

# TECHNICAL NOTES

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NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
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## AGRONOMY TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 100

### RUSLE2 MAINTENANCE AND GUIDANCE

#### UPDATING RUSLE

Periodically, RUSLE2 users need to perform maintenance on their software. Reasons may include:

- Loading rainfall, soil, or crop management information for other parishes
- Correcting errors or broken links within RUSLE2
- Establishing a connection to an alternate moses.gdb file or sharing a moses.gdb file

To address most of these issues, RUSLE2 users need only turn to the official database website. This user-friendly repository of all official RUSLE2 documentation can be found at:

[http://fargo.nserl.purdue.edu/rusle2\\_dataweb/RUSLE2\\_Index.htm](http://fargo.nserl.purdue.edu/rusle2_dataweb/RUSLE2_Index.htm)

On the left-hand side of the screen, users can download the entire RUSLE2 program (for complete installations), the base database (useful for repairing broken links), the climate database, Crop Management Zone (CMZ) databases, soils databases, and various training materials for RUSLE2. If you are unsure of which CMZ you are located in, there is also a link to a map. New installations of RUSLE2 must be completed with administrator privileges if it is on NRCS workstations. Database updates can be completed by any authorized user.

To update your working copy of moses.gdb (S: drive under the RUSLE2 directory), or load new climate, CMZ, or soil information, first download the appropriate file to any temporary location on your computer. Once downloaded, you must navigate to the location you saved this .zip file and extract it to C:\Program Files\USDA\Rusle2\Import. Once extracted, you can open RUSLE2 and select *Database* from the menu, then *Import RUSLE2 Database*. If broken links within RUSLE2 are being repaired and the base database loaded, *Include Dependent Files* should be selected (checked) and all categories should be checked in the Import Database column. Otherwise, *none* should be selected under *Include Dependent Files*. The appropriate category (such as soils) should also be selected in the Import Database column. The *Import* button can then be pressed (See Figure 1).

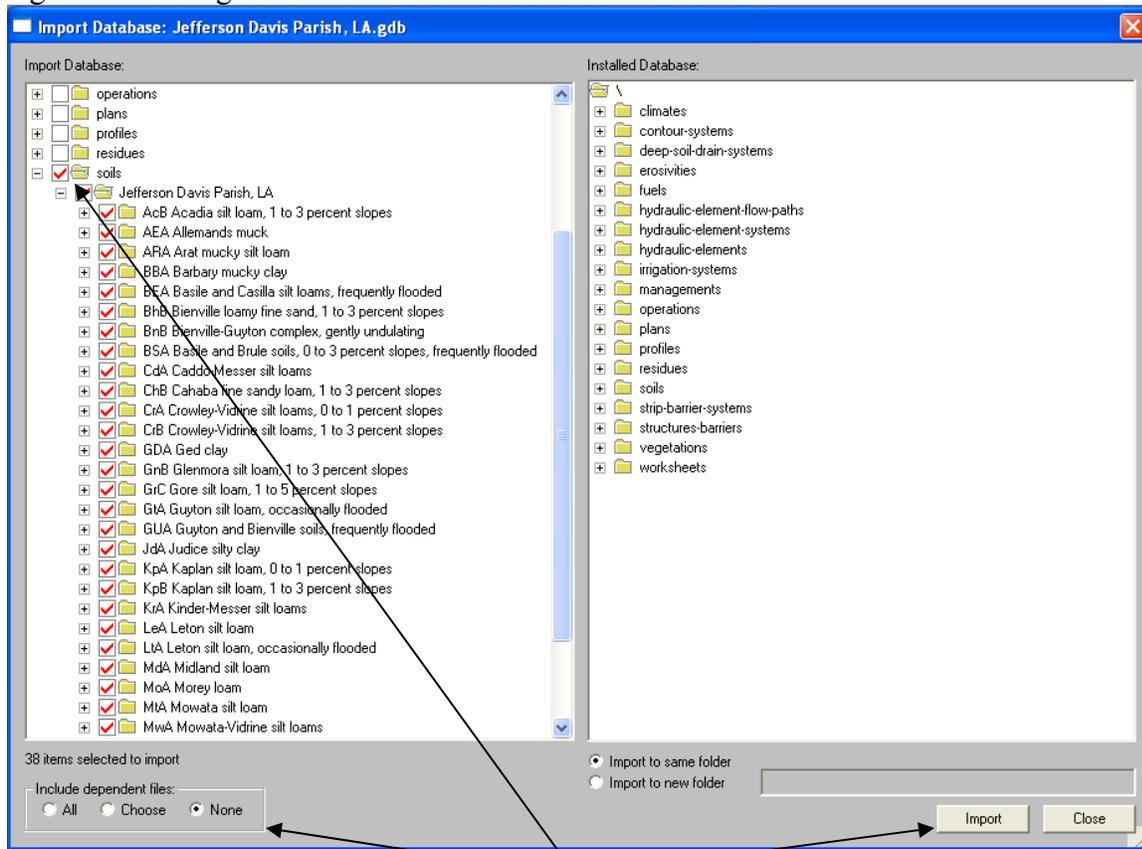


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Figure 1. Loading soils information for Jefferson Davis Parish



To load soils for another parish, check *soils*, click on *None*, and then click *Import*

When new workstations are acquired, or RUSLE2 is reinstalled on a workstation, the connection to the shared moses.gdb file can be lost. To temporarily open the shared database file, most users can simply click on *Database* from the RUSLE2 menu, and then click on *Open alternate*. Field offices have their shared moses.gdb files saved under S:\RUSLE2. To make this shared database the startup database, simply click on *Database* from the RUSLE2 menu and put a check mark next to *Startup database*.

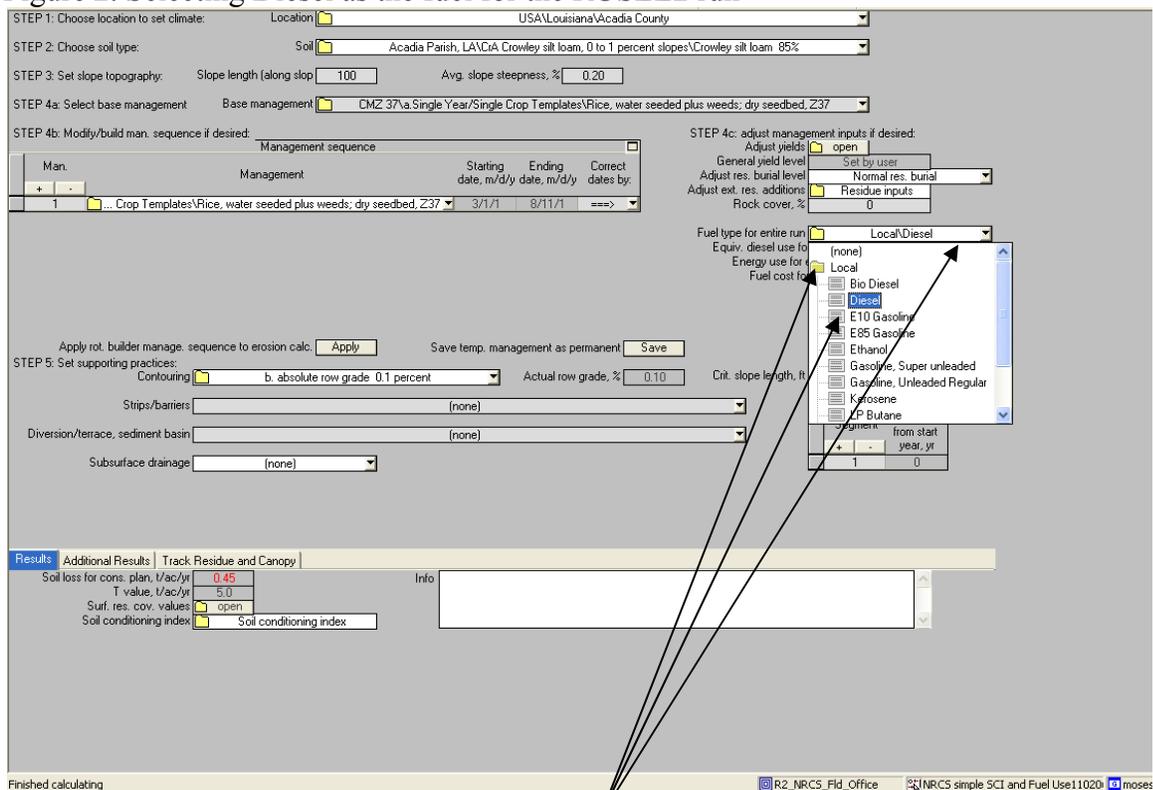
## TILLAGE EQUIPMENT SELECTION

Sometimes the abbreviations or equipment descriptions used to describe tillage operations in RUSLE2 can be difficult to interpret. Sometimes there are pieces of equipment used by producers that do not seem to fit any category in RUSLE2. There are two ways to address this problem. The first is to use the attached Tillage Equipment guide (tillage.pdf) to identify the equipment used. Photos of common tillage equipment, equipment descriptions, and RUSLE2 names are provided in this document. The second is to click on the yellow folder icon next to any tillage operation in RUSLE2. Information in this folder can be compared to the approximate soil and residue disturbance information for the equipment in question. Equipment with similar statistics can be selected to represent the equipment missing in RUSLE2.

## FUEL MANAGEMENT

Almost every cultural operation now has an average fuel usage figure associated with it. Fuel types can either be set for each operation, or they can be set for an entire profile. To set the fuel type for a profile, simply click on the drop down box next to *Fuel type for entire run* (middle right-hand side of Profile screen). Next double click on the *Local* folder. Finally, select the fuel type used (See Figure 2). This is a helpful tool when discussing fuel cost savings with producers. The fuel cost/acre is calculated in RUSLE2 while Profile or Rotation parameters are changed. If fuel costs are not appearing on the RUSLE2 Profile screen, a new template may have to be loaded. Users should click on *Options, Template*, then *Load* from the RUSLE2 menu. NRCS simple SCI and Fuel Use should then be selected from the list of possible templates.

Figure 2. Selecting Diesel as the fuel for the RUSLE2 run



To select Fuel type, click on the drop down menu, select Local, then select the fuel type

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