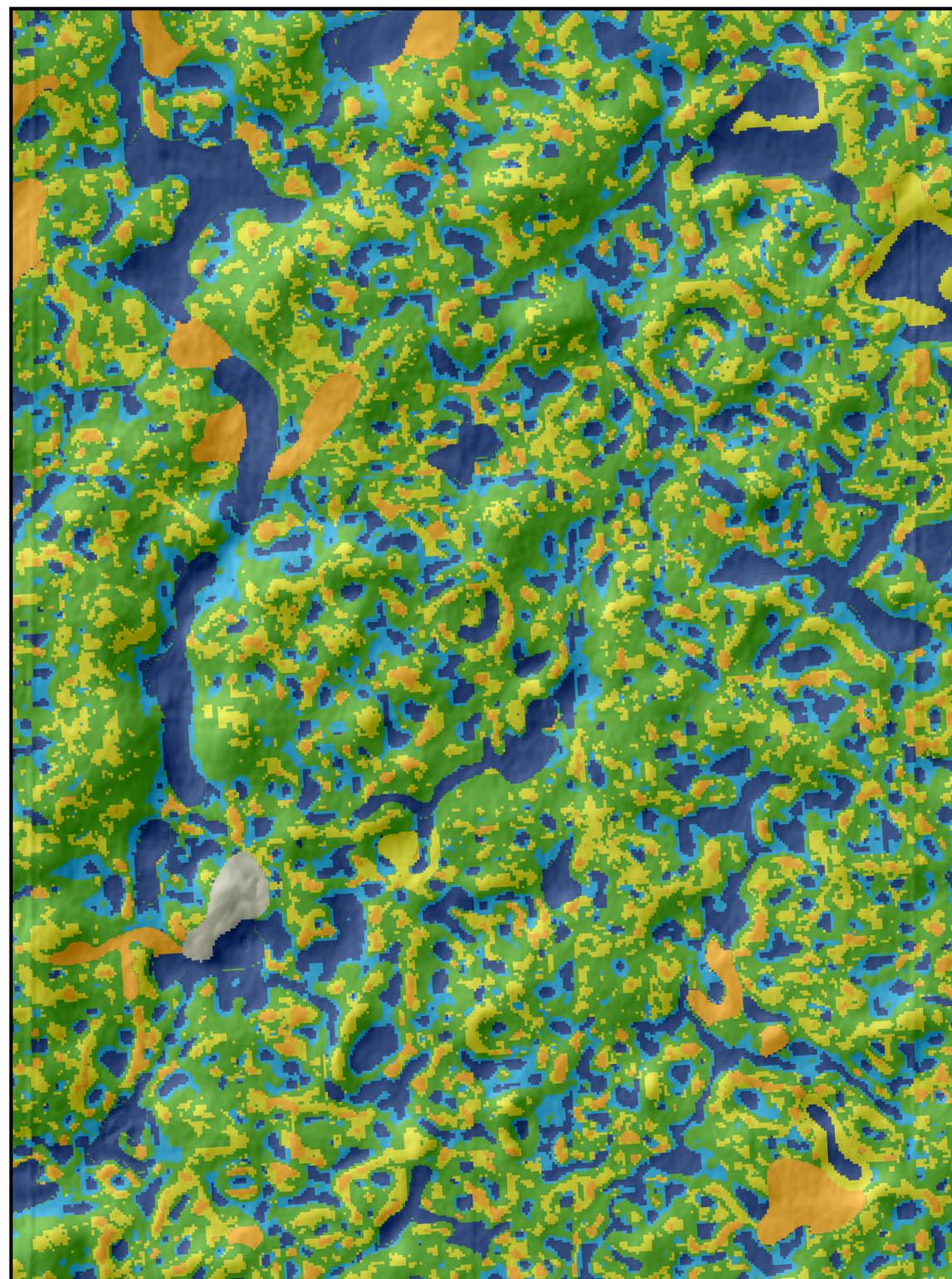
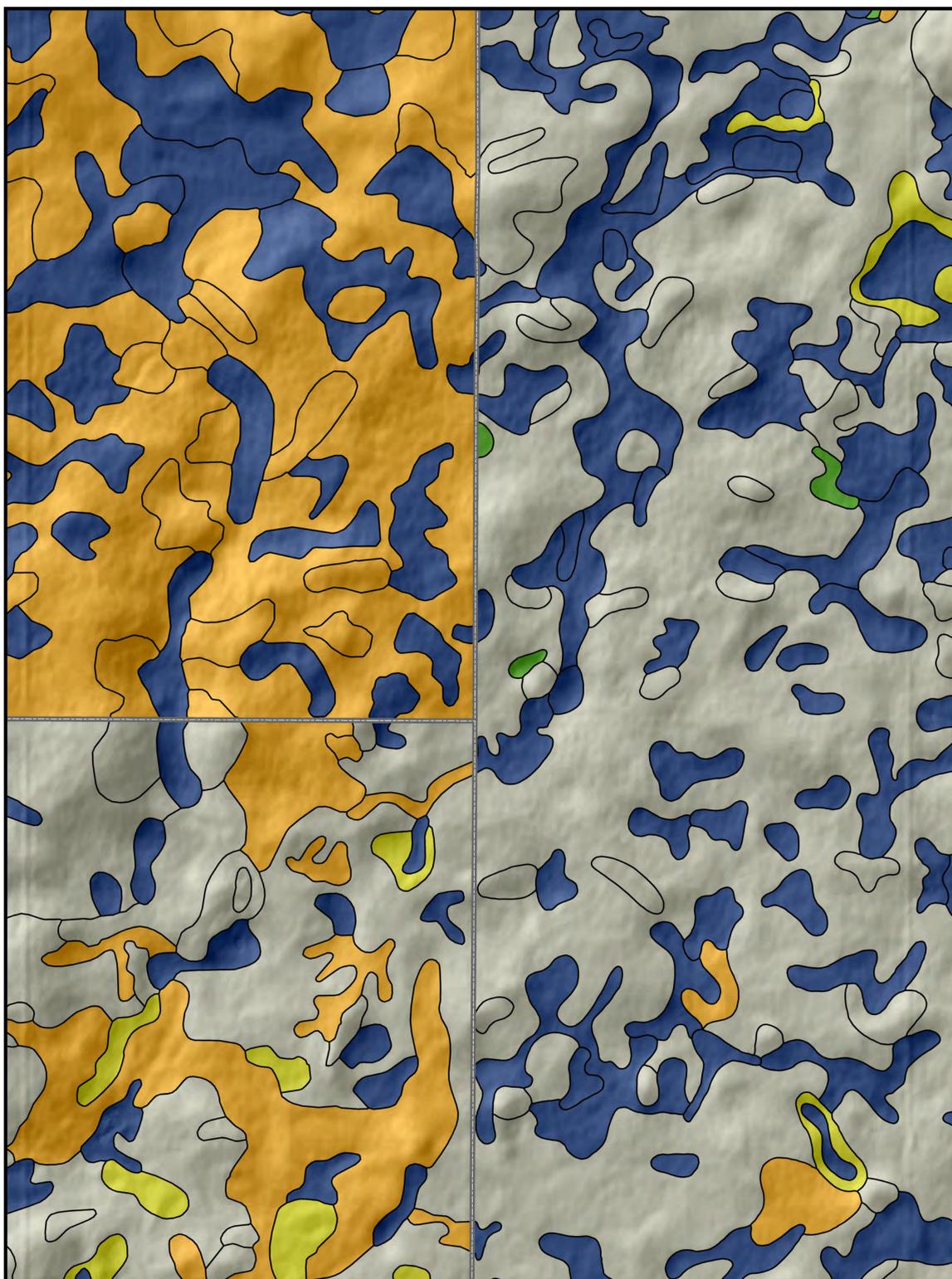




MAP OF THE MONTH

May



Raster Soil Survey: See More—Know More

The map on the left shows the intersection of traditional soil surveys of three counties in North Dakota. The map on the right shows the same area after updating with “raster” products. Both maps use the same color legend to represent depth to the water table. Note the striking contrast in the consistency and detail of information. Information on water table depth is critical to many customers for needs ranging from agronomy to building site development.

Soil surveys are evolving from the polygon-based format on the left to the raster-based (pixel-based) format on the right. Raster soil surveys are the next generation of soil information and can be generated from both update projects and initial mapping projects.

NRCS soil scientists continuously update soil survey products through a cycle of inventory, assessment, data collection, synthesis, review, and recertification. Raster soil surveys compliment traditional scale-dependent soil surveys by depicting soil types, properties, and ratings at higher resolution. These updates generate seamless data and investigate soil properties and soil-landscape relationships in pursuit of data that is complete, consistent, correct, comprehensive, and current.

Water Table Depth, Annual, Minimum

The colors represent the shallowest depth from the soil surface to a wet soil layer (i.e., the water table) at any time during the year.

Rating (centimeters)

- | | |
|---|---|
|  0-25 |  75-100 |
|  25-50 |  100-200 |
|  50-75 |  >200 |

