

Instructions for Accessing and Using the NCSS Web Soil Survey to Determine Dominant Map Units and Related Soil Information

What is the Web Soil Survey?

The NCSS Web Soil Survey is a tool, located on the Internet, which can be used to obtain all the information traditionally found in soil surveys. For nutrient management consultants in Maryland it streamlines the process of determining dominant soil map units in fields where the Phosphorus Site Index is calculated.

Web Soil Survey Availability

The Web Soil Survey is already available for Maryland counties that have recently updated their soil survey maps. By the end of 2007, NCSS hopes to have Web Soil Survey information available for all Maryland counties.

Where is the Web Soil Survey Located?

Log on to the NCSS Web Soil Survey web site at:
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

Click on the “Start WSS” button to begin.




The simple yet powerful way
to access and use soil data.



Graphics courtesy of NCSS


Locate the Farm

In order to locate the farm of interest, follow the steps in the table below.

Step	Action
1	Select an Area of Interest (AOI). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click on the Address tab OR click on the County tab and enter the required information. Click on the “View” button.
2	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"> Place the cursor on the area that you want to enlarge. Click and drag across the area. At any time, you can click on the “Zoom History Back” button to return to your previous view. 
3	To move the map to your location of interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click on the “Pan” button on the tool bar in the map window.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click on the map and drag to reposition the image.


Define Farm Boundaries and Identify Soil Types

In order to identify soil types on the farm/field of interest, follow the steps in the table below (see page 3).

Step	Action
1	<p>To define the farm 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 farm. Double-click to complete the polygon. The farm selected is identified on the map and the acreage is displayed in the “AOI Information” block on the left side of the screen.
2	<p>To identify soil types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click on the “Soil Map” tab at the top of the screen. The soil types of the farm are now displayed on the map and the acres and percentages of each soil type are displayed in the “Map Unit Legend Summary” block on the left side of the screen.

Print a Soil Map and a Map Unit Summary

In order to print a soil map and a map unit summary, follow the steps in the table below.

Step	Action
1	Click on the “Printable Version” button located on the top right of the page.
2	Click on “Custom Subtitle” and type in the farm name.
3	<p>Click on the “View” button.</p> <p><i>Note 1:</i> You may need to temporarily allow pop-ups if the printable map does not come into view. Go to the “Tools” option, click on “Pop-up Blocker” and then click on “temporarily allow pop-ups.”</p> <p><i>Note 2:</i> The image will also not display if you are zoomed in too closely. Click on the “Zoom Out” button and then click once on the soils map.</p> 
4	You can now print the map and map unit summary, or save as a .pdf file.

**Print a Map
Unit
Description**

In order to print a map unit description, follow the steps in the table below.

Step	Action
1	Click on the “Soil Data Explorer” tab at the top of the screen.
2	Click on the “Soil Reports” tab.
3	Click on the “AOI Inventory” cell.
4	Click on the “Map Unit Description (Brief)” cell.
5	Click on the box in front of SOI so that a green check appears.
6	Click the “View Soil Report” button. <i>Note:</i> You may need to temporarily allow pop-ups if the printable document does not come into view. Go to the “Tools” option, click on “Pop-up Blocker” and then click on “temporarily allow pop-ups.”

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