



Soils Information for Electronic Field Office Technical Guide

Contents

All Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) soils information can be accessed in this section and its subsections. The FOTG soils reports can be produced from either the Soil Data Mart web site or from the soil database downloads available in each county folder. Microsoft Access 97 or higher is needed in order to access and view the database downloads. We are in the process of transferring all county level soils reports to the Soil Data Mart web site. These reports are already available for the majority of counties in North Carolina. If data for a particular county are available on the Soil Data Mart web site, then direct links to the reports can be found in the county folder or at: <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/County.aspx?State=NC>

Other reports are downloadable or viewable as Adobe Acrobat Reader (pdf) documents or can be acquired from the local field office in each soil survey area. Reports that are only available from the field office are mentioned in the subsections for each soil survey area. Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher should be used to view these pages. In order to view the full screen, the screen resolution should be set to 1024 by 768.

The Soil Data Mart

In an effort to improve soil data distribution, NRCS has developed the Soil Data Mart. Presently, the National SSURGO Website is the primary source of online data. The Soil Data Mart will supersede the National SSURGO Website, but this transition will be ongoing for most of 2004. During this period of transition, data for a particular survey area may reside at either site, but never at both sites simultaneously.

The Soil Data Mart is an interactive website that allows the user to do the following: determine where soil tabular and spatial data is available, download data for one soil survey area at a time, download a template Microsoft Access® database for working with downloaded data, generate a variety of reports for one soil survey area at a time, find out who to contact for information about soil data, and “subscribe” to a soil survey area so that you will be notified whenever data for that soil survey area are updated. If data for a particular county are available at the Soil Data Mart, then direct links to the reports can be found in the county folder or at: <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/County.aspx?State=NC>

Soil Database Downloads

The county data that have not been transferred to the Soil Data Mart still exist as Access files. Downloads to these files are available in the county folders. The Access files have been compressed to speed the download time; they exist as zipped files. The files are named with the soil survey area symbol (such as nc007) and the suffix “.zip.” Each file should be saved on your local computer and unzipped. The resulting Access database will have the same soil survey area symbol (such as nc007) and the suffix “.mdb.” An example of the complete file

name is nc007.mdb. These databases work with Access 97 or can be opened and run with later versions of Microsoft Access®.

When the user starts up the Access 97 database, a screen will come up and the user can select one, all, or scattered groups of soil map units. Next, the user chooses from the list of reports he or she wants to run and then clicks "Generate Report." By using "Select Parameters," the user can run reports on interpretations not listed in the standard set of reports.

Versions of the Databases

All reports from the Soil Data Mart and the Access Databases have a Distribution Generation Date listed at the bottom of the report that identifies the date the data was created. Only certified datasets are posted to the eFOTG site. The metadata server indicates the date and time of certification.

Soil Geospatial Data (SSURGO)

Soil Data Viewer is a tool built as an extension to ArcView ® that allows the user to easily create soil-based thematic maps. Soil Data Viewer shields users and applications from the complexity of the soil database and incorporates rules for appropriate use of soil data. It provides an easy-to-use tool for geospatial analysis of soil information for resource assessment and management. The requirements to run the Soil Data Viewer are Arc View 3.0.

Other Links

General and specific soils information links can be found at <http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/> , the North Carolina web page for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Disclaimer

The tabular data set is not designed for use as a primary regulatory tool in permitting or siting decisions, but it may be used as a reference source. This is public information and may be interpreted by organizations, agencies, units of government, or other groups or individuals based on their needs. The user, however, is responsible for the appropriate application of the data. Federal, State, or local regulatory bodies are not to reassign to the Natural Resources Conservation Service any authority for the decisions that they make. NRCS will not perform any evaluations of these data for purposes related solely to State or local regulatory programs.

The interpretations and analyses derived from these data do not eliminate the need for onsite sampling, testing, and detailed study of specific sites for intensive uses. Thus, these data and their interpretations are intended for planning purposes only. Files are dated and users are responsible for obtaining the latest version of the data.

Soil maps in the soil surveys may be copied or printed without permission. Enlargement of these maps, however, could cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping. If the map is viewed or printed from an online or digital source, the viewing scale and printing scale may differ from the original publication scale. Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for proper map measurement.