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## Delaware Soil Factoids

- 80 soil series described
- 195 soil map units (soil types)

## Delaware State Soil:

*Greenwich Series*

## Most common soil type:

*Fallsington loam, 0-2 % slopes*

## National Cooperative Soil Survey Partners:

- Delaware Office of State Planning
- Delaware Department of Agriculture
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)
- First State Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council
- Delaware Conservation Districts
- University of Delaware

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## FOR MORE INFO...

### Soil Data Mart:

<http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov>

- Access official soils legends and download tables and interpretations, OR
- Download digital maps and databases for use with GIS software.

### Web Soil Survey:

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>

- View and print updated soils maps, tables and interpretations.

### Soil Data Viewer:

<http://soildataviewer.nrcs.usda.gov>

- Download this tool for ArcMap (GIS software) to make soil-based thematic maps.

### NRCS Soils Page

<http://soils.usda.gov>

- Access NRCS soils information, soil series descriptions, publications, data, research and more...

### Delaware NRCS Soil Scientists:

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**New Castle County**.....302-832-3100 x3  
**Kent County**.....302-741-2600 x3  
**Sussex County** .....302-856-3990 x3



## Delaware Soil Survey

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*Helping People Understand Soils*



  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

[www.de.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.de.nrcs.usda.gov)

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## What is a Soil Survey?

The Delaware SOIL SURVEY is a scientific-based study of the soil found in the state. It is made up of three major parts: soil maps, soil descriptions, and soil interpretations. A soil survey is prepared by soil scientists who determine the properties of soil and predict soil behavior for a host of uses. These predictions, often called interpretations, are developed to help users of soils to better manage this natural resource. The survey provides information about land use management, soil formation, and interpretations that can affect a wide range of rural and urban land uses.



*Soil scientist Phil King examines Elsinboro soil series in a cutbank.*

## History

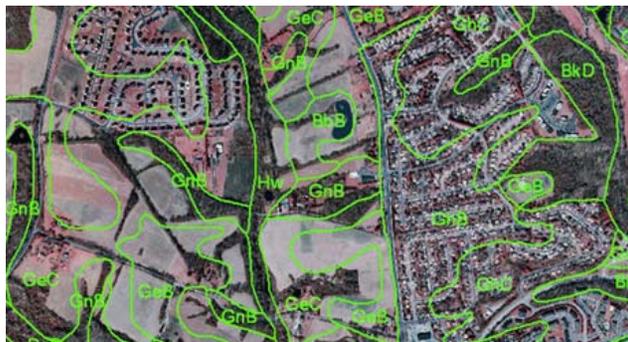
In January 2010, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Delaware completed its digital mapping

of 298,000 acres of soils in New Castle County. This latest mapping supersedes the previous soil survey completed in 1970 and completes the digital mapping for Delaware. Now the public can access current digital information for 1.3 million acres of soils throughout the entire state.

## Advantages of New Soil Surveys

With this new digital format, individuals can obtain access to updated soils data and maps, geographic data, aerial photography, roads, towns, slopes, drainage, and more - either online, on a CD or in GIS software.

Soil surveys provide useful information to homeowners, community planners, developers, farmers, realtors, engineers and foresters, among others. This information can help determine if land is suitable for building, farming, grazing, and many engineering and conservation applications. In addition, soil surveys provide information needed to protect water quality, wetlands and wildlife habitat.



*Digital soil surveys can be updated continually with new aerial photos.*

## Why Use a Soil Survey?

**Farmers and Ag Businesses**— can use soil information to estimate potential crop production and to plan practices for erosion control, water quality and nutrient management.

**Community Planners**—can use soil surveys to make informed land use decisions for guiding community development.

**Realtors**— can use soil information to evaluate the soils for different uses and assess the land's value.

**Homeowners**— can use soil surveys to determine the type of soil found on a potential or existing site. This can help them make better decisions about home sites and buildings.

**Engineers**— can use soil surveys to determine the limitations of soils for structures, to design sediment and erosion control practices and to conduct watershed and floodplain studies.

**Ecologists**—can use soil surveys in environmental assessments, wetland evaluations and habitat restoration projects.

**Sanitarians**—can use soil surveys as a tool in designing appropriate on-site waste disposal systems.