Soil Series

There are 117 major types of soils in Connecticut identified and named. Each type (or series) is named for the geographical area where it was first described. Each soil series has specific relationships to landscapes, regional geology, and parent materials.

Soil Catena Chart

Related soils of about the same age, derived from similar parent material and occurring under similar climatic conditions, can be arranged into a sequence of increasing wetness. This sequence is called a soil catena. A catena chart is useful in identifying the relationship of one series to another.

The chart uses the catena concept by matching parent material, geology, and drainage for each series mapped in the Soil Survey of the State of Connecticut. Each horizontal line in the chart represents an individual soil catena and each catena is, in turn, arranged vertically by differences in surficial deposits, lithology, and soil texture. There are 9 very poorly drained soil series formed in organic deposits and 9 subaqueous soil series that have been organized differently at the bottom of the chart.

- The diagram above shows a drainage sequence in which wetness increases at lower elevations on the landscape.
- The block diagram on the front page shows a drainage catena on till parent materials of drumlins.

Soil Catenas of Connecticut

The relationships between soils, landscapes, regional geology, and parent material
### SOIL CATENAS OF CONNECTICUT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPOSIT</th>
<th>LITHOLOGY</th>
<th>TEXTURE GROUP</th>
<th>SOIL DRAINAGE CLASS</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Excessively Wet</td>
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<td>Well Drained</td>
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<td>Moderately Well</td>
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<td>Somewhat Poorly</td>
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<td>Poorly</td>
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<td>Very Poorly</td>
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</tbody>
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- **GRANITE & SCHIST**: Sandy, Loamy, Silty to Clayey
- **Schist, Granite & Gneiss**: Sandy, Loamy, Silty to Clayey
- **Glacial Till, Unstratified Sand, Silt & Rock**: Sandy, Loamy, Silty to Clayey
- **Mixed Carbonate Rocks & Crystalline Rocks**: Sandy, Loamy, Silty to Clayey
- **Acidic Crystalline Rocks**: Sandy & Gravelly
- **Glacial/Fluvial Sediments**: Sandy, Loamy, Silty to Clayey
- **Mixed Crystalline & Sedimentary Rocks**: Sandy & Gravelly
- **Glacial/Luvisol & Clay**: Loamy
- **Alluvial Sediments**: Sandy
- **Human Altered & Human Transformed**: Loamy, Sand, Silt, Clayey

### Wetland Type

- **Organic Peat & Musk**: Few, Common
- **Salt and Brackish (Tidal)**: Common

### Parent Material

- **Subaqueous Salt & Brackish Waters ++**: 0-4” (0-10 cm)
- **Marine/Estuarine Sands**: 4-20” (10-50 cm)
- **Marine/Estuarine Silts**: >30” (>100 cm)

### Soil Series

- **Freshwater (Inland)**: Catoen 11, Freetown, Bucksport #
- **Salt and Brackish (Tidal)**: Sandy, Timarw, Pawcatuck, Westbrook
- **Organic Peat & Musk**: Rhodesfolly, Nagog

### Soil Series No Longer Used in Connecticut


### Historical Soil Series

Since the publication of the soil surveys for all eight Connecticut counties, the classification of soils has continued to evolve. When using the historical published soil surveys, one will encounter a variety of soil series names not currently in use. These series, noted above, are referenced by number to the most current name available at the time of this publication. For example, the soil mapped as Acton, if classified by today’s standards, may be named Sutton.

Charts on this page supplement all Connecticut soil surveys by referring to both current and previously used soil series names. Since there are some major differences in map units and soil series interpretations from survey to survey, it is necessary to refer to the narrative descriptions within the appropriate archived survey to obtain complete information concerning a particular soil.

### Official Soil Series Descriptions

More detailed information about each soil series is located on the USDA-NRCS soils webpage under Official Soil Series Descriptions (OSDs). This site is updated and maintained online as the official source of tentative and established soil series.