Hydric Rating and Map Unit Composition

Map Units and Components:

In using soil survey information, the distinction between the map unit as a whole and the individual components that make up the map unit is an important concept. Typically a soil map unit has one or more major (named) components and one or more minor components (inclusions). Major components make up most of the map unit and are present in every delineation of a map unit. Each minor component typically makes up only a small percentage of the map unit and may only occur on a specific landform or micro-feature. In general usage, a map unit might be referred to as “Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes”, for example, where it is understood that the “Woodbridge” map unit typically includes several minor soil components as shown below.

*report from Web Soil Survey Hydric Soil List – All Components.

The Hydric Soils Lists often report only the map units and components that are hydric. It is important to understand that all map units with any percentage of hydric components will appear on the list, but the percentage of hydric soils within each map unit listed can vary. The example below shows Whitman loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, which is a map unit that will contain 100% hydric soils. Agawam fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, however, is mostly upland soils but can contain 3% hydric soils (Walpole soils) in depressions.

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