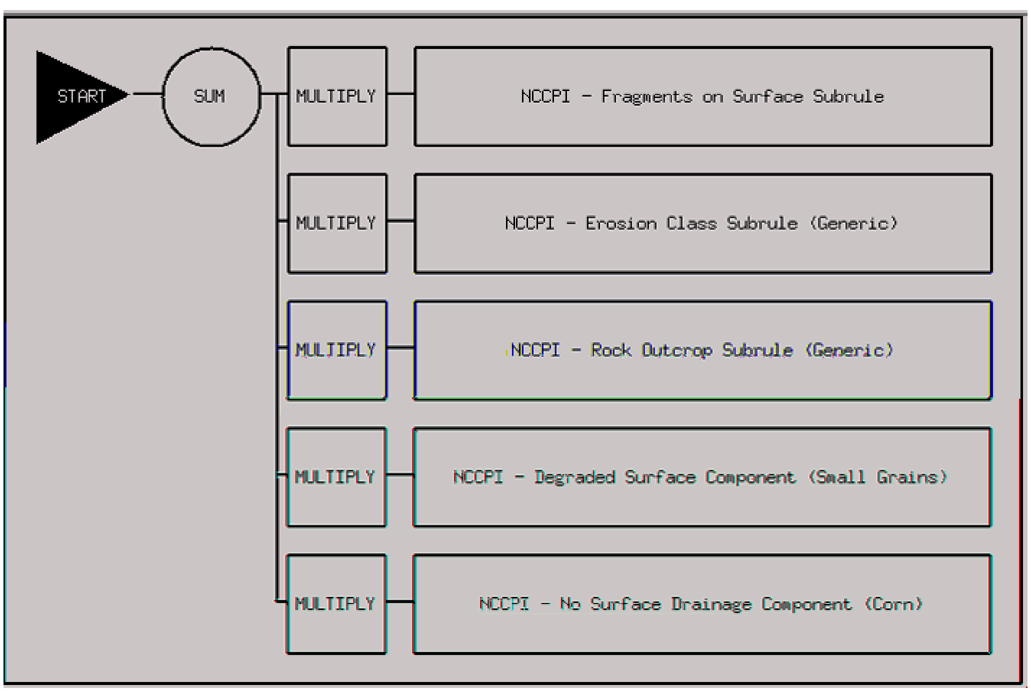


Figure 23.—The Crisp Negative Attributes Subrule (Cotton).

more time to analyze the existing data. Surface fragments, erosion, rock outcrop, surface degradation, and lack of a surface outlet are the current attributes considered to be crisp. The negative attributes are summed, and the total is subtracted from the product of the fuzzy and crisp positive features. The Cotton Submodel uses the same negative attributes as the Corn and Soybeans Submodel.

The Crisp Positive Attributes Subrule (Cotton), shown in figure 24, quantifies the beneficial effect of the landscape position where rare flooding is expected.

Figure 24.—The Crisp Positive Attributes Subrule (Cotton).

Discussion

While the submodels for the types of crops are generally similar, differences in the physiology of the crops and the geography of the soils in which the crops are grown cause some variations in the details of the submodels. For example, it was initially thought that only the climatic parameters of the model would be substantially different among the three submodels. The climatic adaptation of the small grains is quite broad, compared to that of cotton and that of corn and soybeans. The diverse levels of salt tolerance, pH, and other properties became evident upon further study.

The impact of loess as a parent material is an interplay of geography and crop physiology. In areas where small grains are dominant, even though many soils formed in loess, the growing season is too short for crop roots to fully exploit the favorable characteristics of the material. Where corn is grown, the benefits of loess can be exploited by crop roots since the growing season is longer. Where cotton is grown, the soils generally did not from in loess, so no side-by-side comparison was possible. Also, the more strongly weathered loess that is available develops less favorable characteristics.

The curves shown in Appendix 2 are renderings of spline curves fit through scatterplots of the various soil, landscape, and climate factors against the populated yields for each crop in the NASIS database. When available, these curves are influenced by data from the soil productivity literature.

Appendices

Appendix 1.—Data Elements and Reports

The NSSC Pangaea reports called "AGR - Nat. Com. Crop Prod. Ind. Corn and Soybeans Export," "AGR - Nat. Com. Crop Prod. Ind. Small Grains Export," and "AGR - Nat. Com. Crop Prod. Ind. Cotton Export" will produce exports of the results of the subrules described in the body of this guide. If any indeterminate nulls occur, the score for that subrule will be "not rated." The missing parameter will be mentioned. This appendix lists all of the data fields currently used in NCCPI. It is assumed that horizon depths are correctly populated, horizon names are appropriate, other validations have been performed, and any corrections have been made.

Measured data in NASIS are populated with high, low, and representative values. NCCPI uses the rv. Character data typically are populated as one value only, or a representative value is indicated if more than one character value describes an attribute.

Soil Chemical Properties Subrules

pH Component Horizon, pH H2O_rv
Component Horizon, pH CaCl2_rv

CEC Component Horizon, CEC-7_rv
Component Horizon, ECEC_rv
Component Horizon, Db 0.33 Bar H2O_rv
Horizon Fragments, Vol %_rv

OM Component Horizon, OM_rv

SAR Component Horizon, SAR_rv

EC Component Horizon, EC_rv

Gypsum Component Horizon, Gypsum_rv

Water Subrules

RZ AWC Component Horizon, AWC_rv
Component Restriction, Top Depth_rv
Component Restriction, Kind

Water Table Recharge
Component Soil Moisture, Top Depth_rv
Component Soil Moisture, Moisture Status
Component Month, Month
Component, Temp Regime

Precipitation Recharge
Component, MAAT_rv
Component, MAP_rv
Component, Suborder
Component, Subgroup

Water-Gathering Surface
Component Slope Shape Surface Morphometry Table, Slope Shape Across
Component Slope Shape Surface Morphometry Table, Slope Shape Up/Down
Component, Taxonomic Moisture Class

Physical Properties Subrules

Ksat Component Horizon, Ksat_rv
Component Horizon, LEP_rv

LEP Component Horizon, LEP_rv

Bulk Density Component Horizon, Db 0.33 Bar H2O_rv
Component Horizon, Total Sand_rv
Component Horizon, Total Silt_rv
Component Horizon, Total Clay_rv
Component, Order

Rock Fragments
Horizon Fragments, Vol %_rv

Soil Depth Component Restriction, Kind
Component Restriction, Top Depth_rv
Component Horizon, pH H2O_rv

Soil Climate Subrules

Frost-Free Days
Component, Frost Free Days_rv

Precipitation Component, MAP_rv

Mean Annual Air Temperature
Component, Mean Annual Air Temperature_rv

Soil Landscape Subrules

Water Table Component Soil Moisture, Top Depth_rv
Component Soil Moisture, Moisture Status
Component Month, Month
Component, Temp Regime

Effective Slope
Component, Slope Gradient_rv

Flooding Component Month, Month
Component Month, Flooding Frequency
Component Month, Flooding Duration
Component, Temp Regime

Ponding Component Month, Month
Component Month, Ponding Frequency
Component Month, Ponding Duration
Component, Temp Regime

Crisp Positive Attributes Subrules

Soil Fabric Component Parent Material, Kind

Water From Rare Flood
Component Month, Flooding Frequency

Crisp Negative Attributes Subrule

Fragments on Surface
Component Surface Fragments, Cover %_rv

Erosion Class
Component, Local Phase
Component, SIR Phase
Mapunit, Mapunit Name

Not Xeric
Map Unit Area Overlap Table, MLRA Area Type
Component, Taxonomic Class

Rock Outcrop
Component, Local Phase
Component, SIR Phase
Mapunit, Mapunit Name

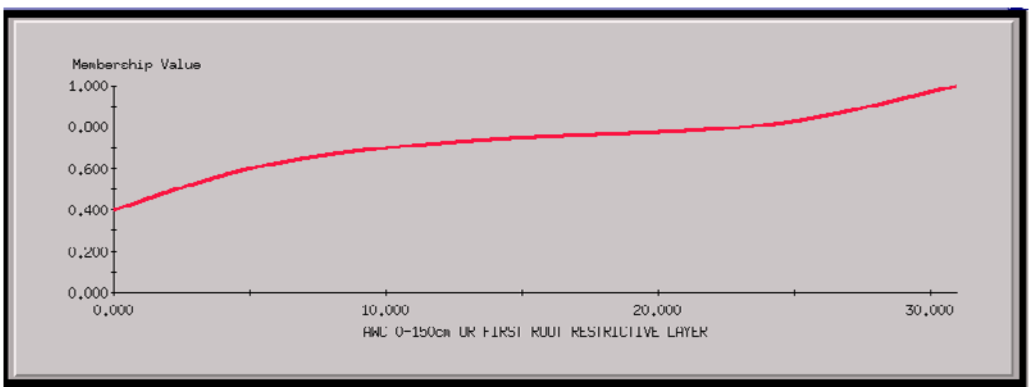
Degraded Surface
Component, Local Phase
Component, SIR Phase
Mapunit, Mapunit Name

No Surface Outlet
Component, Local Phase
Component, SIR Phase
Mapunit, Mapunit Name

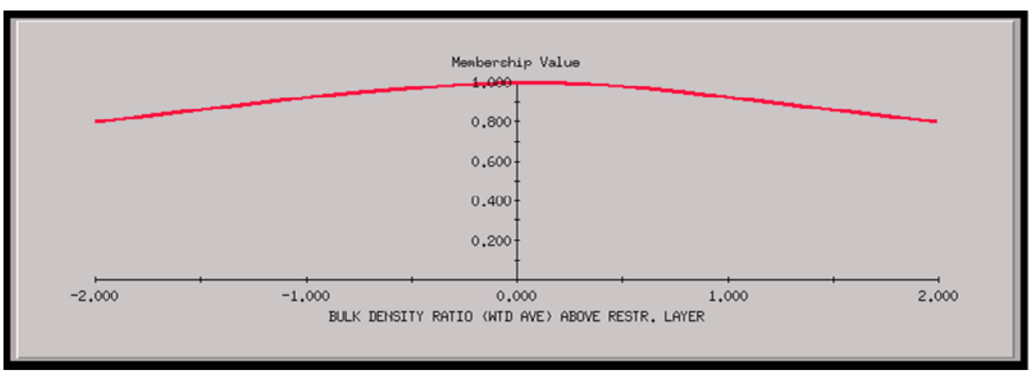
Appendix 2.—Evaluations

This appendix shows evaluations used in the calculation of NCCPI. The evaluations indicate the range of property data used to produce the fuzzy numbers. The functions rarely go to zero. The lowest value of a variable was found to be a convenient way to weight the variables. Properties that are more closely correlated with yields are given more impact than factors that are not so closely correlated. The appendix does not show an exhaustive list, but it does display the evaluations for properties where a reasonable fuzzy relationship has been established. The graphs represent the best fit curves and are based on the observed data. Relating the response of yields to one independent variable is nearly impossible because of covariance and interaction. The fuzzy relationships occasionally exhibit a function that is being influenced by variables other than what is being modeled. The resulting curves may look unexpected, but they fit well in the empirical model.

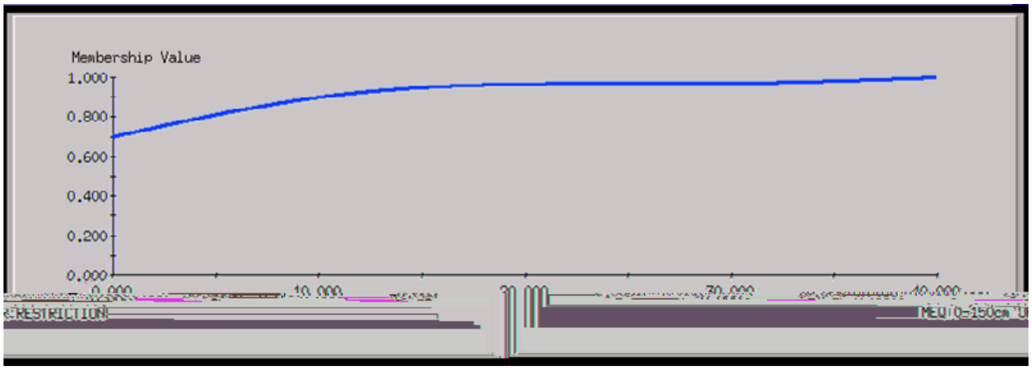
2a.—Corn and Soybeans Submodel Evaluations for Soil Properties



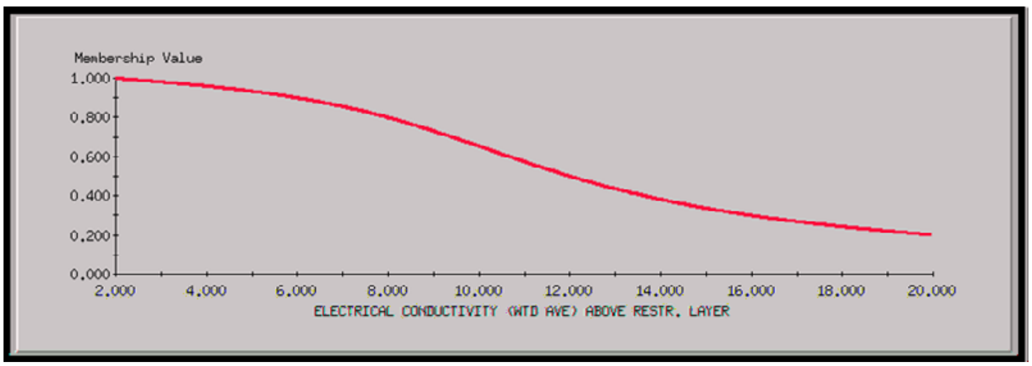
2a1.—AWC evaluation. AWC is in cm.



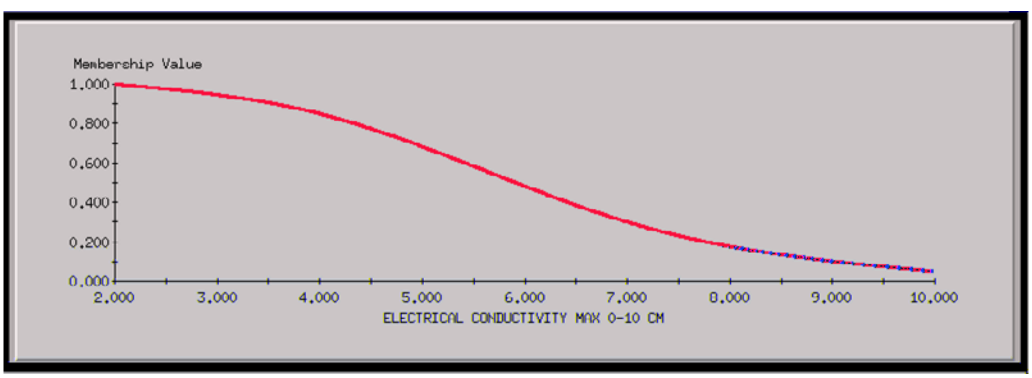
2a2.—Bulk Density ratio evaluation. The units of the ratio are g/cm³/g/gm³.



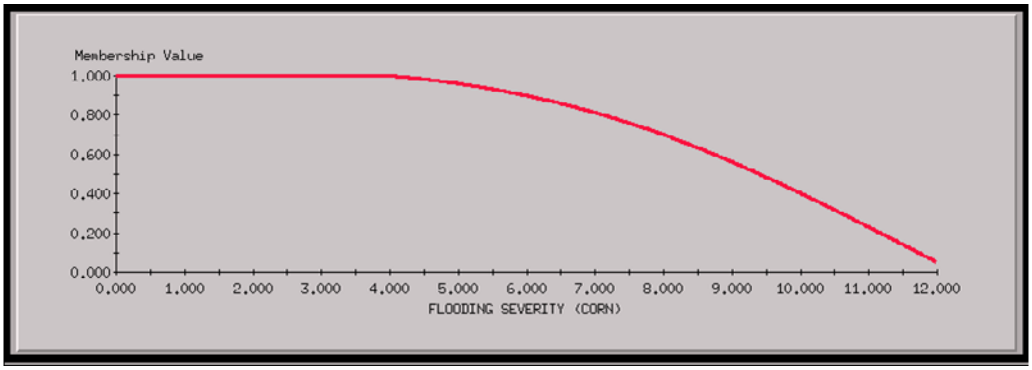
2a3.—CEC evaluation. Units are meq/cm^2.



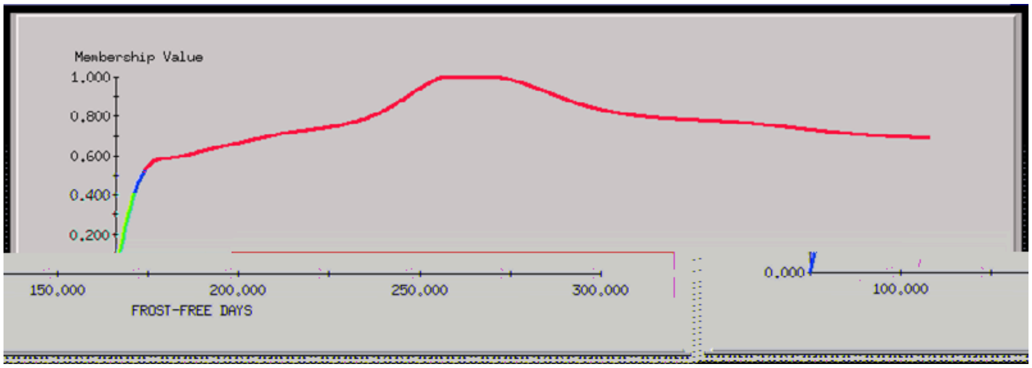
2a4.—Electrical Conductivity Growth evaluation. Units are mmhos/cm.



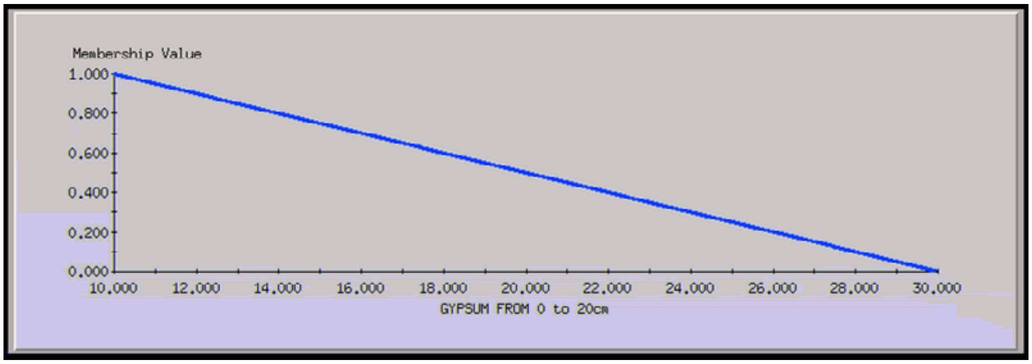
2a5.—Electrical Conductivity Germination evaluation. Units are mmhos/cm.



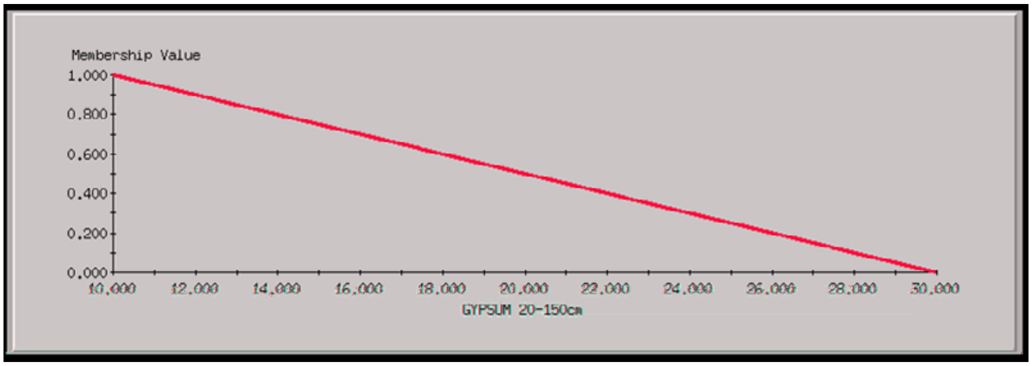
2a6.—Flooding During the Growing Season evaluation. Units are [days]*[inundations/month]*[months].



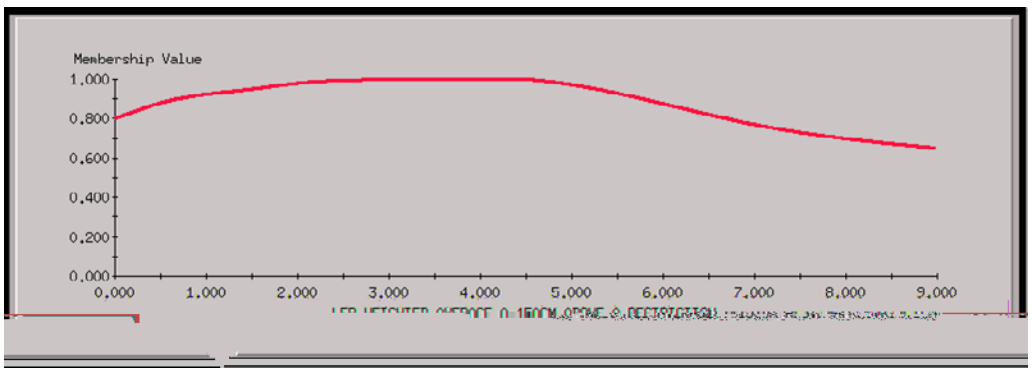
2a7.—Frost-Free Days evaluation. Units are frost-free days/year.



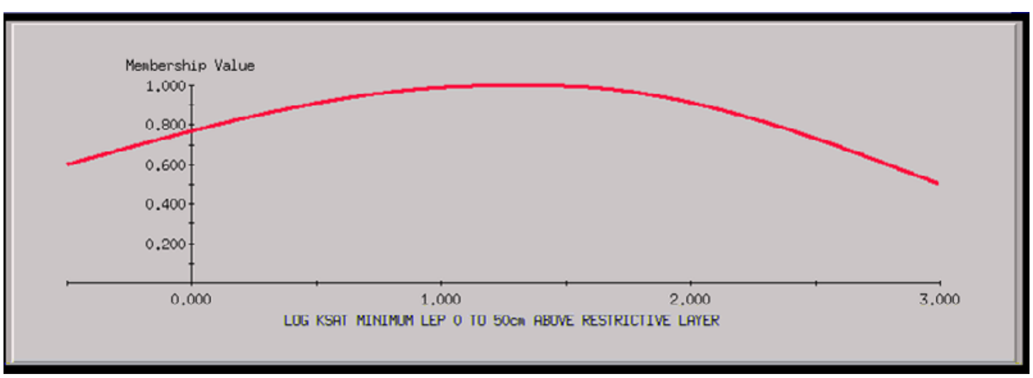
2a8.—Gypsum from 0-20 cm evaluation. Units are percent by weight of less than 20 mm material.



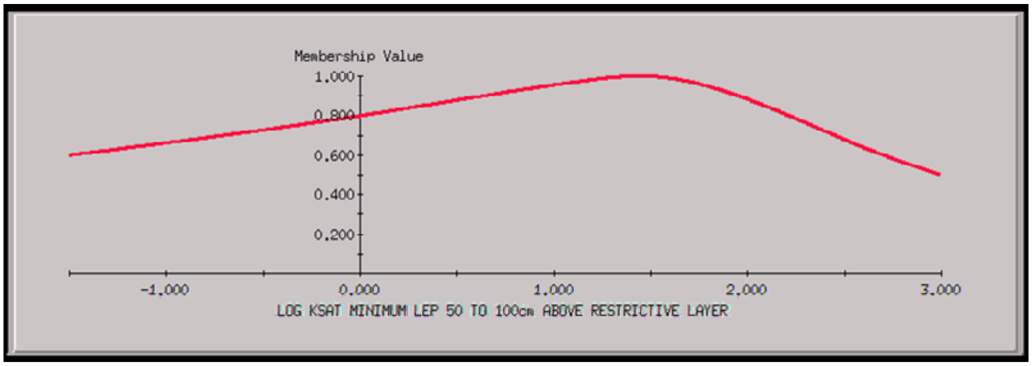
2a9.—Gypsum from 20 to 150 cm evaluation. Units are percent by weight of less than 20 mm material.



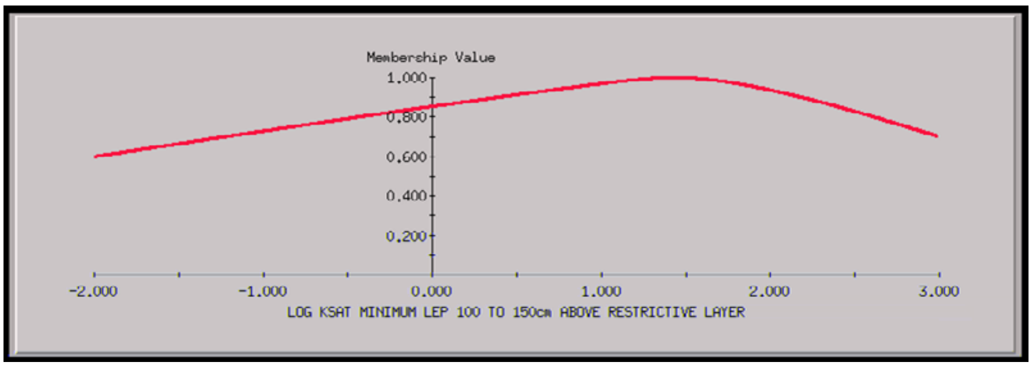
2a10.—LEP from 0 to 150 cm evaluation. Units are cm^3/cm^3.



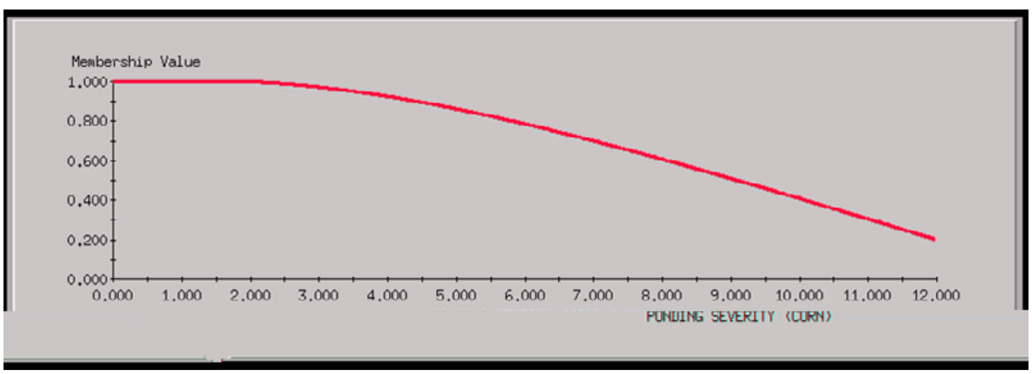
2a11.—Log (Ksat times LEP) from 0 to 50 cm evaluation. Units are log(um/sec).



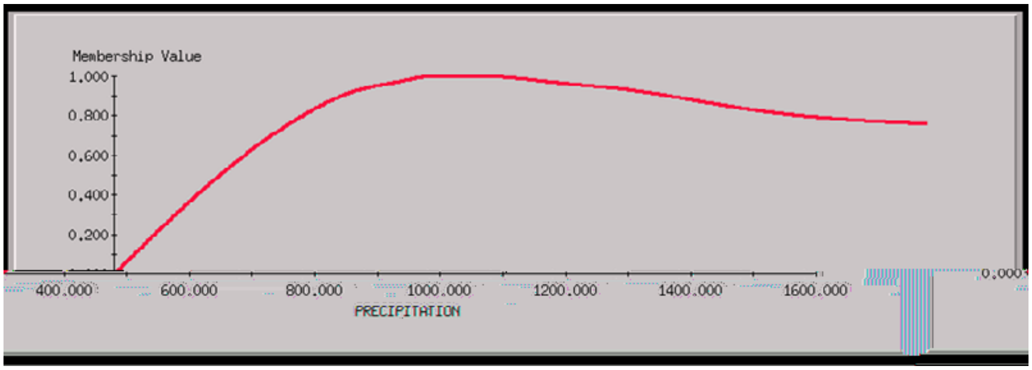
2a12.—Log (Ksat times LEP) from 50 to 100 cm evaluation. Units are log(um/sec).



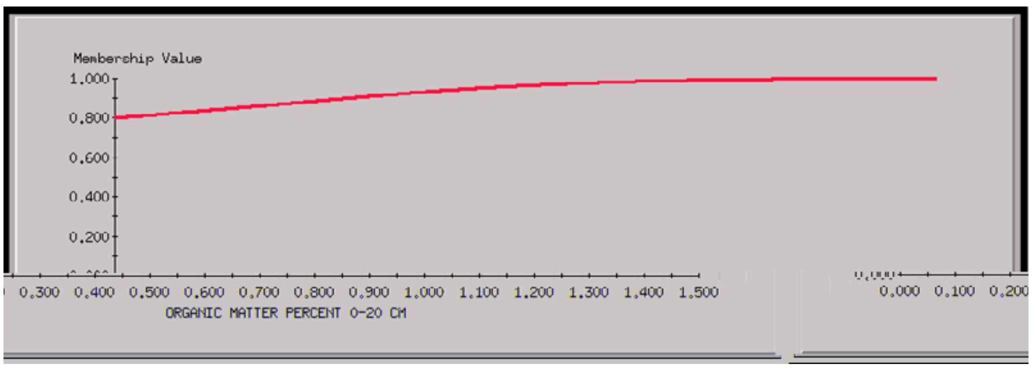
2a13.—Log (Ksat times LEP) from 100-150 cm evaluation. Units are log(um/sec).



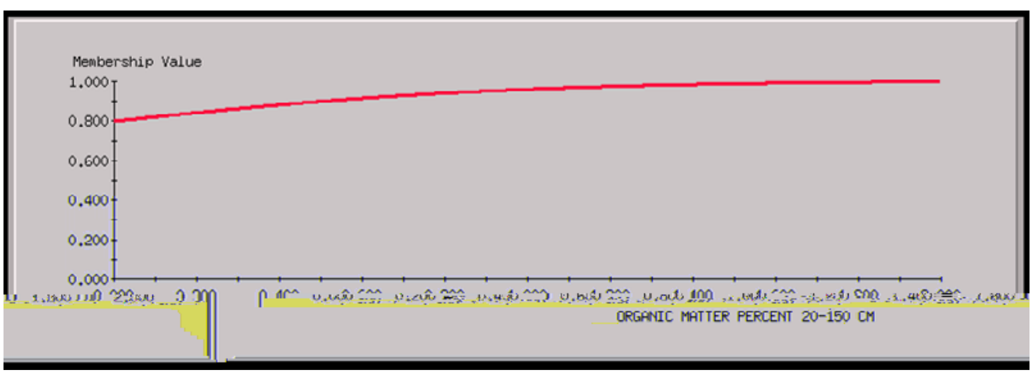
2a14.—Ponding During the Growing Season evaluation. Units are [days]*[inundations]*[months].



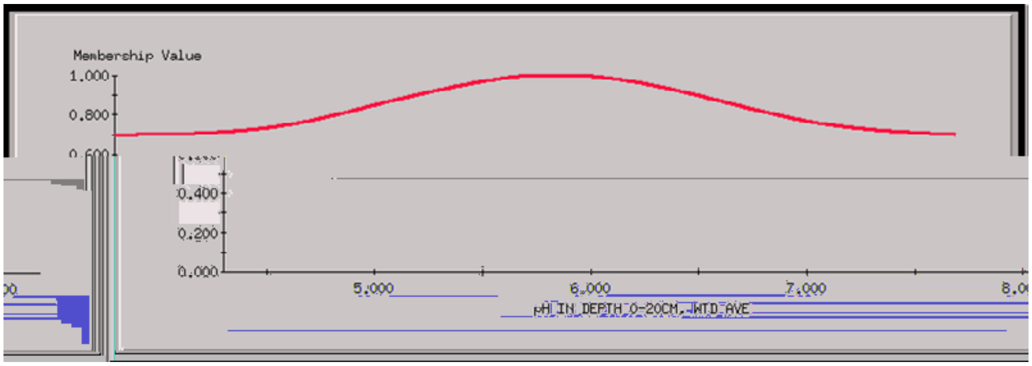
2a15.—Precipitation evaluation. Units are mm/year.



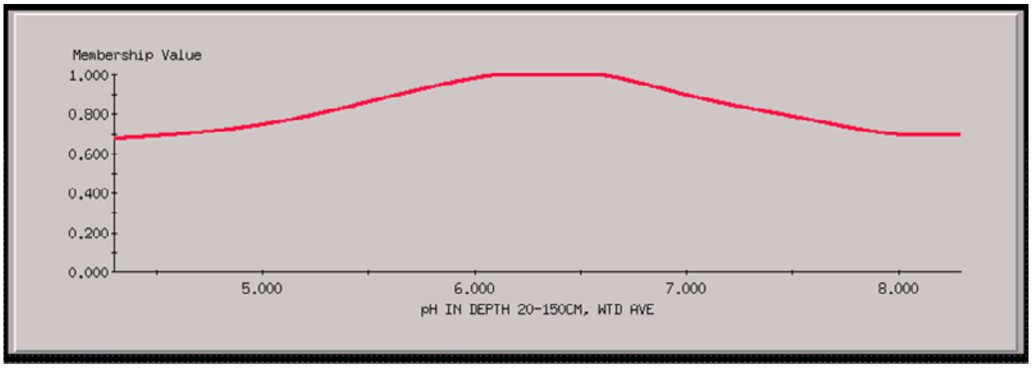
2a16.—Organic Matter 0 to 20 cm evaluation. Units are percent by weight.



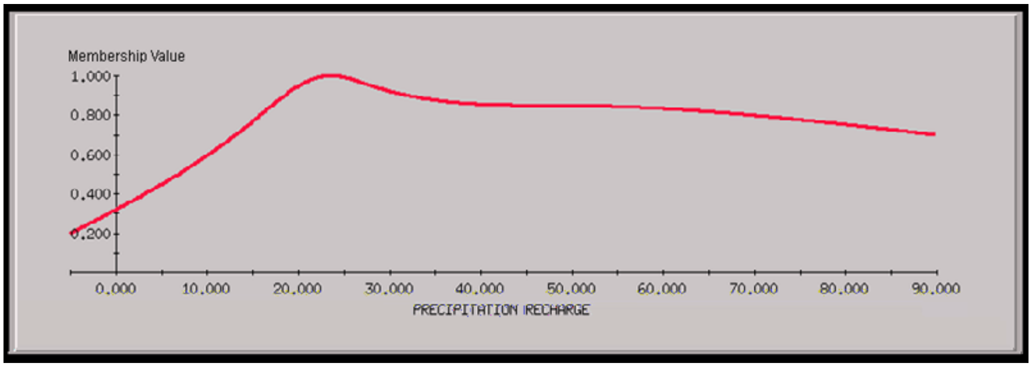
2a17.—Organic Matter 20 to 150 cm evaluation. Units are percent by weight.



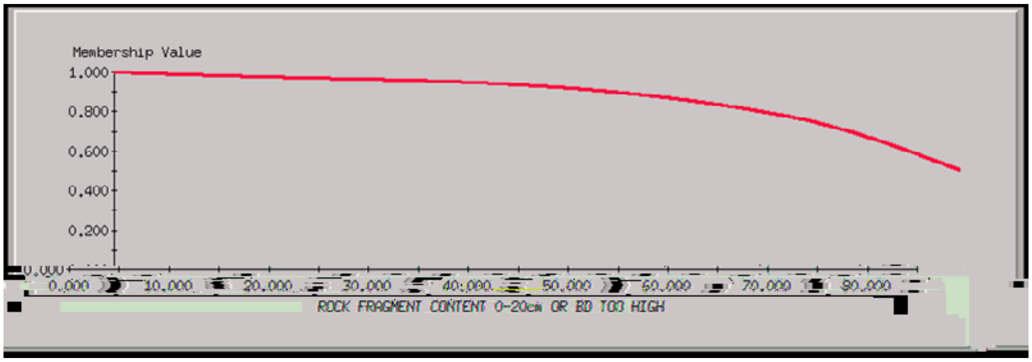
2a18.—pH 0 to 20 cm evaluation (pH units).



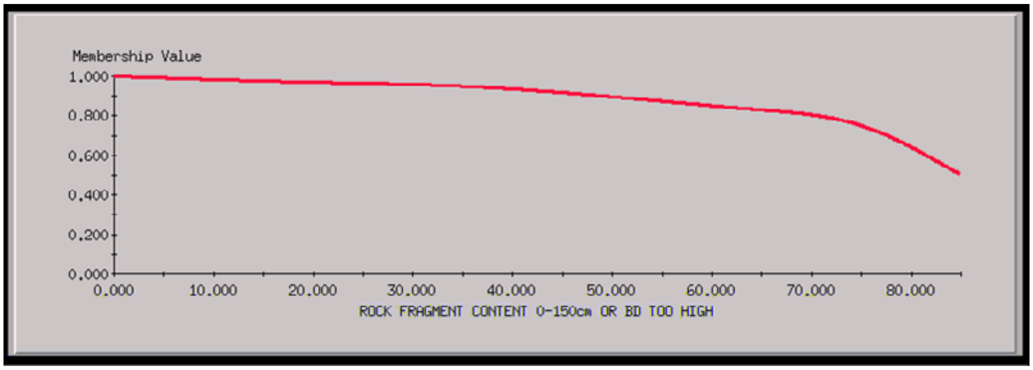
2a19.—pH 20 to 150 cm evaluation (pH units).



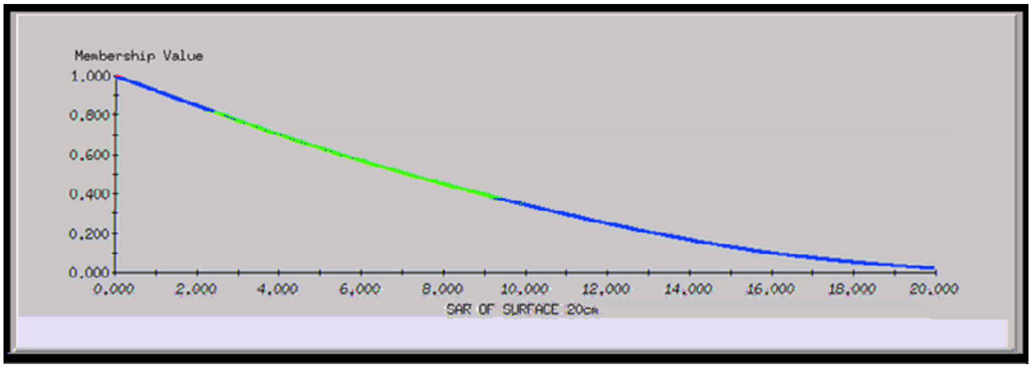
2a20.—Precipitation Recharge evaluation. Units are mm/year.



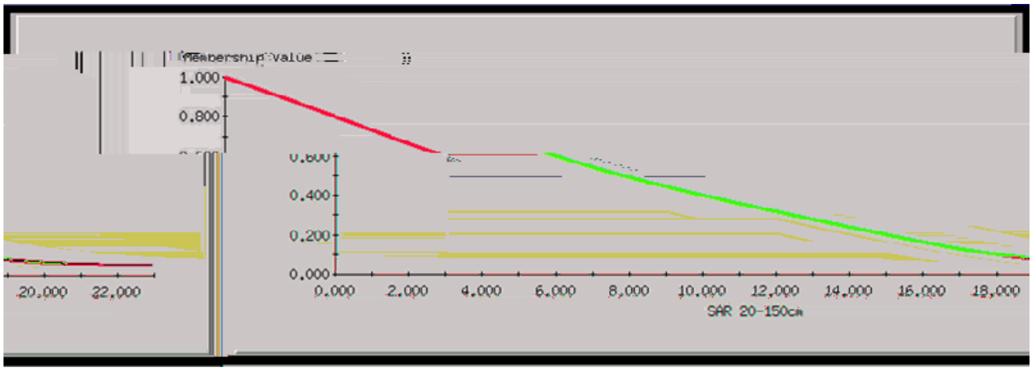
2a21.—Rock fragment volume 0 to 20 cm evaluation. Units are percent by volume.



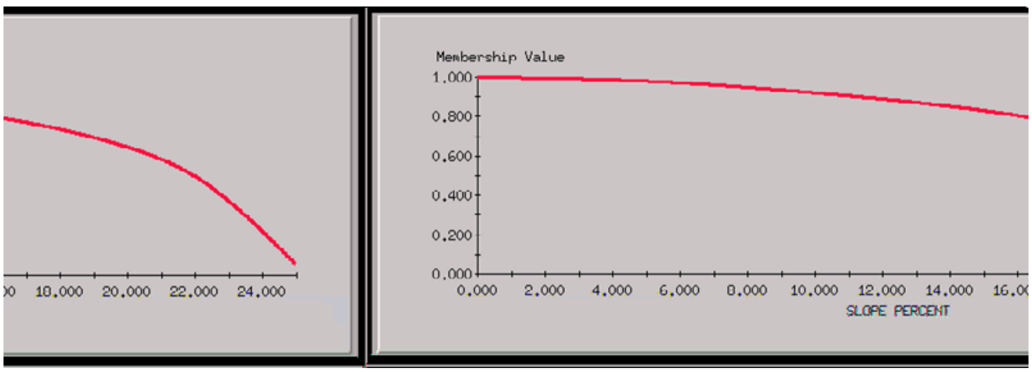
2a22.—Rock fragment volume 20 to 150 cm evaluation. Units are percent by volume.



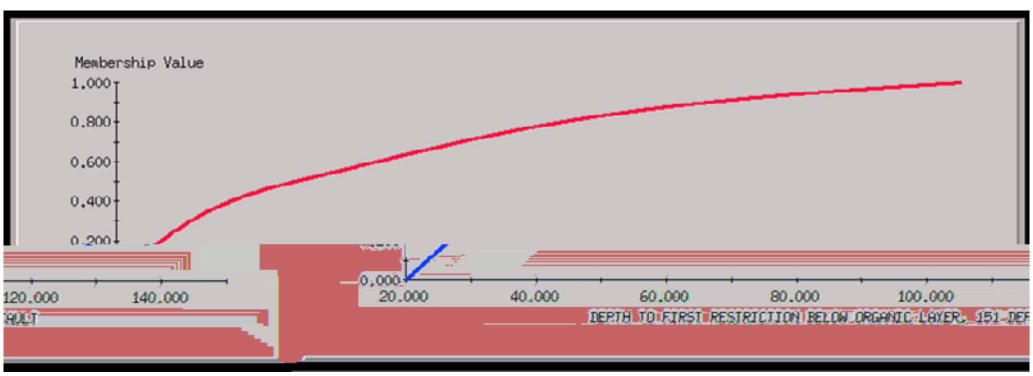
2a23.—SAR 0 to 20 cm evaluation. SAR is a unitless ratio.



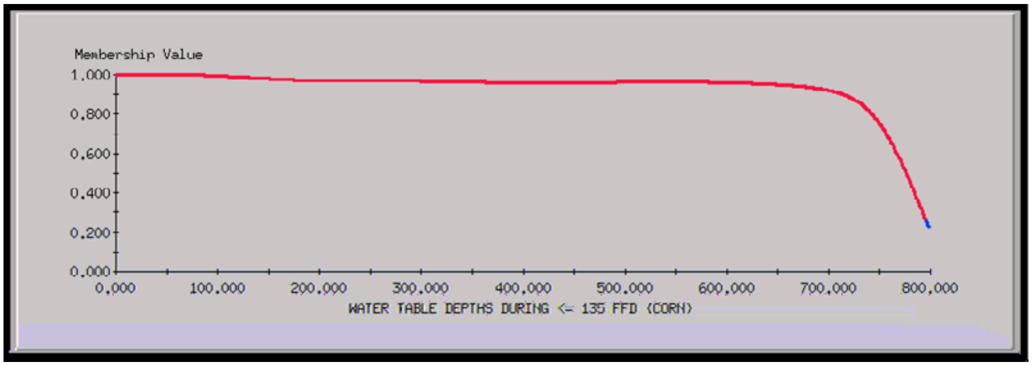
2a24.—SAR 20 to 150 cm evaluation. SAR is a unitless ratio.



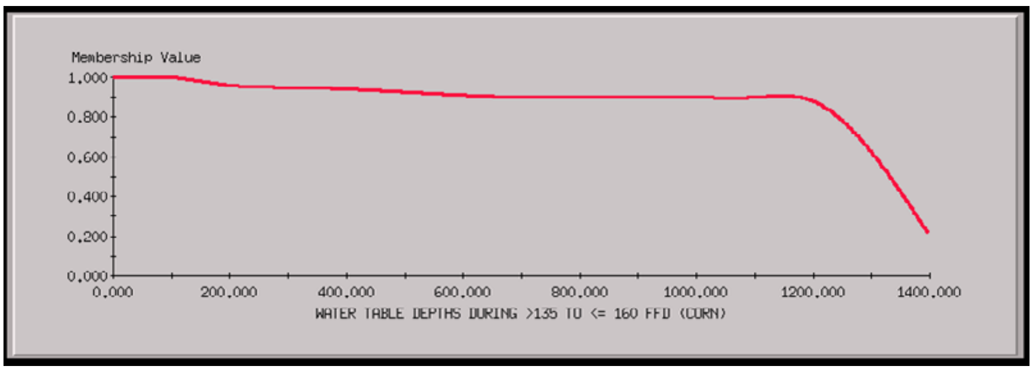
2a25.—Slope evaluation. Units are percent slope.



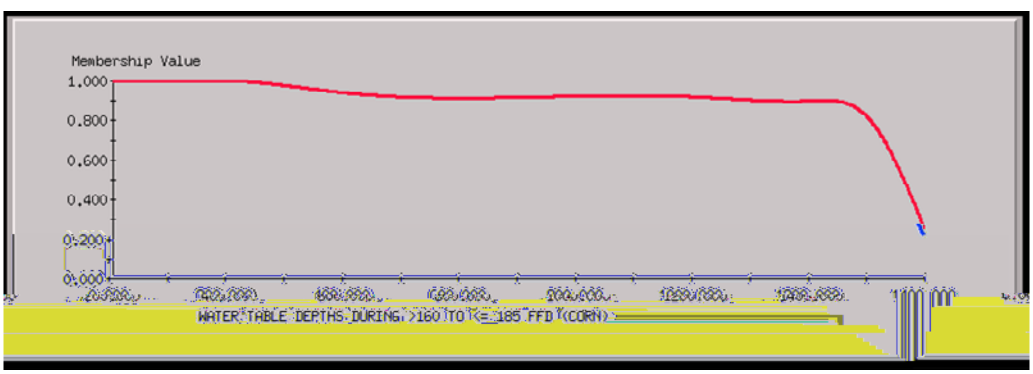
2a26.—Soil Depth evaluation. Units are cm.



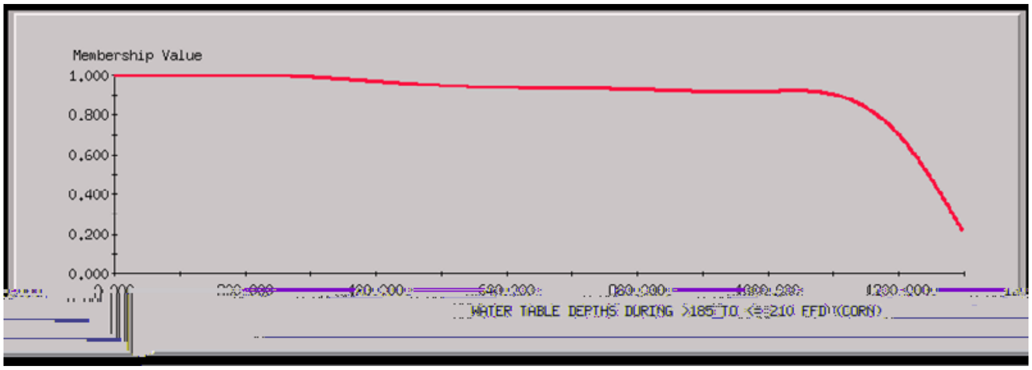
2a27.—Water Table Index <= 135 Frost-Free Days. Units are cm.



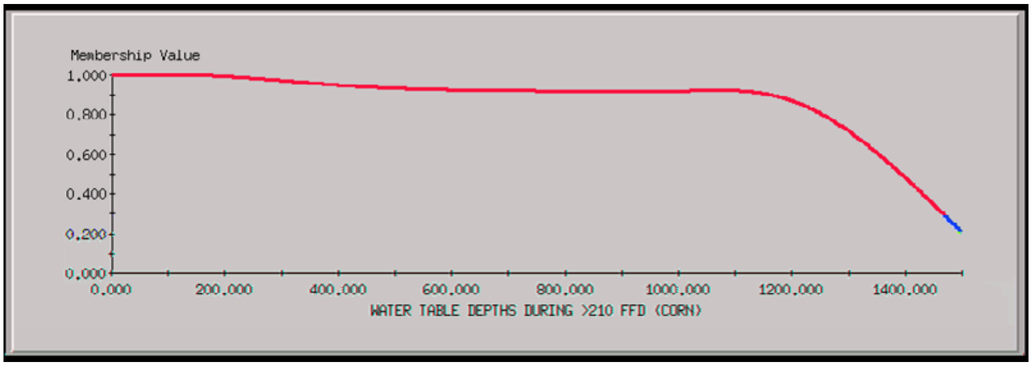
2a28.—Water Table Index >135 to <= 160 Frost-Free Days. Units are cm.



2a29.—Water Table Index >160 to <= 185 Frost-Free Days. Units are cm.

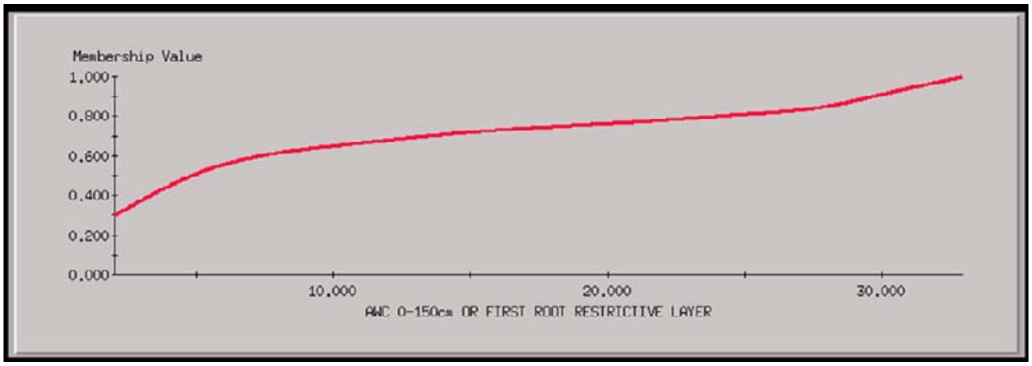


2a30.—Water Table Index >185 to <= 210 Frost-Free Days. Units are cm.

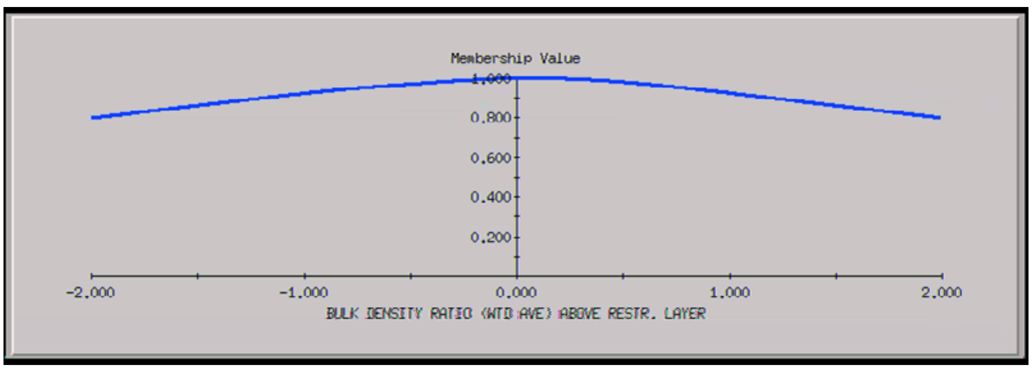


2a31.—Water Table Index >210 Frost-Free Days. Units are cm.

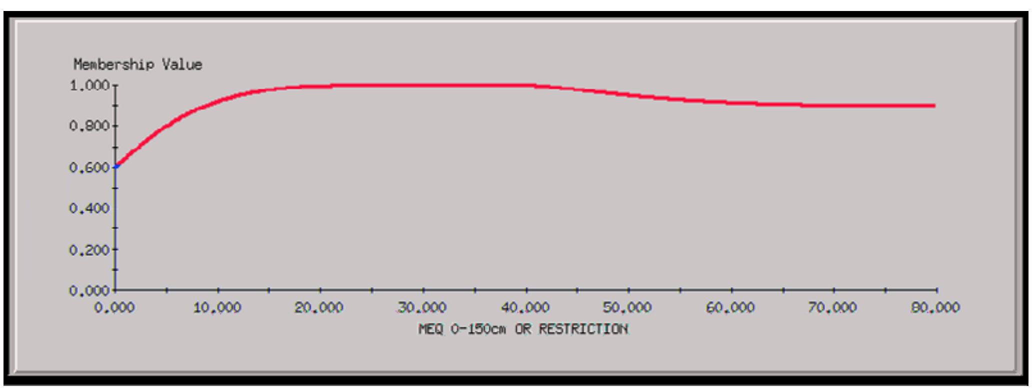
2b.—Small Grains Submodel Evaluations for Soil Properties



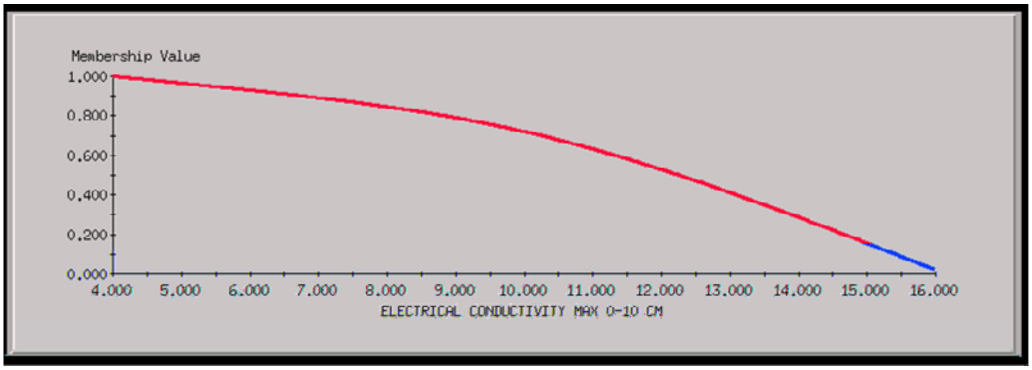
2b1.—AWC evaluation. AWC is in cm.



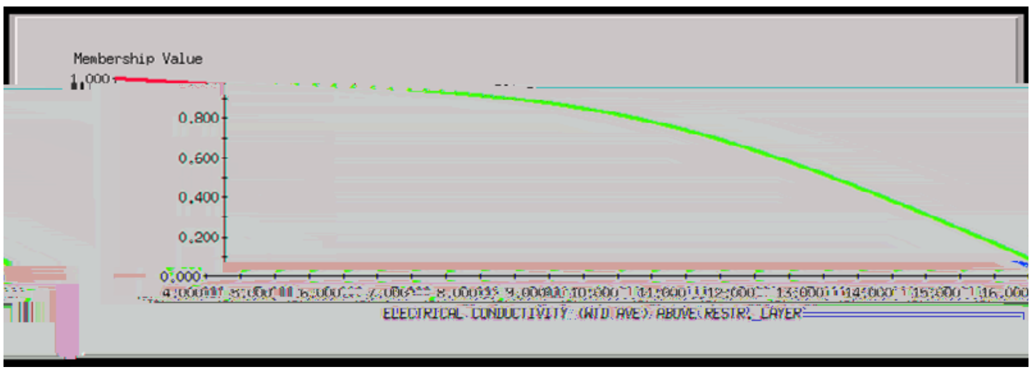
2b2.—Bulk Density Ratio evaluation. The units of the ratio are c/cm³/g/cm³.



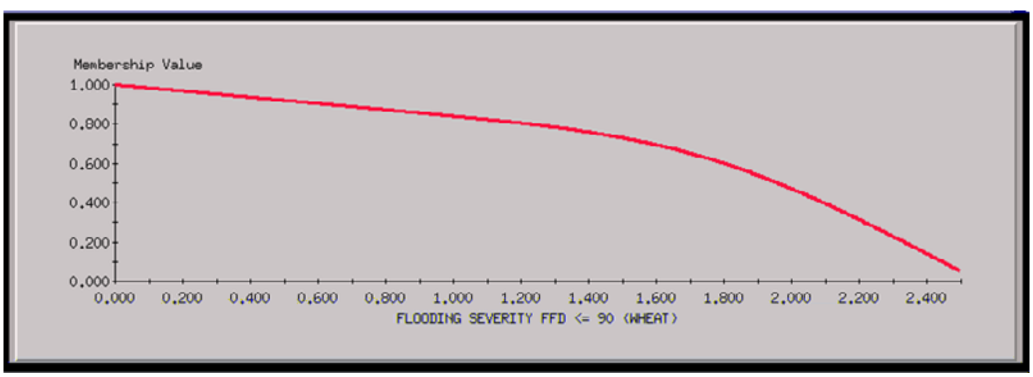
2b3.—CEC evaluation. Units are meq/cm².



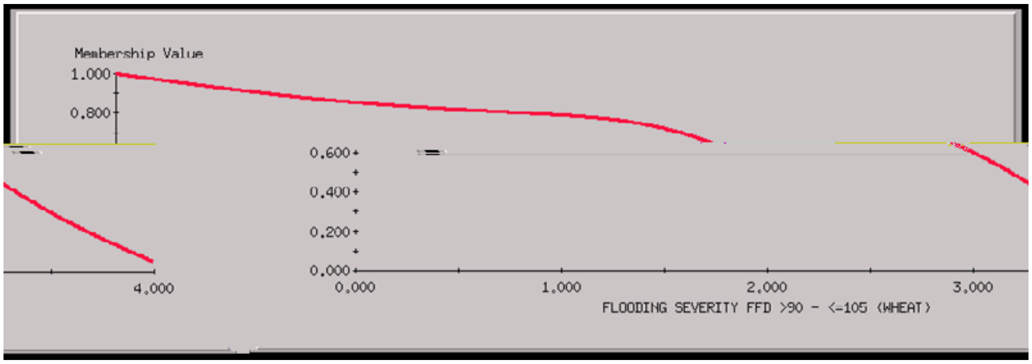
2b4.—Electrical Conductivity Germination evaluation. Units are mmhos/cm.



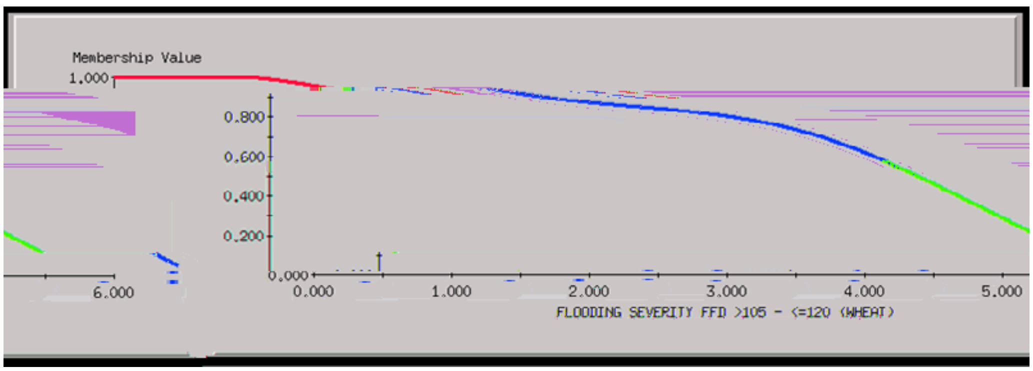
2b5.—Electrical Conductivity Growth evaluation. Units are mmhos/cm.



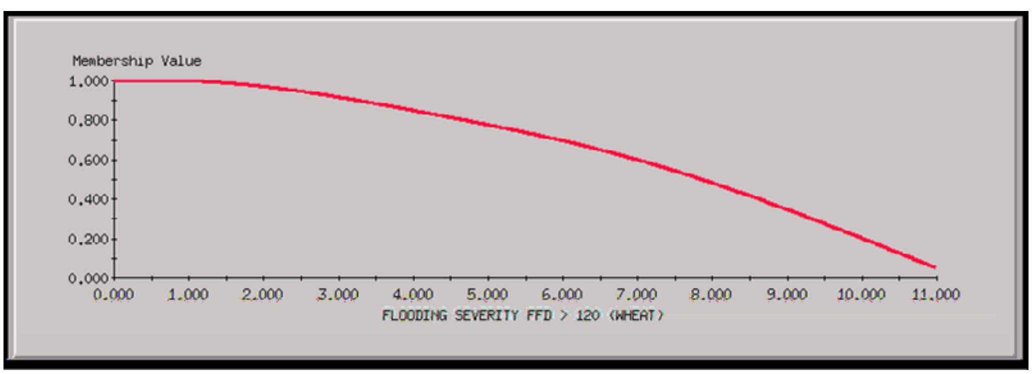
2b6.—Flooding During Growing Season <= 90 FFD (Wheat). Units are [days]*[inundations/month]*[months].



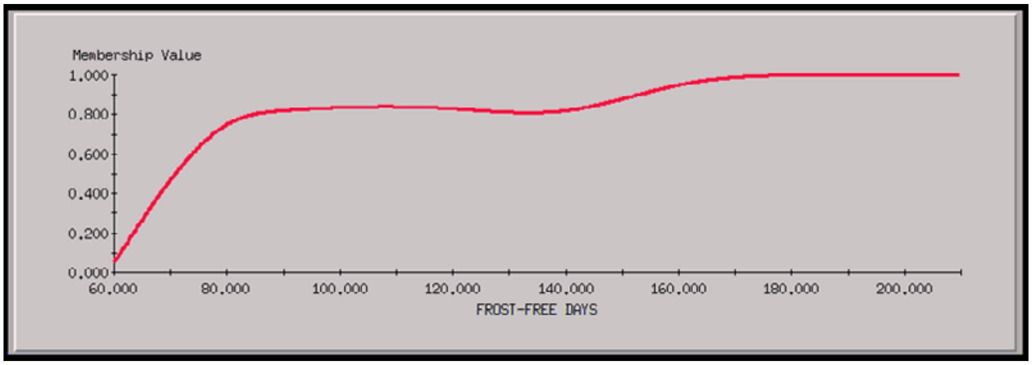
2b7.—Flooding During Growing Season >90 to <= 105 FFD (Wheat). Units are [days]*[inundations/month]*[months].



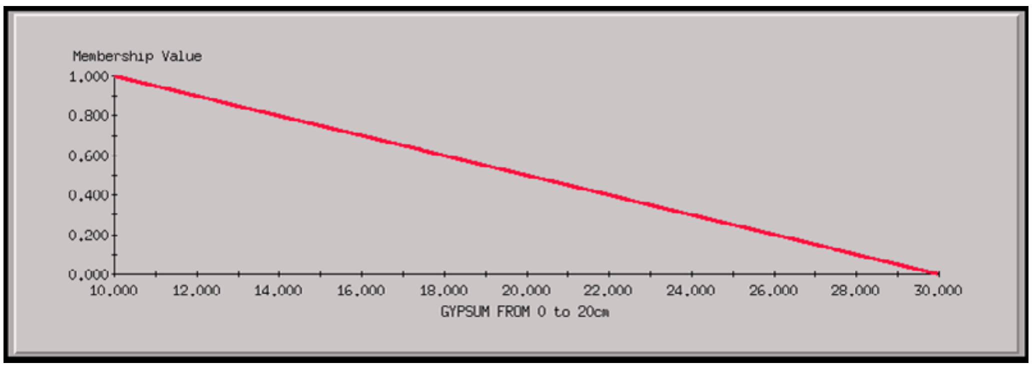
2b8.—Flooding During Growing Season >105 to <= 120 FFD (Wheat). Units are [days]*[inundations/month]*[months].



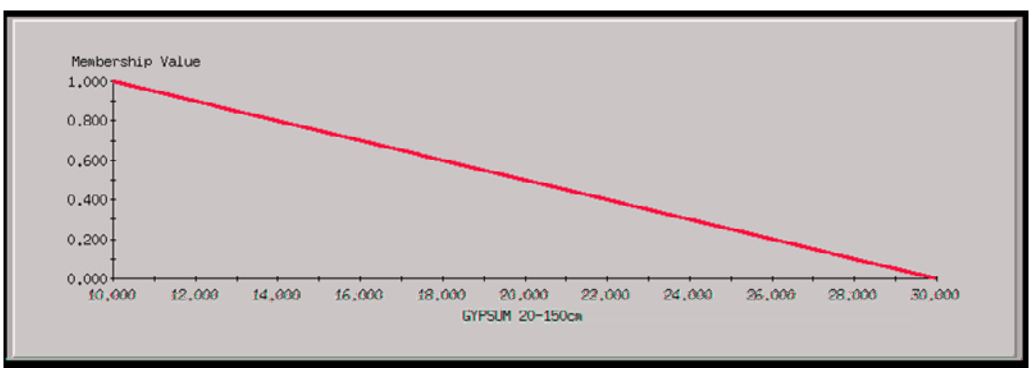
2b9.—Flooding During Growing Season >120 FFD (Wheat). Units are [days]*[inundations/month]*[months].



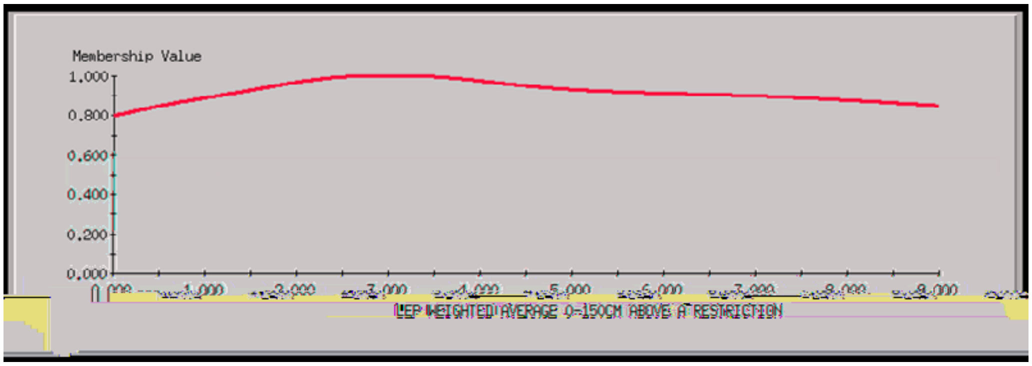
2b10.—Frost-Free Days (Wheat) evaluation. Units are frost-free days/year.



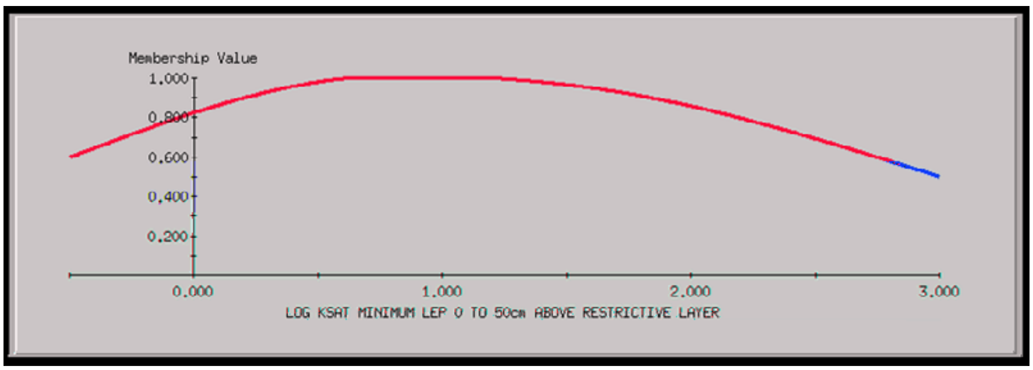
2b11.—Gypsum from 0 to 20 cm evaluation. Units are percent by weight of less than 20 mm material.



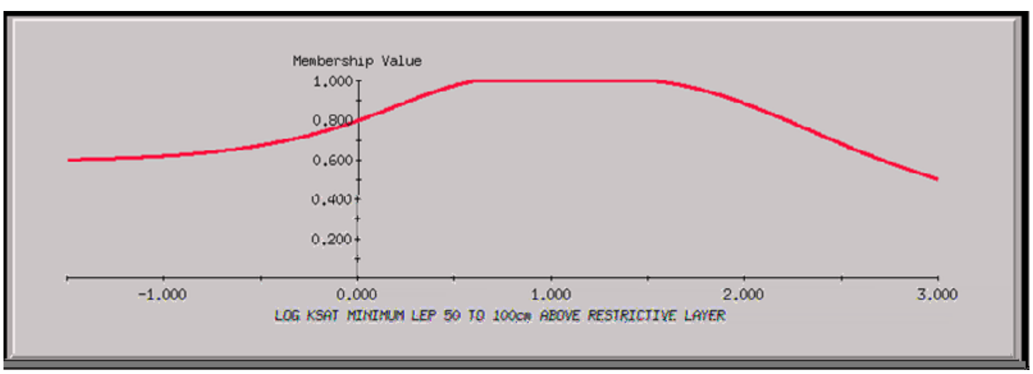
2b12.—Gypsum from 20 to 150 cm (Wheat) evaluation. Units are percent by weight of less than 20 mm material.



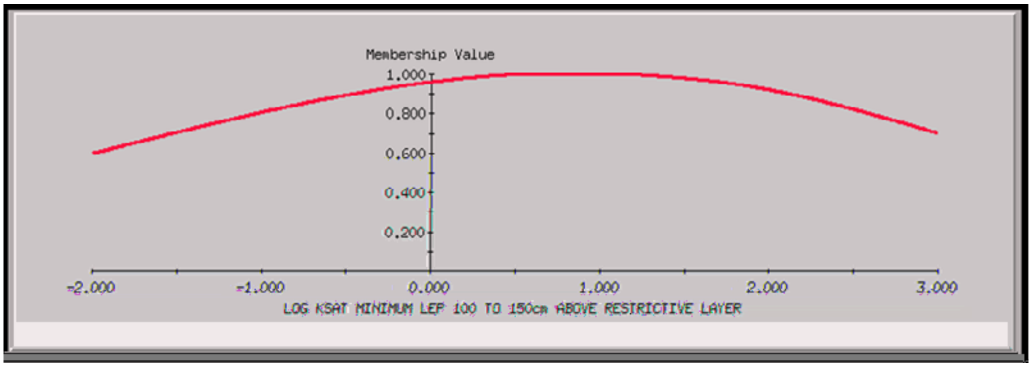
2b13.—LEP from 0 to 150 (Wheat) evaluation. Units are cm^3/cm^3.



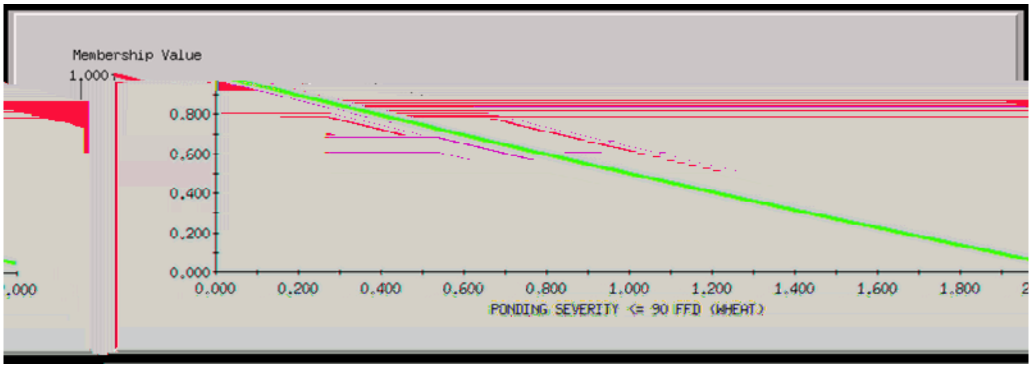
2b14.—Log (Ksat Min X LEP) 0 to 50 cm (Wheat) evaluation. Units are log[um/sec].



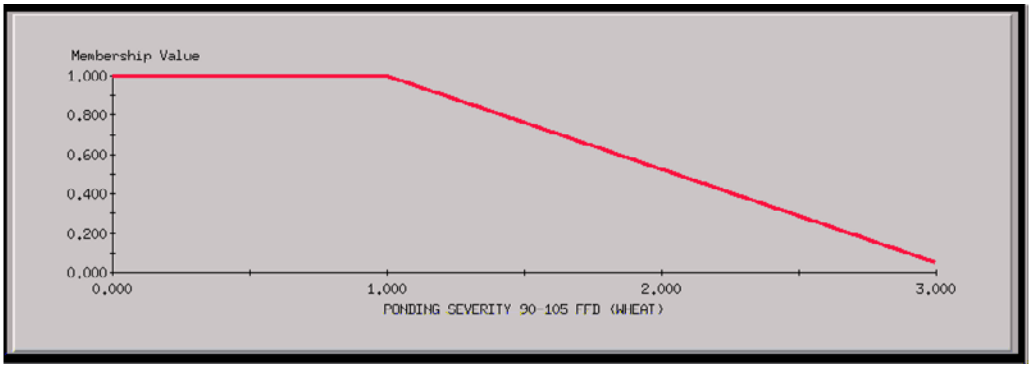
2b15.—Log (Ksat Min X LEP) 50 to 100 cm (Wheat) evaluation. Units are log[um/sec].



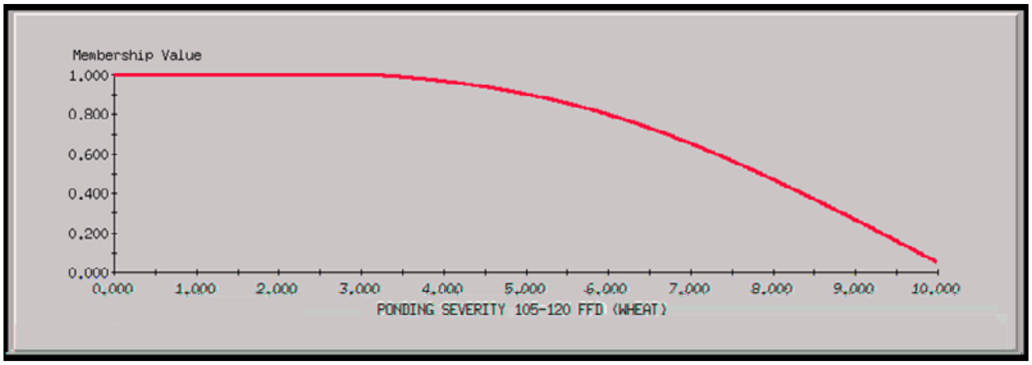
2b16.—Log (Ksat Min X LEP) 100 to 150 cm (Wheat) evaluation. Units are log[um/sec].



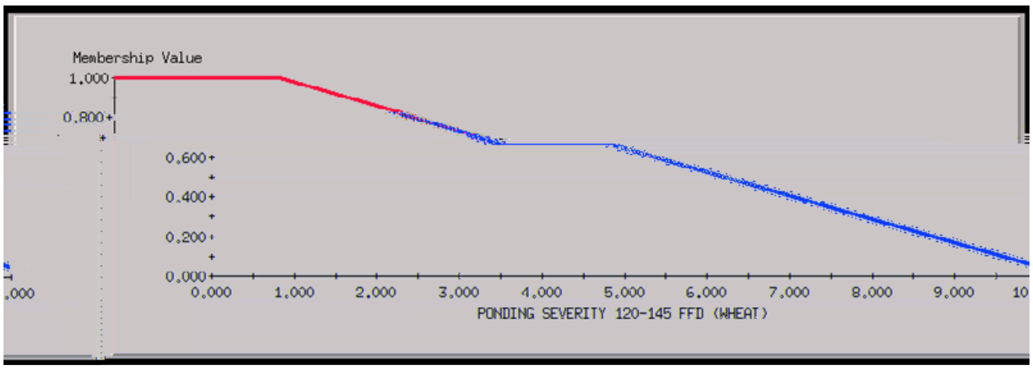
2b17.—Ponding During Growing Season <= 90 FFD (Wheat). Units are [days]*[inundations]*[months].



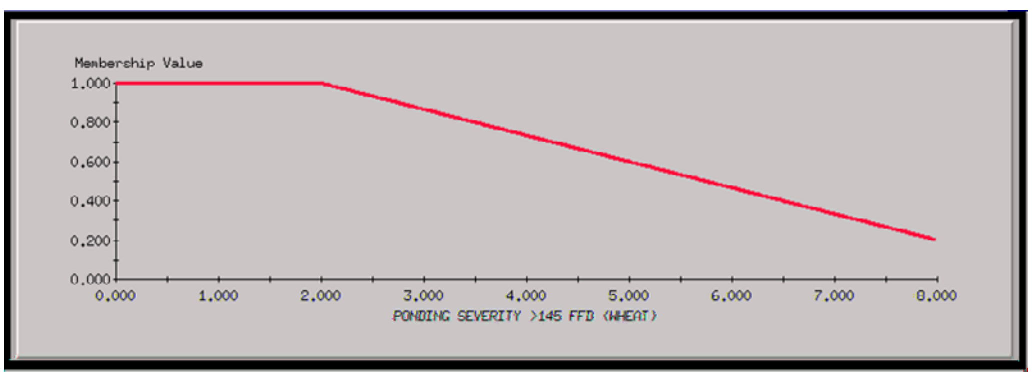
2b18.—Ponding During Growing Season 90 to 105 FFD (Wheat). Units are [days]*[inundations]*[months].



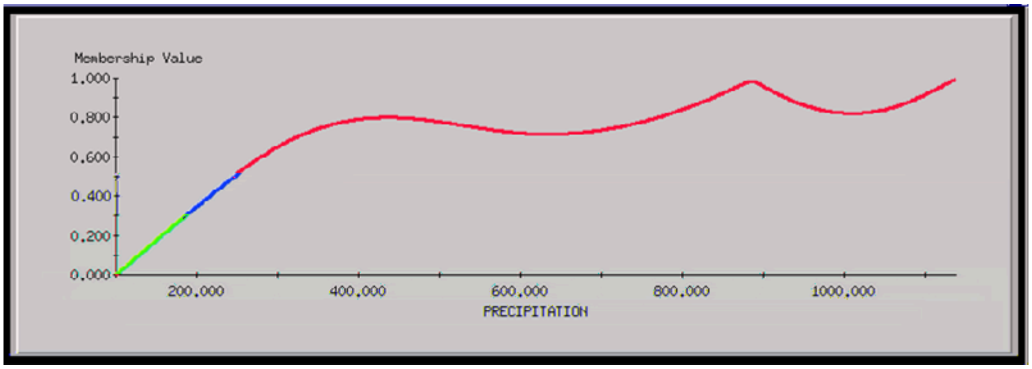
2b19.—Ponding During Growing Season 105 to 120 FFD (Wheat). Units are [days]*[inundations]*[months].



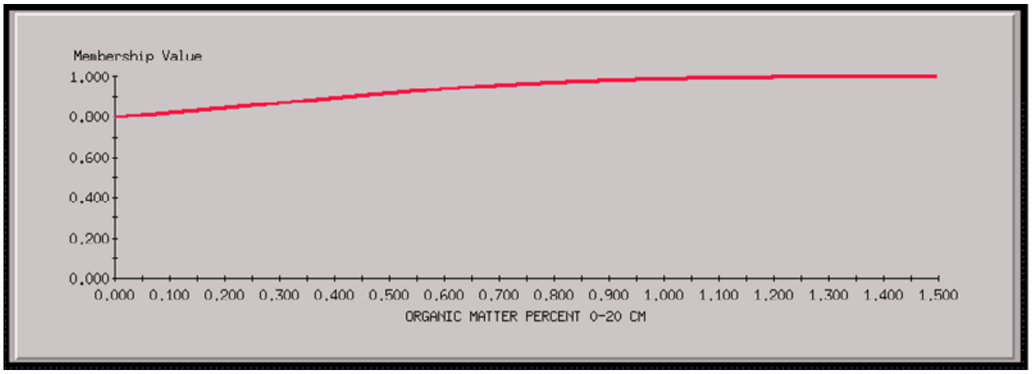
2b20.—Ponding During Growing Season 120 to 145 FFD (Wheat). Units are [days]*[inundations]*[months].



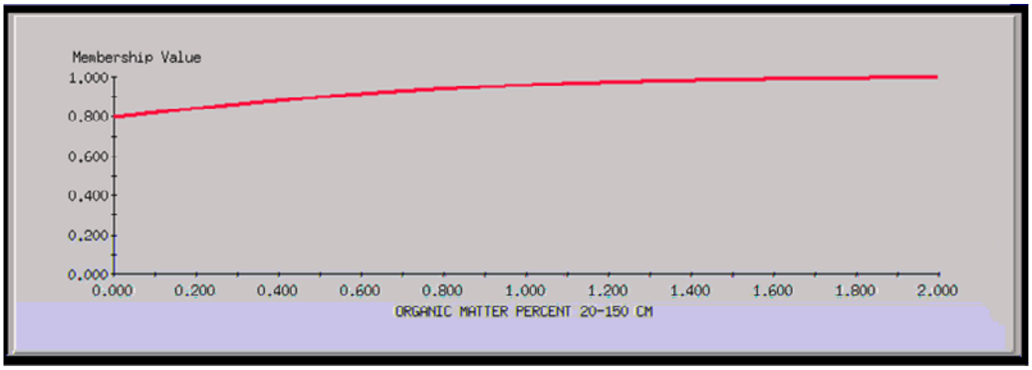
2b21.—Ponding During Growing Season >145 FFD (Wheat). Units are [days]*[inundations]*[months].



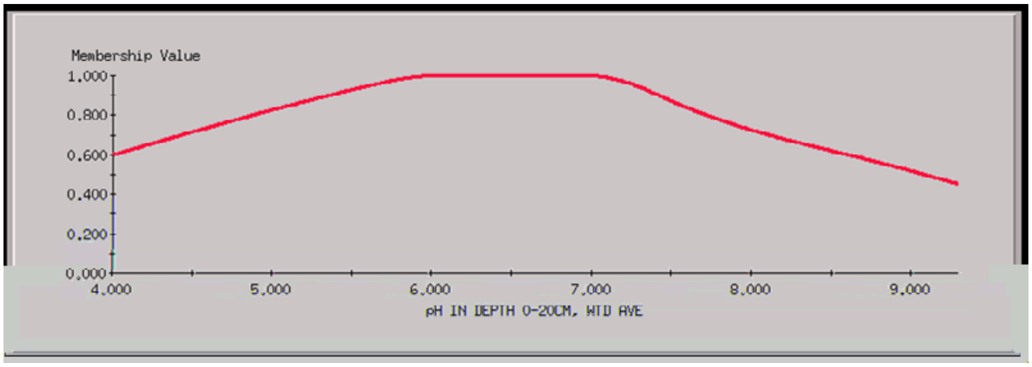
2b22.—Mean Annual Precipitation (Wheat) evaluation. Units are mm/year.



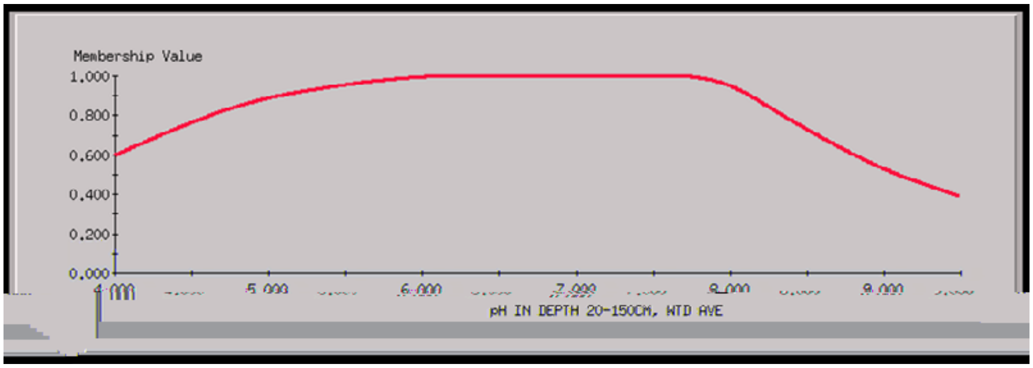
2b23.—Organic Matter 0 to 20 cm evaluation. Units are percent by weight.



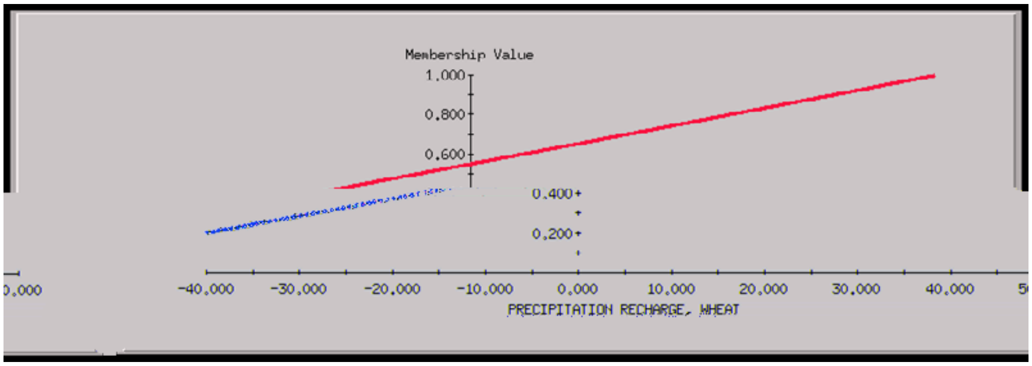
2b24.—Organic Matter 20 to 150 cm evaluation. Units are percent by weight.



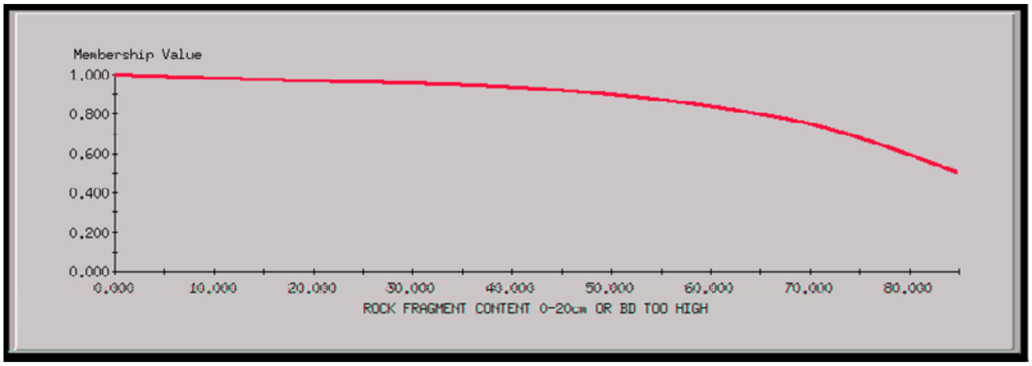
2b25.—pH 0 to 20 cm (Wheat) evaluation (pH units).



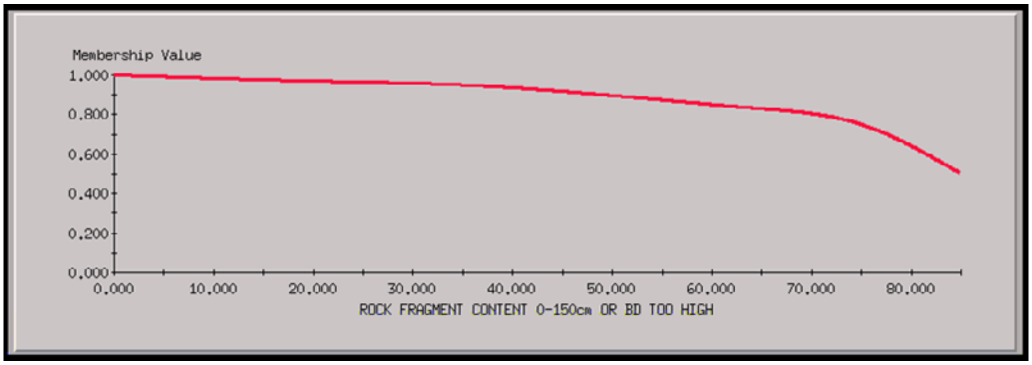
2b26.—pH 20 to 150 cm (Wheat) evaluation (pH units).



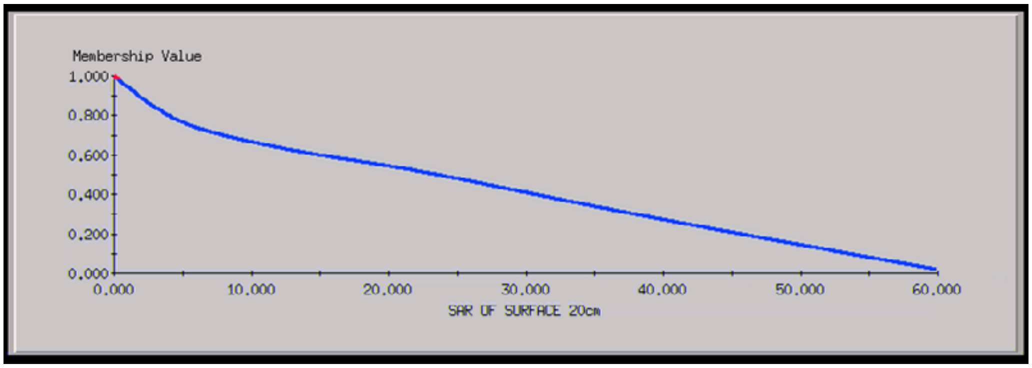
2b27.—Precipitation Recharge (Wheat) evaluation. Units are mm/year.



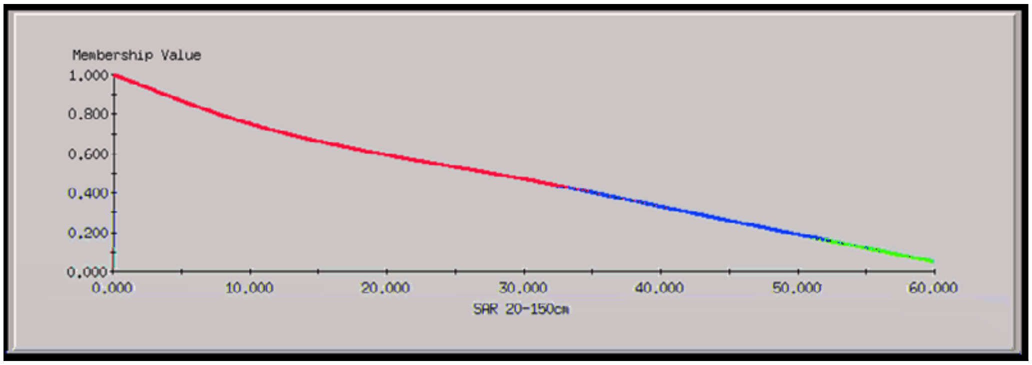
2b28.—Rock fragment volume 0 to 20 cm evaluation. Units are percent by volume.



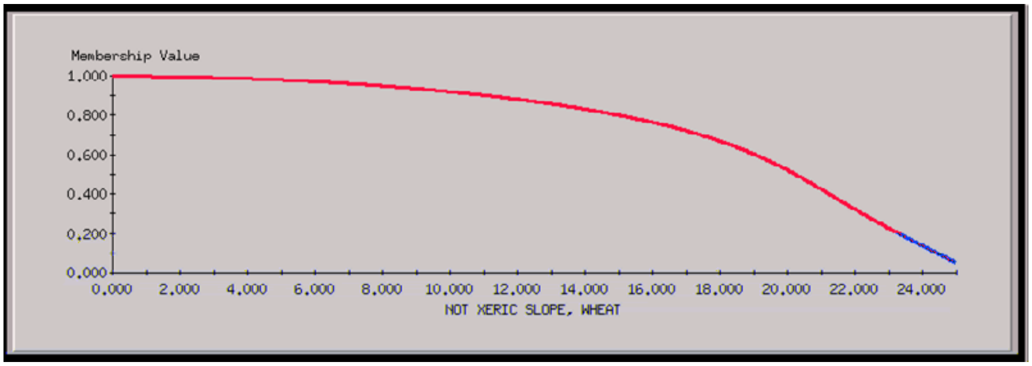
2b29.—Rock fragment volume 20 to 150 cm evaluation. Units are percent by volume.



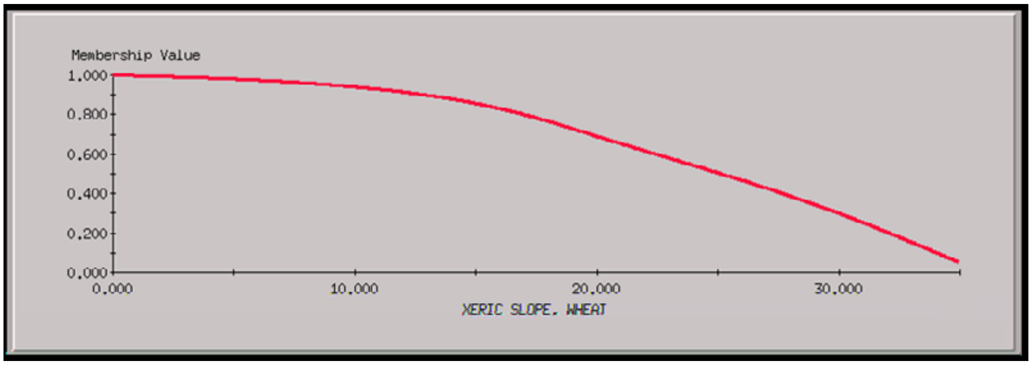
2b30.—SAR 0 to 20 cm evaluation. Unitless ratio.



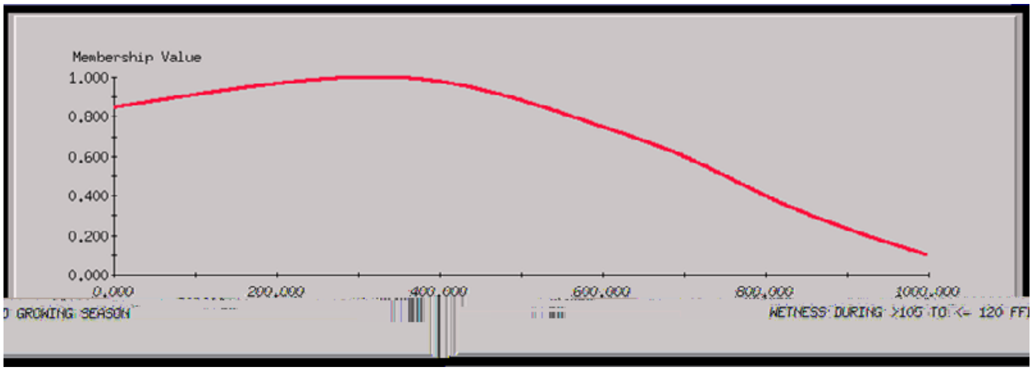
2b31.—SAR 20 to 150 cm evaluation. Unitless ratio.



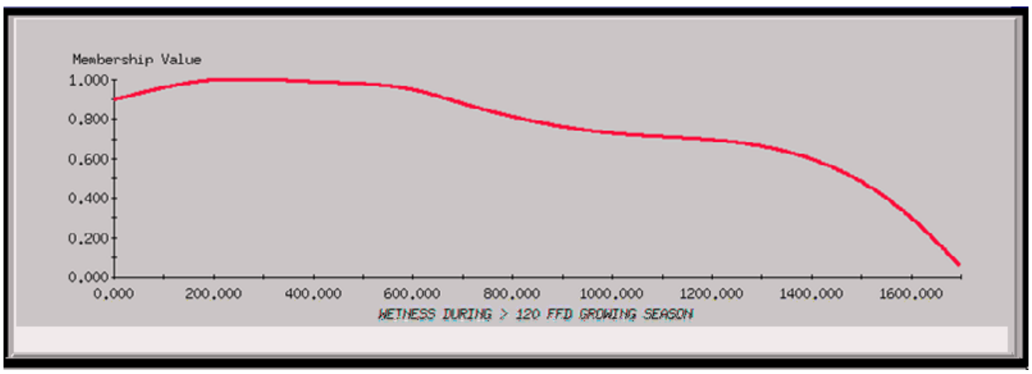
2b32.—Effective Slope, Not Xeric (Wheat) evaluation. Units are percent slope.



2b33.—Effective Slope, Xeric (Wheat) evaluation. Units are percent slope.

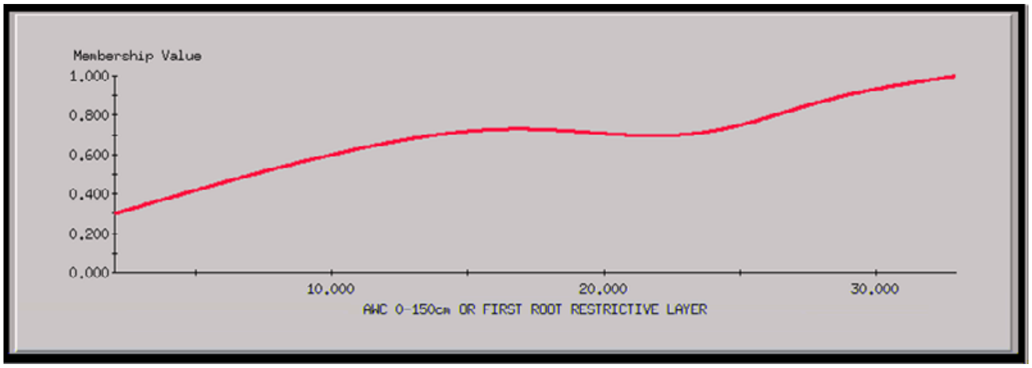


2b37.—Wetness During FFD >105 to <= 120 (Wheat) evaluation. Units are cm.

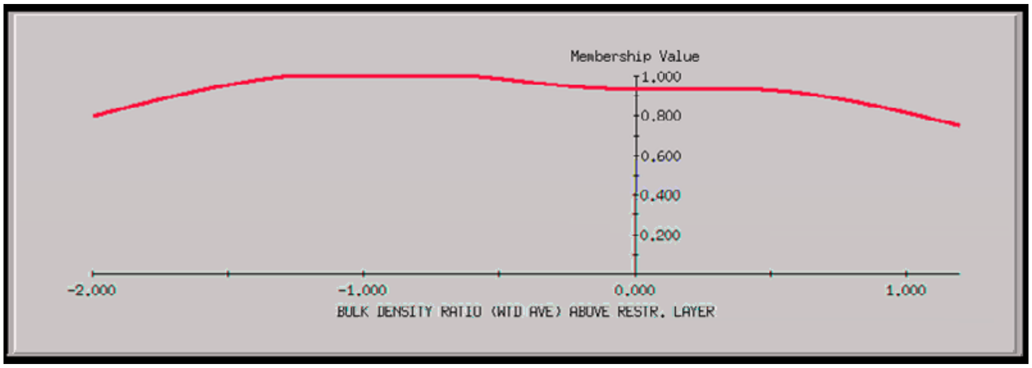


2b38.—Wetness During FFD >120 (Wheat) evaluation. Units are cm.

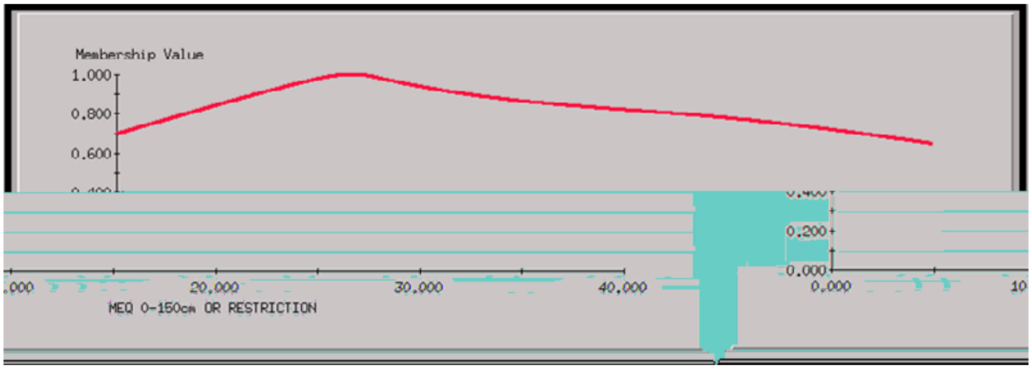
2c.—Cotton Submodel Evaluations for Soil Properties



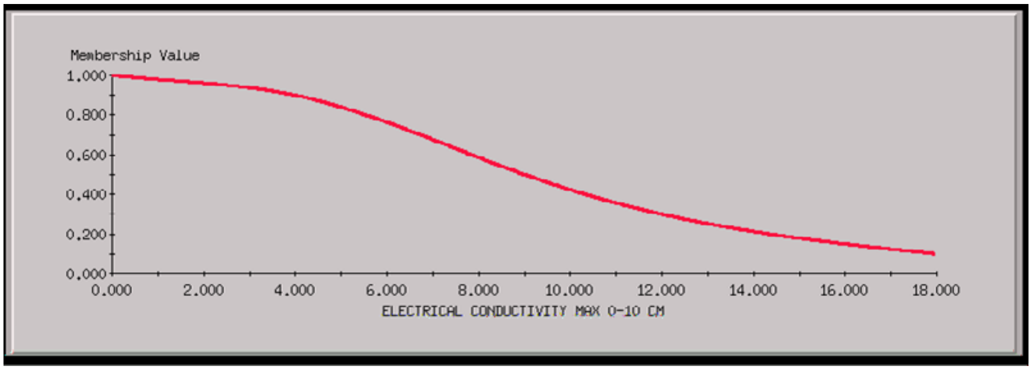
2c1.—AWC (Cotton) evaluation. AWC is in cm.



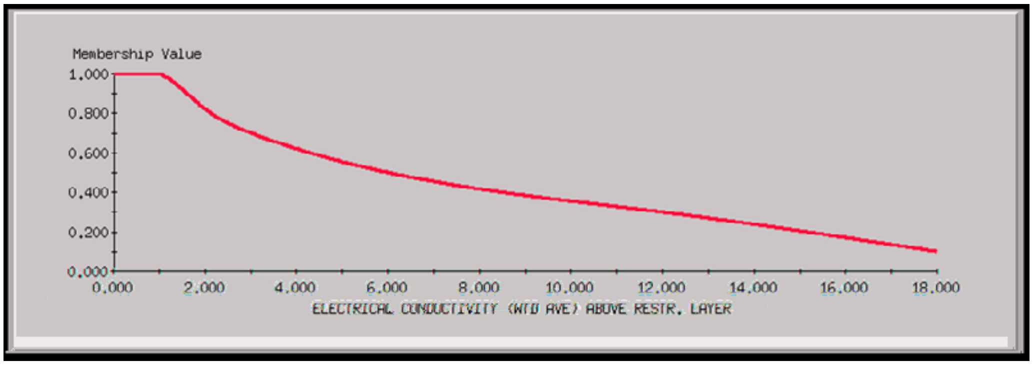
2c2.—Bulk Density Ratio evaluation. The units of the ratio are g/cm³/g/gm³.



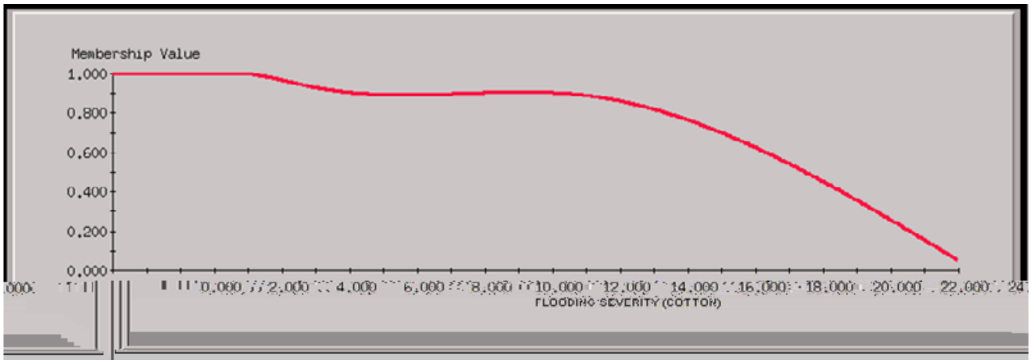
2c3.—CEC (Cotton) evaluation. Units are meq/cm².



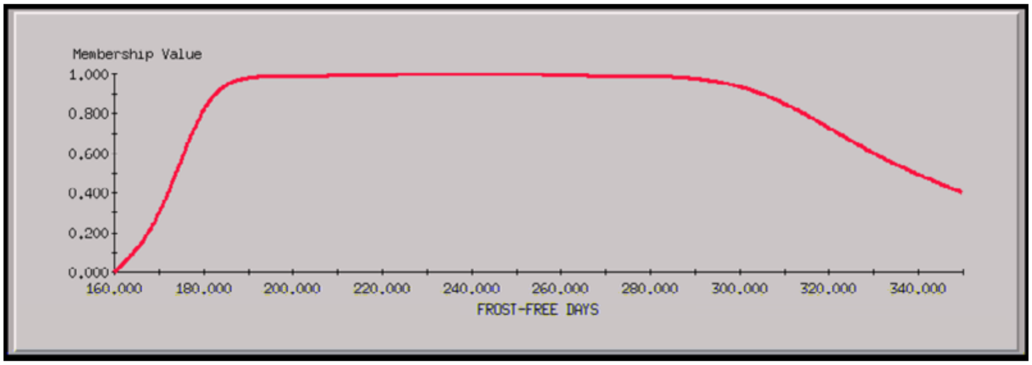
2c4.—Electrical Conductivity Adverse Germination (Cotton) evaluation. Units are mmhos/cm.



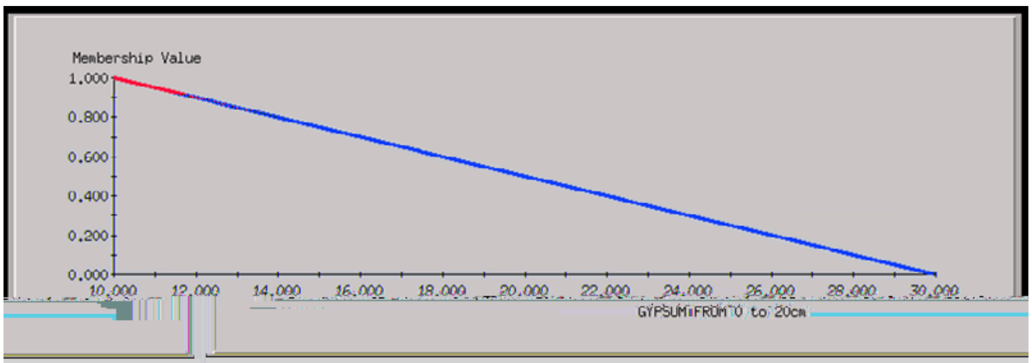
2c5.—Electrical Conductivity Adverse Growth (Cotton) evaluation. Units are mmhos/cm.



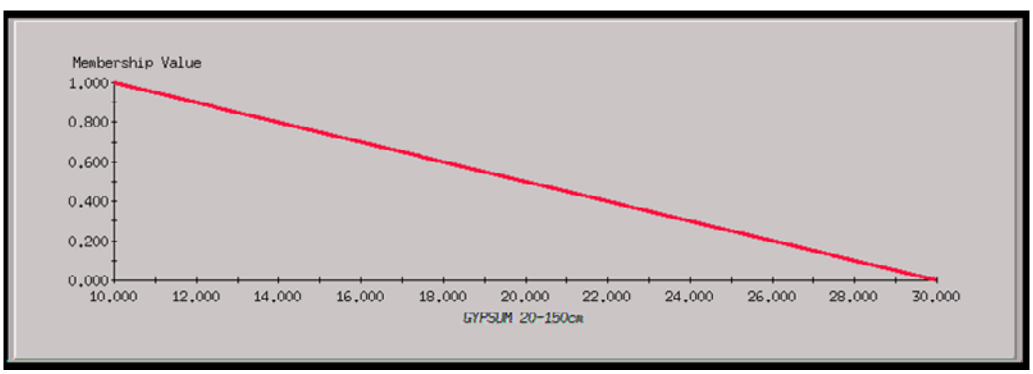
2c6.—Flooding During the Growing Season evaluation. Units are [days]*[inundations/month]* [months].



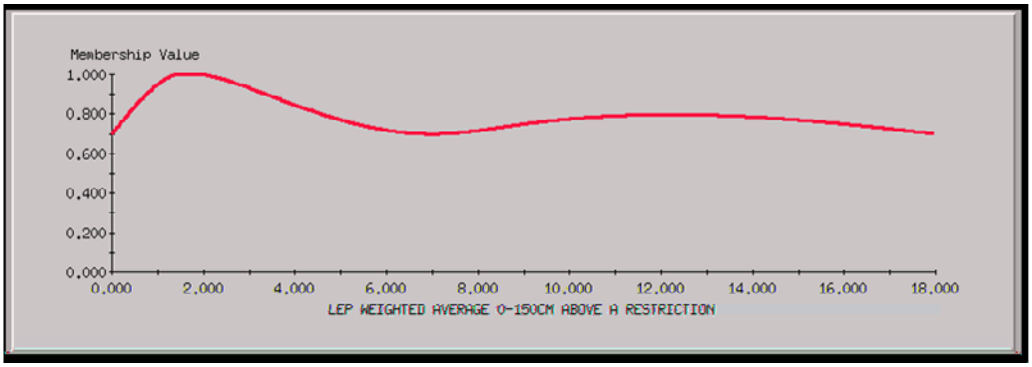
2c7.—Frost-Free Days (Cotton) evaluation. Units are frost-free days/year.



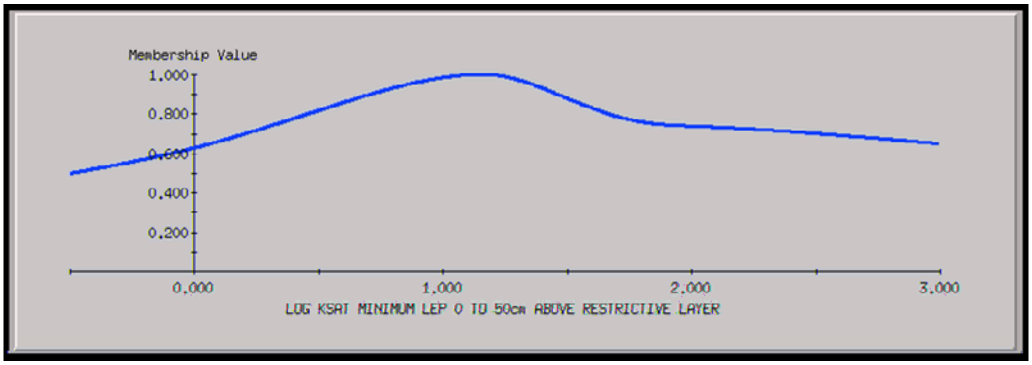
2c8.—Gypsum from 0 to 20 cm evaluation. Units are percent by weight of the less than 20 mm material.



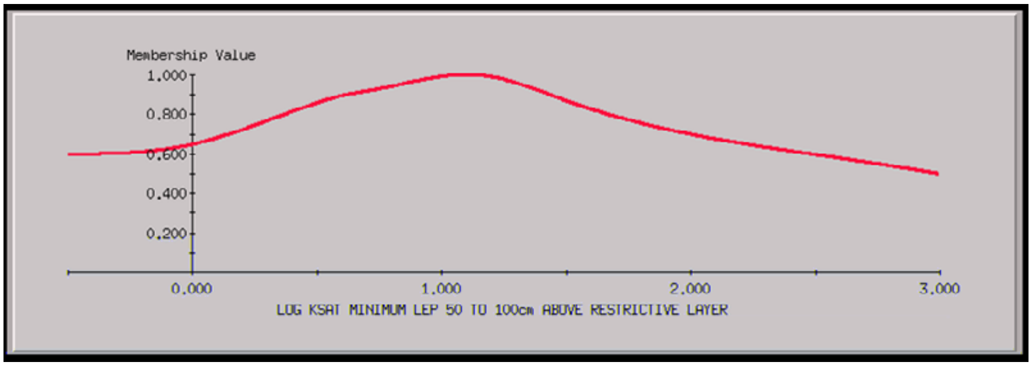
2c9.—Gypsum from 20 to 150 cm evaluation. Units are percent by weight of the less than 20 mm material.



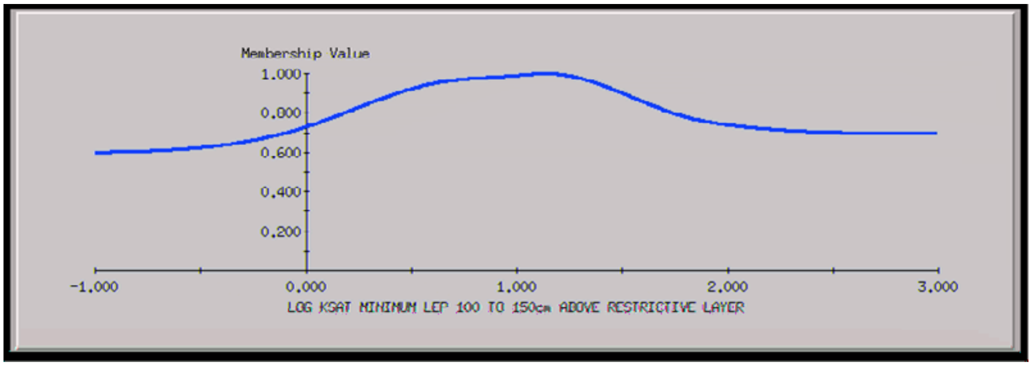
2c10.—LEP from 0 to 150 cm (Cotton) evaluation. Units are cm^3/cm^3.



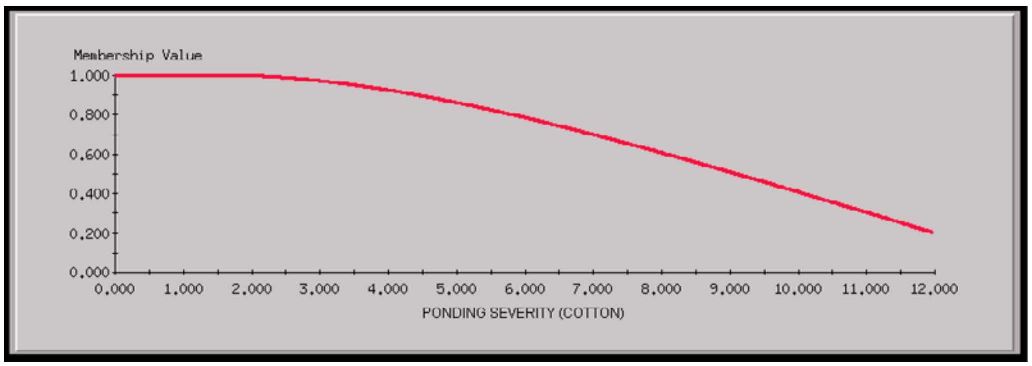
2c11.—Log (Ksat X LEP) 0 to 50 cm (Cotton) evaluation. Units are log[um/sec].



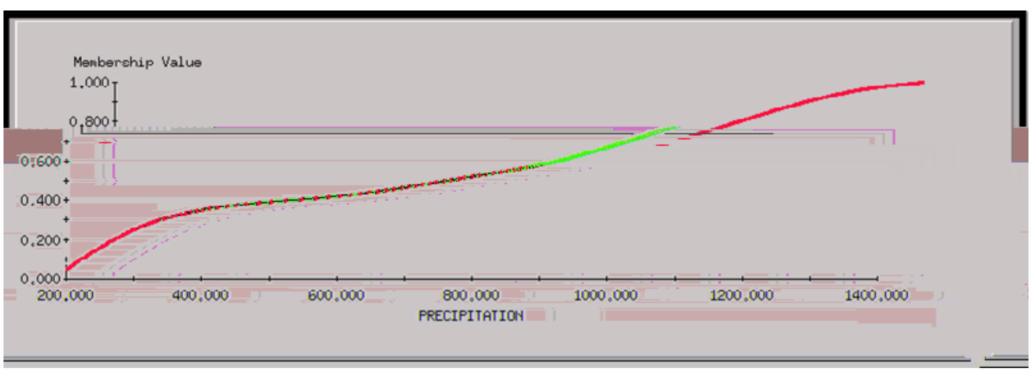
2c12.—Log (Ksat X LEP) 50 to 100 cm (Cotton) evaluation. Units are log[um/sec].



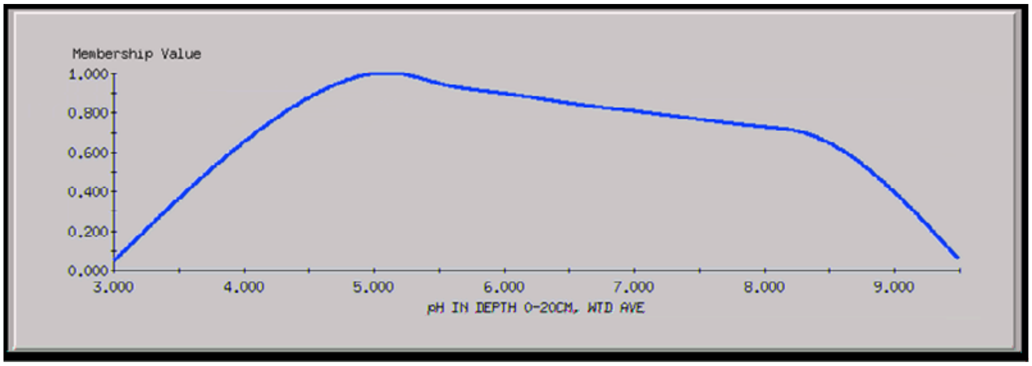
2c13.—Log (Ksat X LEP) 100 to 150 cm (Cotton) evaluation. Units are log[um/sec].



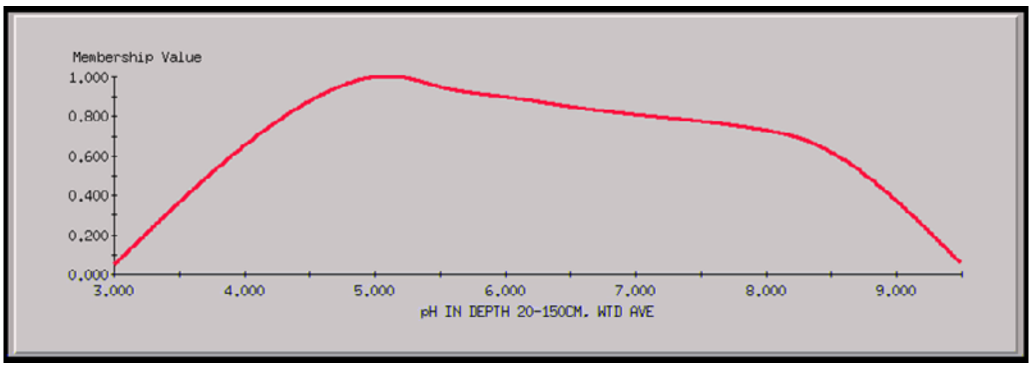
2c14.—Ponding During the Growing Season evaluation (Wheat). Units are [days]*[inundations]*[months].



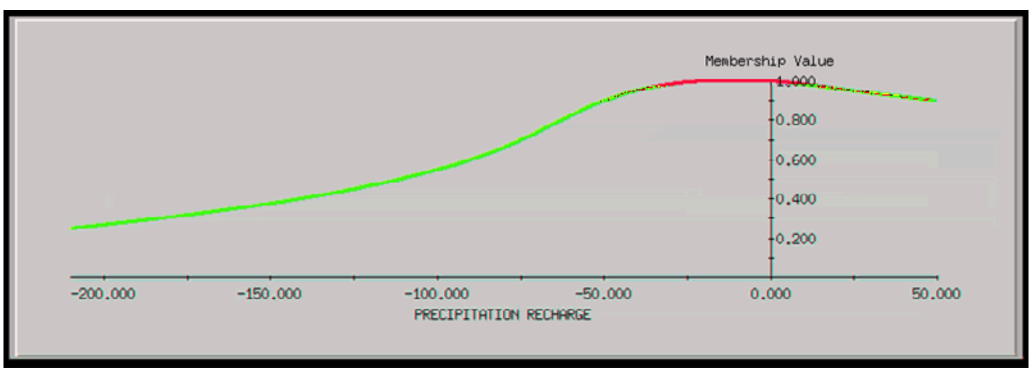
2c15.—Precipitation (Cotton) evaluation. Units are mm/year.



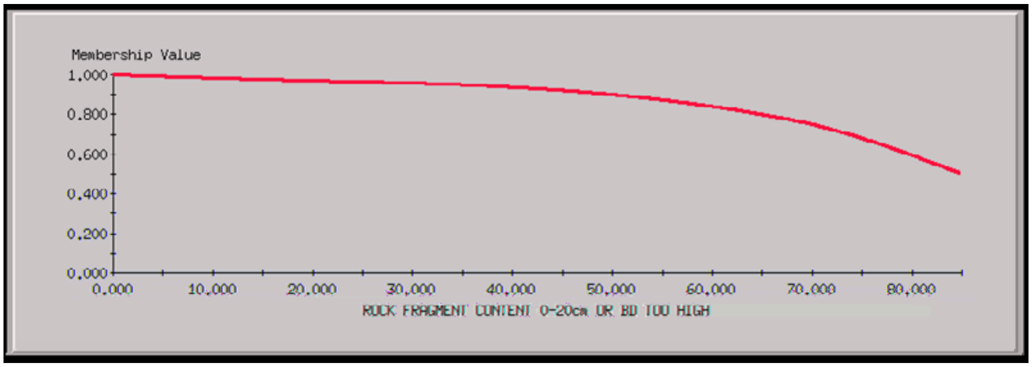
2c16.—pH 0 to 20 cm (Cotton) evaluation (pH units).



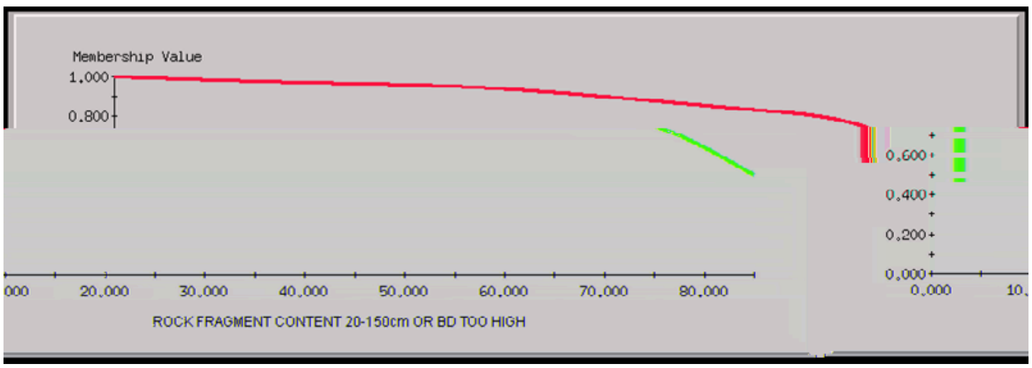
2c17.—pH 20 to 150 cm (Cotton) evaluation (pH units).



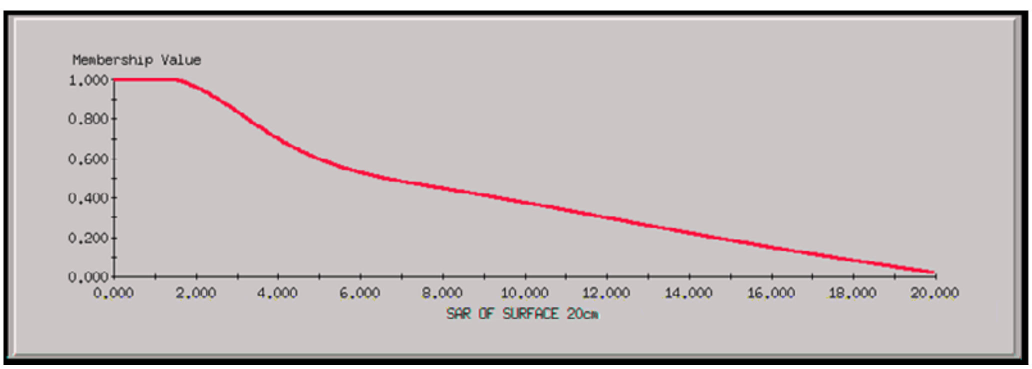
2c18.—Precipitation Recharge (Cotton) evaluation. Units are mm/year.



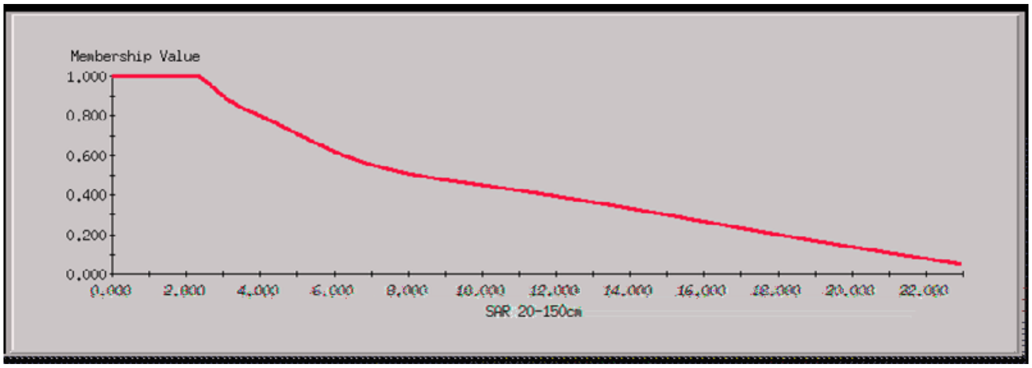
2c19.—Rock fragment volume 0 to 20 cm evaluation. Units are percent by volume.



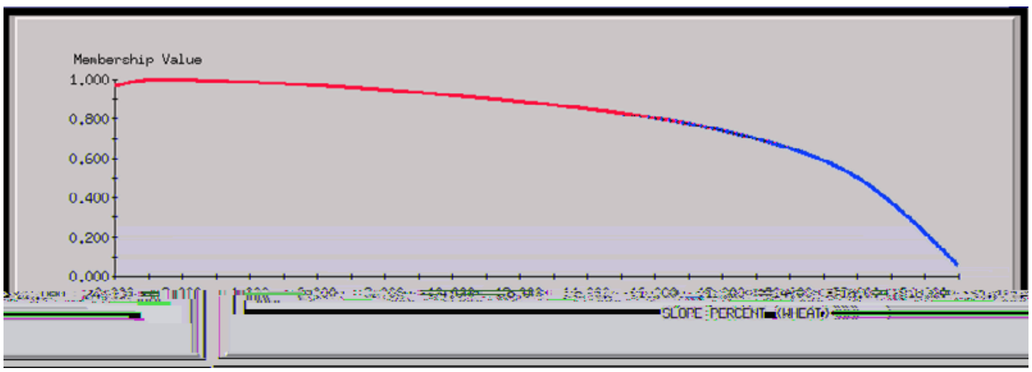
2c20.—Rock fragment volume 20 to 150 cm evaluation. Units are percent by volume.



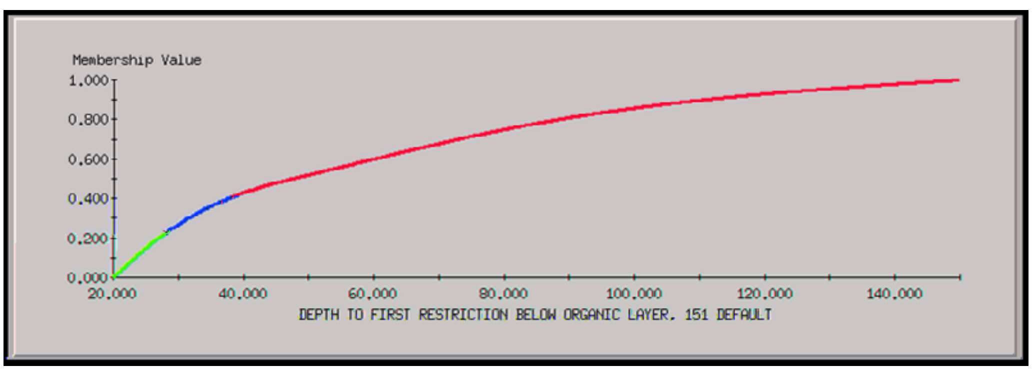
2c21.—SAR 0 to 20 cm evaluation. SAR is a unitless ratio.



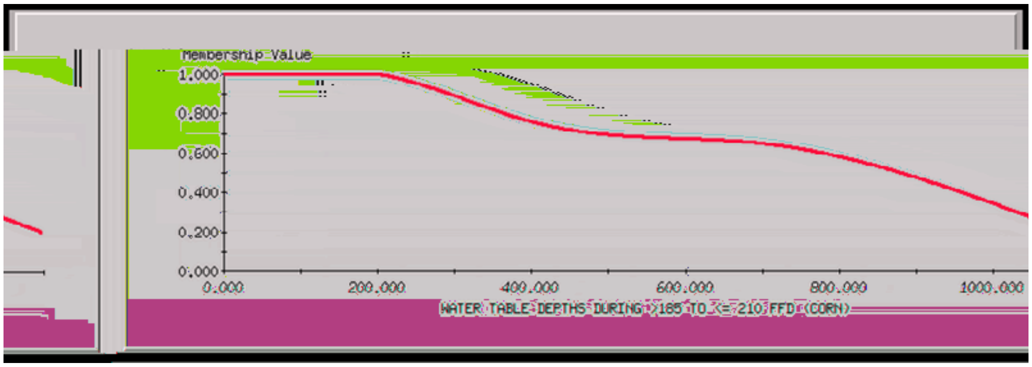
2c22.—SAR 20 to 150 cm evaluation. SAR is a unitless ratio.



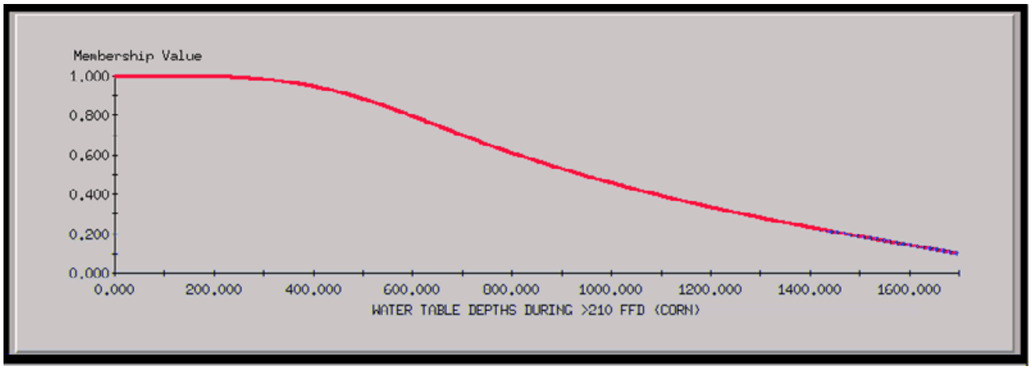
2c23.—Slope (Cotton) evaluation. Units are percent slope.



2c24.—Soil Depth evaluation. Units are cm.



2c25.—Wetness During >185 to <= 210 Frost-Free Days (Cotton) evaluation. Units are cm.



2c26.—Wetness During >210 Frost-Free Days (Cotton) evaluation. Units are cm.

Appendix 3.—Properties With a Possible Result of "Null Not Rated"

For the following properties, the database must be populated properly for the model to run:

Slope

Map Unit Name

Frost-Free Days

Ksat

Mean Annual Precipitation

Mean Annual Air Temperature

Available Water-Holding Capacity

Bulk Density $^{1}/_{3}$ Bar

Linear Extensibility Percent

Organic Matter Content

pH 1:1 H_2O or $CaCl_2$

Sodium Absorption Ratio

Percent Sand, Silt, and Clay rv

Electrical Conductivity

CEC

Appendix 4.—Root-Limiting Layers in NCCPI

The depth (and therefore volume) of soil that roots can exploit contributes significantly to soil productivity. Many calculations of soil capacity factors, such as AWC and cation-exchange capacity, stop at a root-limiting layer. Recognition of root-limiting layers involves not only physical but also chemical barriers to root growth. NCCPI recognizes four kinds of root-limiting layers. The first kind is the typical root-limiting layers populated in NASIS, including hard bedrock, soft bedrock, a fragipan, a duripan, sulfuric material, and a dense layer. The second kind is a layer having a pH of less than 3.5, and the third is a layer having an electrical conductivity of more than 12. The fourth kind is a possible dense layer determined through an examination of the differential between the populated bulk density of a layer and a theoretical optimum density. If the differential reaches a threshold, then the layer is considered to stop root growth. If no root-restricting zone is identified, a depth of 150 cm is used to approximate the maximum rooting depth.

Appendix 5.—Calculations Used To Manipulate Data

Typically, soil and site data are rated in the evaluations just as they occur in the database. In some cases, however, a more meaningful relationship between soil properties and soil productivity can be derived by combining some attributes or by performing some manipulation of the data. The relationships used in the model generally are the best fit found after a number of candidates have been considered. These cases are examined in this section.

5.1—Bulk Density

Bulk density is represented in the database as simply grams per cubic centimeter. Bulk density may limit root growth. A reasonable bulk density for a sandy soil might be 1.5 g/cm^3, and a clayey soil with the same bulk density would exhibit greatly reduced root growth. As a result, the calculation determines the difference between an "ideal" bulk density and the populated bulk density for the combination of sand, silt, and clay populated in the layer. Organic soils are currently considered to have an optimum bulk density.

```
#"idealbd" is a calculated "ideal" bulk density for various combinations of sand,
   silt, and clay.
#"delta" accounts for a sliding scale of differences between ideal and actual bulk
   density at various s, si, &c contents.
#"densrat" is the ratio of the observed density difference to that density
   difference that shows that the density is limiting.
# Sum the Bulk density by horizon and compute weighted average.

define isito       codename(desgnmaster). (identifies organic layers)
define organic     codename(taxorder). (identifies histosols)
define idealbd
        (((sandtotal_r*1.75)/100)+((silttotal_r*1.40)/100)+((claytotal_r*1.30)/100)).
define delta       ((0.002081*sandtotal_r)+(0.003912*silttotal_r)+0.044351).


define differ      isnull(desgnmaster) then desgnmaster else
                   if isito == "O" then 0 else if
                   isito == "L" then 0 else ((dbthirdbar_r)-(idealbd)).

define densrat     (differ/delta).
define rv1         wtavg(densrat, layer_thickness).

define rv          if isnull(rv1) then rv1 else
                   if organic == "histosols" then 0 else rv1.
```

5.3—Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity

5.4—Flooding

Flooding presents a problem of duration, frequency, and timing. Flooding during the time of year when the crop is in the ground is detrimental. Flooding while the ground is idle is less detrimental. A month of flooding during a 200-day growing season is less detrimental than a month of flooding during a 90-day growing season. Rare flooding during the growing season is less detrimental than frequent flooding during the growing season. An index that integrates the timing, frequency, and duration of flooding, called Flooding Severity, is used to assess the impact of flooding on productivity. In the following examples, wheat in a 90- to 105-day growing season is the crop of interest.

Flooding Duration

```
FLOODING DURATION CLASS - WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX

# Get flooding duration classes

exec sql select floddurcl
from component, comonth
where join component to comonth and
((taxtempregime in (“pergelic”) and comonth.month in (“jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“cryic”) and comonth.month in (“jun”, “jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“frigid”) and comonth.month in (“apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”,
   “aug”, “sep”))
or (taxtempregime in (“mesic”) and comonth.month in (“mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”,
   “aug”, “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“thermic”) and comonth.month in (“mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”,
   “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isothermic”, “isohyperthermic”, “isomesic”) and
   comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”, “sep”, “oct”, “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“hyperthermic”) and comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”,
   “may”, “jun”, “sep”, “oct”, “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isofrigid”) and comonth.month in (“may”, “jun”, “jul”, “sep”,
   “oct”)));

aggregate column floddurcl max.

define rv        ISNULL(floddurcl) then 1 else
                 if floddurcl == 1 then 2 else
                 if floddurcl == 2 then 3 else
                 if floddurcl == 3 then 4 else
                 if floddurcl == 4 then 5 else “”.
```

Flooding Frequency

```
FLOODING FREQUENCY CLASS - WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX

# Get flooding frequency classes

exec sql select flodfreqcl
from component, comonth
where join component to comonth and
((taxtempregime in (“pergelic”) and comonth.month in (“jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“cryic”) and comonth.month in (“jun”, “jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“frigid”) and comonth.month in (“apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”,
   “aug”, “sep”))
or (taxtempregime in (“mesic”) and comonth.month in (“mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”,
   “aug”, “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“thermic”) and comonth.month in (“mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”,
   “sep”, “oct”, “nov”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isothermic”, “isohyperthermic”, “isomesic”) and
   comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”, “oct”, “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“hyperthermic”) and comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”,
   “may”, “jun”, “sep”, “oct”, “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isofrigid”) and comonth.month in (“may”, “jun”, “jul”, “sep”,
   “oct”)));.


define freqarray ISNULL(flodfreqcl) then 1 else
                      if flodfreqcl == 1 then 1 else
                      if flodfreqcl == 5 then 1 else
                      if flodfreqcl == 2 then 1 else
                      if flodfreqcl == 3 then 2 else
                      if flodfreqcl == 4 then 3 else
                      if flodfreqcl == 6 then 4 else “”.


define rv arraymax(freqarray).
```

Months of Flooding During the Growing Season

```
FLOODING DURATION MONTHS - WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX

# Get the number of flooding months

exec sql select floddurcl
from component, comonth
where join component to comonth and
((taxtempregime in (“pergelic”) and comonth.month in (“jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“cryic”) and comonth.month in (“jun”, “jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“frigid”) and comonth.month in (“apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”,
   “aug”, “sep”))
or (taxtempregime in (“mesic”) and comonth.month in (“mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”,
   “aug”, “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“thermic”) and comonth.month in (“mar”, “apr”, “may”,
   “jun”,”sep”, “oct”, “nov”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isothermic”, “isohyperthermic”, “isomesic”) and
   comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”,  “sep”, “oct”, “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“hyperthermic”) and comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”,
   “may”, “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”, “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isofrigid”) and comonth.month in (“may”, “jun”, “jul”,”sep”,
   “oct”)));

aggregate column floddurcl none.

define wetmo    ARRAYCOUNT(floddurcl).

define rv       isnull(wetmo) ? 0 : wetmo.
```

Flooding Severity

```
exec sql
select mean_annual_frost_free_days_r
from component where ((mean_annual_frost_free_days_r > 90) and
(mean_annual_frost_free_days_r <= 105));.


derive duration from rv using “NSSC Data”:”FLOODING DURATION CLASS -
   WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX”.
derive frequency from rv using “NSSC Data”:”FLOODING FREQUENCY CLASS -
   WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX”.
derive months from rv using “NSSC Data”:”FLOODING DURATION MONTHS -
   WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX”.

define rv1      (duration*frequency*months)/10.  (Flooding Severity Calculation)

define rv       isnull(mean_annual_frost_free_days_r) ?
   mean_annual_frost_free_days_r : rv1.
```

5.5—Ponding

Like flooding, ponding presents a problem of duration, frequency, and timing. Ponding during the time of year when the crop is in the ground is detrimental. Ponding while the ground is idle is less detrimental. A month of ponding during a 200-day growing season is less detrimental as a month of ponding during a 90-day growing season. Rare ponding during the growing season is less detrimental than frequent ponding during the growing season. An index that integrates the timing, frequency, and duration of ponding, called Ponding Severity, is used to assess the impact of ponding on productivity. In the following examples, wheat in a 90- to 105-day growing season is the crop of interest.

Ponding Duration

```
PONDING DURATION CLASS - WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX

# Get ponding duration classes

exec sql select ponddurcl
from component, comonth
where join component to comonth and
((taxtempregime in (“pergelic”) and comonth.month in (“jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“cryic”) and comonth.month in (“jun”, “jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“frigid”) and comonth.month in (“apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”,
   “aug”, “sep”))
or (taxtempregime in (“mesic”) and comonth.month in (“mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”,
   “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“thermic”) and comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”,
   “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isothermic”, “isohyperthermic”, “isomesic”) and
   comonth.month in (“jan”, “feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”,
   “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“hyperthermic”) and comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”,
   “may”, “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”, “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isofrigid”) and comonth.month in (“apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”,
   “aug”, “sep”, “oct”)));

aggregate column ponddurcl max.

#Convert class to a number

define rv        ISNULL(ponddurcl) then 1 else
                 if ponddurcl == 1 then 2 else
                 if ponddurcl == 2 then 3 else
                 if ponddurcl == 3 then 4 else
                 if ponddurcl == 4 then 5 else “”.
```

Ponding Frequency

```
PONDING FREQUENCY CLASS - WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX

# Get ponding frequency classes

exec sql select pondfreqcl
from component, comonth
where join component to comonth and
((taxtempregime in (“pergelic”) and comonth.month in (“jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“cryic”) and comonth.month in (“jun”, “jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“frigid”) and comonth.month in (“apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”,
   “aug”, “sep”))
or (taxtempregime in (“mesic”) and comonth.month in (“mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”,
   “aug”, “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“thermic”) and comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”,
   “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isothermic”, “isohyperthermic”, “isomesic”) and
   comonth.month in (“jan”, “feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”, “oct”, “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“hyperthermic”) and comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”,
   “may”, “jun”, “oct”, “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isofrigid”) and comonth.month in (“apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”,
   “aug”, “sep”, “oct”)));

aggregate column pondfreqcl max.

define rv       ISNULL(pondfreqcl) then 1 else
                if pondfreqcl == 1 then 1 else
                if pondfreqcl == 2 then 2 else
                if pondfreqcl == 3 then 3 else
                if pondfreqcl == 4 then 4 else
                if pondfreqcl == 5 then 5 else 1.
```

Months of Ponding During the Growing Season

```
PONDING DURATION MONTHS - WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX

# Get ponding duration classes

exec sql select pondducl
from component, comonth
where join component to comonth and
((taxtempregime in (“pergelic”) and comonth.month in (“jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“cryic”) and comonth.month in (“jun”, “jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“frigid”) and comonth.month in (“apr”,”may”, “jun”, “jul”, “aug”,
   “sep”))
or (taxtempregime in (“mesic”) and comonth.month in (“mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”,
   “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“thermic”) and comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”,
   “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isothermic”, “isohyperthermic”, “isomesic”) and
   comonth.month in (“jan”, “feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”,
   “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“hyperthermic”) and comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”,
   “may”, “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”, “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isofrigid”) and comonth.month in (“apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”,
   “aug”, “sep”, “oct”)));

aggregate column pondducl none.

define wetmo    ARRAYCOUNT(pondducl).

define rv       isnull(wetmo) ? 0 : wetmo.
```

Ponding Severity

```
exec sql
select mean_annual_frost_free_days_r
from component where ((mean_annual_frost_free_days_r > 90) and
(mean_annual_frost_free_days_r <= 105));.


derive duration from rv using “NSSC Data”:”PONDING DURATION CLASS -
   WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX”.
derive frequency from rv using “NSSC Data”:”PONDING FREQUENCY CLASS -
   WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX”.
derive months from rv using “NSSC Data”:”PONDING DURATION MONTHS -
   WHEAT GROWING SEASON, MAX”.

define rv1      (duration*frequency*months)/10.
define rv       isnull(mean_annual_frost_free_days_r) ?
   mean_annual_frost_free_days_r : rv1.
```

5.6—Water Tables

Water table depth, duration, and timing are synthesized into a single number called “Wetness” for various lengths of the growing season. Drained components are given a saturation depth of 160 cm.

```
# Get months and depths for wet soil moisture status in growing season

exec sql
select comonth.month, soimoistdept_r, coiid, localphase, otherph
from component, comonth, cosoilmoist
where join component to comonth and join comonth to cosoilmoist and
soimoiststat in (“wet”)
and (taxtempcl in (“hypergelic”, “pergelic”, “subgelic”)
and (comonth.month in (“jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“thermic”)
and comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“mesic”)
and comonth.month in (“mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”))
or (taxtempregime in (“cryic”)
and comonth.month in (“jun”, “jul”, “aug”))
or (taxtempregime in (“frigid”, “isofrigid”)
and comonth.month in (“apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”))
or (taxtempregime in (“hyperthermic”)
and comonth.month in (“feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”, “oct”,
   “nov”, “dec”))
or (taxtempregime in (“isothermic”, “isohyperthermic”, “isomesic”)
and comonth.month in (“jan”, “feb”, “mar”, “apr”, “may”, “jun”, “jul”, “aug”, “sep”,
   “oct”, “nov”, “dec”)));
aggregate column coiid none, comonth.month none, soimoistdept_r none.

exec sql
select mean_annual_frost_free_days_r
from component where ((mean_annual_frost_free_days_r > 90) and
(mean_annual_frost_free_days_r <= 105));.

define wetdepth_r       if isnull(soimoistdept_r) then 200 else if
                        ((localphase imatches “* drained*”) or (otherph imatches “*
                        drained*”)) then 160 else soimoistdept_r.

define monthindex       200-wetdepth_r.

define rv1              arraymax(monthindex).

define rv               isnull(mean_annual_frost_free_days_r) ?
   mean_annual_frost_free_days_r : rv1.
```

5.7—Precipitation Recharge

Different crops have differing water-use patterns. Small grains are sufficiently different from corn, cotton, and soybeans for the relatively insensitive data available in NASIS to allow a different calculation of the effect of rainfall during the growing season.

Small Grains, Primarily Fall Sown

```
exec sql
select mean_annual_precipitation_r precip, mean_annual_air_temperature_r
   temp, taxsuborder, taxsubgrp

from component;.

derive xericclim from rv using “NSSC Data”:”XERIC CLIMATE”.

define recharge          ((precip-(300+(2*temp)))-(3*(temp**2)))/10.

define xercharg          ((precip-(300+(temp)))-(2*(temp**2)))/10.

define rv          isnull(recharge) then recharge else
                   if xericclim == “Y” then xercharg else recharge.

define low         isnull(recharge) then recharge else
                   if xericclim == “Y” then xercharg else recharge.

define high        isnull(recharge) then recharge else
                   if xericclim == “Y” then xercharg else recharge.
```

Corn, Cotton, Soybeans

```
exec sql
select mean_annual_precipitation_r precip, mean_annual_air_temperature_r
temp,     taxsuborder, taxsubgrp

from component;.

define recharge          ((precip-(300+(2*temp)))-(3*(temp**2)))/10.

define rv          isnull(recharge) then recharge else
                   if taxsuborder matches “*xeri*” then 0 else
                   if taxsubgrp matches “*xer*” then 0 else recharge.
```

References

Soil Survey Staff. 1999. Soil taxonomy: A basic system of soil classification for making and interpreting soil surveys. 2nd ed. United States Department of Agriculture Handbook 436.

Storie, R.E. 1937. An index for rating agricultural value of soils. Bulletin 556, University of California, Berkeley.

Storie, R.E. 1978. Storie index soil rating (revised). Special Publication 3203, Division of Agricultural Science, University of California, Berkeley.

Thornthwaite, C.W. 1948. An approach toward a rational classification of climate. Geographic Review 38: 55-94.

Glossary

Available water capacity (AWC). The capacity of soils to hold water available for use by most plants. It is commonly defined as the difference between the amount of soil water at field moisture capacity and the amount at wilting point. It is commonly expressed as inches of water per inch of soil. The capacity, in inches, in a 60-inch profile or to a limiting layer is expressed as:

Very low	0 to 3
Low	3 to 6
Moderate	6 to 9
High	9 to 12
Very high	more than 12

Bulk density. Soil bulk density is the ratio of the mass of dry solids to the bulk volume of the soil occupied by those dry solids. Bulk density is an important site characterization parameter because it varies with the structural condition of the soil, particularly that related to packing.

Cation-exchange capacity (CEC). The total amount of exchangeable cations that can be held by the soil, expressed in terms of milliequivalents per 100 grams of soil at neutrality (pH 7.0) or at some other stated pH value. The term, as applied to soils, is synonymous with base-exchange capacity but is more precise in meaning.

Clay. As a soil separate, the mineral soil particles less than 0.002 millimeter in diameter. As a soil textural class, soil material that is 40 percent or more clay, less than 45 percent sand, and less than 40 percent silt.

Electrical conductivity. A measure of the concentration of water-soluble salts in soils. It is used to indicate saline soils. High concentrations of neutral salts, such as sodium chloride and sodium sulfate, may interfere with the absorption of water by plants because the osmotic pressure in the soil solution is nearly as high as or higher than that in the plant cells. Salts may also interfere with the exchange capacity of nutrient ions, thereby resulting in nutritional deficiencies in plants.

Frost-free days. The expected number of days between the last freezing temperature (0 degrees C) in spring (January-July) and the first freezing temperature in fall (August-December). The number of days is based on the probability that the values for the standard “normal” period of 1971 to 2000 will be exceeded in 5 years out of 10.

Fuzzy system. A method of modeling that uses the degree of membership in a set as a membership function between 0 and 1 to quantify the impact of independent variables on dependent variables. This method is particularly useful when complex nonlinear relationships are modeled.

Gypsum. A mineral that is partially soluble in water and can be dissolved and removed by water. Soils with more than 10 percent gypsum may collapse if the gypsum is removed by percolating water. Dissolved gypsum reduces the amount of water available to plants by increasing the osmotic pressure of the soil solution.

Linear extensibility percentage (LEP). Refers to the change in length of an unconfined clod as moisture content is decreased from a moist to a dry state. Linear extensibility is used to determine the shrink-swell potential of soils. It is an expression of the volume change between the water content of the clod at $^{1}/_{3}$- or $^{1}/_{10}$-bar tension (33kPa or 10kPa tension) and oven dryness. Volume change is influenced by the amount and type of clay minerals in the soil. The volume change is the percent change for the whole soil. If it is expressed as a fraction, the resulting value is COLE, coefficient of linear extensibility.

Loess. Material transported and deposited by wind and consisting dominantly of silt-sized particles.

Miscellaneous area. A kind of map unit that has little or no natural soil and supports little or no vegetation.

Organic matter. Plant and animal residue in the soil in various stages of decomposition. The content of organic matter in the surface layer is described as follows:

Very low	less than 0.5 percent
Low	0.5 to 1.0 percent
Moderately low	1.0 to 2.0 percent
Moderate	2.0 to 4.0 percent
High	4.0 to 8.0 percent
Very high	more than 8.0 percent

Parent material. The unconsolidated organic and mineral material in which soil forms.

pH value. A numerical designation of acidity and alkalinity in soil.

Ponding. Standing water on soils in closed depressions. Unless the soils are artificially drained, the water can be removed only by percolation or evapotranspiration.

Productivity, soil. The capability of a soil for producing a specified plant or sequence of plants under specific management.

Rock fragments. Rock or mineral fragments having a diameter of 2 millimeters or more; for example, pebbles, cobbles, stones, and boulders.

RZ AWC. Available water capacity in the root zone.

Sand. As a soil separate, individual rock or mineral fragments from 0.05 millimeter to 2.0 millimeters in diameter. Most sand grains consist of quartz. As a soil textural class, a soil that is 85 percent or more sand and not more than 10 percent clay.

Saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat). The quality of the soil that enables water to move through the profile. Ksat is the reciprocal of the resistance of soil to water movement. As the resistance increases, the hydraulic conductivity decreases. Resistance to water movement in saturated soil is primarily a function of the arrangement and size distribution of pores.

Silt. As a soil separate, individual mineral particles that range in diameter from the upper limit of clay (0.002 millimeter) to the lower limit of very fine sand (0.05 millimeter). As a soil textural class, soil that is 80 percent or more silt and less than 12 percent clay.

Slope. The inclination of the land surface from the horizontal. Percentage of slope is the vertical distance divided by horizontal distance, then multiplied by 100. Thus, a slope of 20 percent is a drop of 20 feet in 100 feet of horizontal distance.

Sodium adsorption ratio (SAR). A measure of the amount of sodium (Na) relative to calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) in the water extract from saturated soil paste. It is the ratio of the Na concentration divided by the square root of one-half of the Ca + Mg concentration.

Water-gathering surface. A concave part of the landscape where runoff can accumulate.

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