THE SOIL SURVEY

A soil survey is a basic scientific inventory of all the soils in a given geographic region.

The published soil survey contains maps of soil types in a county, information on the use and management of soils, explanations of soil properties and classifications, and numerous tables

on the potential uses and limitations of activities based on soil type.

Historically, soil surveys were only available as printed books. With the advent of the computer age, the



digitizing of soil survey data allows for its use with Geographic Information System (GIS) applications.



SOIL SURVEY PRODUCTS

Published Soil Surveys – The first published soil surveys were printed in the early 1900s. Ohio's modern soil survey began in the 1960s. The

final county soil survey for Ohio was printed in 2005. Many of Ohio's older county soil surveys are now out of print. Contact your local USDA Service Center or your county Soil and



Water Conservation District to inquire about the availability of a printed soil survey.

Soil Survey Supplement – Updated text and tables have been created for older published soil surveys. Availability of this product varies by county. Contact the local USDA Service Center or Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.





Soil Survey Historical Replicas – A historical replica is a noninteractive, scanned version of the printed soil survey converted to an Adobe PDF file. Many counties have this product available and additional counties will have these created as funding permits. Contact the local USDA Service Center or Soil and Water Conservation District for information on availability.

Digital Soil Surveys – Digital maps of the printed soil survey with scanned text and tables are available in an interactive format on a CD for many counties. Contact the local USDA Service Center or Soil and Water Conservation District for information on availability.

Soil Data Viewer – Soil Data Viewer is an ArcView[®] extension for displaying soil survey data in Arcview. It is an easy to use tool to access soil interpretations and soil properties for quick geospatial analysis of soil data. The Soil Data Viewer can be used in conjunction with both the Arc View[®] shapefiles (GIS) and Microsoft Access database files to easily create soil-based thematic maps. It is run like an ArcView[®] extension, but the Access component can be used as a standalone application to view and generate reports even in the absence of the GIS data.

WEB BASED PRODUCTS

Soil Datamart – Digital maps (spatial data) and tabular information (tabular data) which can be used with Geographic Information System (GIS) applications can be downloaded from the soil datamart. Custom reports can also be generated. This product is only available on the internet at http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov

Web Soil Survey – This new delivery system for soil survey data allows the user to select an area of interest, view maps and data, and do geographic sorting. This is the first time that soil maps and data can be viewed on-line in a nationally consistent method. Visit <u>http://soils.usda.gov/</u> <u>survey/</u> to access this product.



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