Soil Survey Data

Soil survey data are a product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants.

Web Soil Survey (WSS)

The Web Soil Survey provides agricultural producers, agencies, Technical Service Providers, and others electronic access to relevant soil and related information needed to make land-use and management decisions. The WSS:

- Provides an alternative to traditional hardcopy publication.
- Provides the means for quicker delivery of information.
- Provides electronic access to full soil survey report content.
- Provides access to the most current data, and
- Allows customers to get just the information they want.

Print a Hydric Soil Map

- Complete Steps 1, 2, and 3
- From the “Soil Data Explorer” tab, click on the “Suitabilities and Limitations for Use” tab
- Click on “Land Classifications”
- Click on “Map Unit Hydric Rating”
- Click the “View Rating” button
- Click the “Legend” tab to open or close the map symbol legend
- Click the “Printable Version” button
- Click the “View” button
- On the browser menu bar, select File and Print; or click the print icon

Print a Soil Chemical Properties Report

- Complete Steps 1, 2, and 3
- From the “Soil Data Explorer” tab, click the “Soil Reports” tab
- Click on “Soil Chemical Properties”
- Click on “Chemical Soil Properties”
- Click the “View Soil Report” button
- Click the “Printable Version” button
- Click the “View” button
- On the browser menu bar, select File and Print; or click the print icon

Web Soil Survey provides a simple yet powerful way to analyze soil data in four basic steps
Accessing Web Soil Survey


- Click the "Start WSS" button to begin.

Step 1
Define Your Area of Interest (AOI)

- Under "Navigate By...." several methods are available to zoom into a geographic area of interest. For example, you can enter your address, select a state and county, or enter section, township, and range information.

- Click the "View" button to see the area.

- Use the zoom in tool (plus sign) to click and drag a rectangular box around a specific area. Repeat, as necessary, to zoom further.

- Select an AOI tool to draw a rectangular box or irregular polygon that defines the AOI and allows selection of associated soil data.

Step 2
View and Print Your Soil Map

- Click on the "Soil Map" tab.

- Click on a map unit name to view a map unit description. Click the X to close the narrative.

- Print your soil map by clicking on the "Printable Version" button; then click the "View" button.

- On the browser menu bar, select File and Print; or click the print icon.

NOTE: At any time during Steps 2, 3, or 4, you can redefine the soil map location by clicking on the "Area of Interest" tab and clicking the "Clear AOI" button. Repeat Step 1.

Step 3
Explore Your Soil Information

WSS allows you to generate thematic maps of soil interpretations and chemical or physical properties. Tabular data reports are also available.

- Click on the "Soil Data Explorer" tab.

Step 3, continued

- Click on the tabs and explore the information that is available (default tab is "Suitabilities and Limitations for Use").

Step 4
Add Items to Free Shopping Cart and Check Out

WSS allows you to collect a variety of thematic maps and reports in the Shopping Cart, then print or download the content into one file or document.

- Soil map, map unit legend, and map unit descriptions are automatically added.

- Items viewed in Step 3 can be added by clicking the "Add to Shopping Cart" button.

- View your cart contents by clicking the "Shopping Cart (Free)" tab. Items checked on the Table of Contents are included.

- Get your Custom Soil Resource report. -- Click the "Check Out" button -- Select a delivery option and click OK