

Soil Legends

A soil legend includes a list of symbols and names that identify each soil map unit in the soil survey area. The symbol serves as a link between the map sheets, detailed soil map unit descriptions, and tables with soil properties and interpretations information. In published soil survey reports, the legend is located in the index to map units and on the back of the Index to Map Sheets. Individual symbols precede the map unit name in the “soil descriptions” section and represent specific areas on the map sheets.

Currently, map unit symbols vary by county and consist of numbers, letters, or a combination of numbers and letters (examples: 33, Br, MoD2, 10C, 50008). Counties with symbols of one, two, or three digits or two letters represent the kind of soil or miscellaneous land areas. A capital letter of A, B, C, D, E, or F following a number or lower case letter indicates the class of slopes. Soils without a slope letter are for those map units that are nearly level. A final number of 2 following a letter indicates that the soil is eroded. A number 3 indicates that the soil is severely eroded. Miscellaneous areas with a considerable range of slope may not have slope classes indicated.

Newer soil surveys in Missouri will use a five digit map unit symbols in the soil legend. The five digit map unit symbols are the start of an effort to develop a statewide soil legend. The first digit will identify the Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) and the remaining four digits will identify the landform for the map unit. Example:

MLRA	Symbol Number	Landform Number	Landform Name
107	10000	10000-12499	Upland
		12500-13499	Stream terrace
		13500-14999	Flood plain

This subsection includes:

- **(a) Acreage and Proportionate Extent of the Soils**
- **(b) Special Symbols**