


Department of Environmental Science
and Technology


Agricultural Nutrient Management Program

Finding Yield Goals in Web Soil Survey

Introduction Expected crop yields, often referred to as “yield goals” are an integral part of making nutrient recommendations for agronomic crops. The preferred method of determining yield goals is averaging actual field-specific yields (best 3 of the last 5 years, for example). If yield records are not available for a specific crop or field, published soil productivity information can be used until adequate yield records are available. The most up-to-date soil productivity information is available from Web Soil Survey (WSS).

Identifying Yield Goals in WSS Use the following steps to identify yield goals for fields or crops for which a farmer has no historical record.

Step	Action
1	Log on to the NCSS Web Soil Survey web site at: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/
2	Click on the “Start WSS” button to begin.
3	Select an Area of Interest (AOI). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click on the Address tab OR click on the State and County tab and enter the required information. Click on the “View” button.
4	To obtain a closer view of your AOI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click on the “Zoom In” button on the tool bar in the map window.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click and drag over the area you wish to enlarge.

Step	Action
5	<p>To define the field boundaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click on the “AOI polygon” button on the tool bar in the map window.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click around the perimeter of the field. Double-click to complete the polygon. The field selected is identified on the map and the acreage is displayed in the “AOI Information” block on the left side of the screen.
6	<p>Click on the “Soil Data Explorer” tab.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select the “Suitabilities and Limitations for Use” tab. Select “Vegetative Productivity” from the list of options on the left. Select either “Yields of Irrigated Crops (Component)” or “Yields of Non-Irrigated Crops (Component).” Scroll down to “Basic Options” and select the crop to be grown. Scroll down to “Advanced Options” and using the drop down menu: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set the Aggregation Method to “All Components.” Set the Tie-break Rule to “Higher.” Click the “View Rating” button. <p>The table on the right will display the selected crop and units of measure in the title bar. Average crop yield for the selected crop will be listed, by map unit symbol, in the “Rating” column.</p> <p>Caution – do not use the Crop Productivity Index option as this link has not been populated.</p>