

## Soils Information for Electronic Field Office Technical Guide

### **General**

All Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) soils tabular information can be accessed in this section and its subsections. Most of the FOTG soils reports can be produced from the soil database on the Web Soil Survey web site.

The traditional soil survey consisted of soil lines and symbols published on an aerial photographic background. Additional information such as roads, streams and cultural features were added to aid in orientation and location. This additional information has never been considered official federal data.

### **SSURGO and Web Soil Survey**

The county-sized soil survey is a digital product named SSURGO. (The state-sized general soil map is called STATSGO2.) Soils data in report form may be downloaded from the Web Soil Survey web-link referenced below. Web Soil Survey is a web-based application, available for public use, which generates spatial and tabular soil data. It consists of the newest NRCS SSURGO soils data, along with information from other official federal data sources such as the US Geological Survey and the US Census Bureau. These generally include an orthophotographic background, roads, streams, coordinates, and other data for orientation and location purposes.

Small areas of contrasting soils that have different interpretations may not be shown on the soil maps due to the scale of the mapping. Soil surveys seldom contain detailed, site-specific information. This dataset is not designed for use as a primary regulatory tool in permitting or brokering decisions, but it may be used as a reference source. These data and their interpretations are intended for planning purposes only. They are public information and may be interpreted by organizations, agencies, units of government, and others based on needs; however, these entities are responsible for the appropriate use and application of these 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. The Natural Resources Conservation Service will not perform any evaluations of these reports for purposes related solely to State or local regulatory programs.

## ***Accessing Soil Databases***

For information on the official source of soil survey information for a particular county and how to access it, refer to the Web Soil Survey Instructions file. The Web Soil Survey is the official and current soil map and supersedes the published soil surveys.

Digital data files are periodically updated. Reports are dated and users are responsible for obtaining the latest version of the data. The latest official soil survey data can be accessed on the Web at:

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

There is also a direct link to the soil survey areas on the Web Soil Survey in the eFOTG, Section II(A)(1)(e) folder labeled "Quick Links to Soil Data on Web Soil Survey". Click on the soil survey area name to be connected to the Area of Interest (AOI) page on the Web Soil Survey. Instructions in how to generate reports is located in an Acrobat file there labeled "How to get a report from links in this folder".

### **A list of reports for soils data and interpretation to be retrieved from the Web Soil Survey for Section II of the FOTG include:**

Agricultural Disposal of Manure, Food Processing Waste, and Sewage Sludge  
Agricultural Disposal of Wastewater by Irrigation and Overland Flow of Wastewater  
Agricultural Disposal of Wastewater by Rapid Infiltration and Slow Rate Treatment  
Camp areas, Picnic areas, and Playgrounds  
Chemical Soil Properties  
Damage by Fire and Seedling Mortality **(NOTE 5)**  
Dwellings and Small Commercial Building  
Engineering Index Properties  
Forestland Planting and Harvesting  
Forestland Productivity  
Forestland Site Preparation  
Hazard of Erosion and Suitability for Roads on Forestland  
Haul Roads, Log Landing, and Soil Rutting on Forestland  
Hydric Soils [\[PDF version also available @ IIA6\]](#)  
Irrigated and Nonirrigated yields by Map Unit Component **(NOTE 1)**  
Landfills  
Map Unit Description [\[PDF version also available @ IIA2b\]](#)  
Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated) [\[PDF version also available @ IIA2a\]](#)  
Map Unit Legend  
Paths, Trails, and Golf Fairways  
Physical Soil Properties  
Pond and Embankments  
Prime and other Important Farmlands  
Rangeland Productivity **(NOTE 2)**

Roads and Streets, Shallow Excavations, Lawns and Landscaping  
Sewage Disposal **(NOTE 3)**  
Soil Features  
Source of Reclamation Material, Roadfill, and Topsoil  
Source of Sand and Gravel  
Taxonomic Classification of the Soils  
Water Features  
Windbreaks and Environmental Plantings **(NOTE 4)**

**NOTE 1:** First, you should refer to the published soil survey to determine how the yield data is populated. Either irrigated, nonirrigated, or both. Then choose the appropriate yield report to run. There will be a prompt after selection of this report that requires you to choose 3 common crops in the survey area. Please refer to published soil survey to choose the most appropriate crop for the survey area.

**NOTE 2:** Only select range productivity for counties with rangeland

**NOTE 3:** In Web Soil Survey, this report should be generated through the Selected Soil Interpretations. Select the report titled “Selected Soil Interpretations”, then select as 1<sup>st</sup> interpretation-“ENG-Septic Tank Absorption Fields (FL)” and select as 2<sup>nd</sup> interpretation- “ENG-Sewage Lagoons”. Then, click the View Soil Report button. This will allow you to generate a report that closely reflects the FL-64E Septic law.

**NOTE 4:** This table should be included in future FOTG updates but not until review by PMC.

**NOTE 5:** Damage by Fire part of table is the national interpretation in Web Soil Survey and the Florida version in the Access database. To get the Florida version in Web Soil Survey, build a soil report from the Selected Soil Interpretations report in the AOI Inventory folder and select “FOR – Potential Seedling Mortality (FL) interpretation.

**The following lists of reports are not available on Web Soil Survey but only in Section II of the FOTG:**

FOTG Soils Information Spread Sheet [Acrobat file @ IIA3]  
Farmland Status List [Acrobat file @ IIA4]  
Frozen HEL lists [Acrobat file @ IIA5]

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## ***Soil Geospatial Data Tools***

Soil Data Viewer is a tool built as an extension to ArcView® that allows you to easily create soil-based thematic maps using SSURGO. 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 listed on the Soil Data Viewer website.

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/soils/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_053620](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/soils/?cid=nrcs142p2_053620)