

Day Two



1



2

Quiz

1) Sampling transects should be?

- a) Used when conducting a routine level 1 delineation
- b) Representative of wetland-upland transition areas
- c) Located systematically using an established grid
- d) Randomly located throughout the evaluation area

3

2) What is the maximum average water depth for a special aquatic site to be classified as a wetland?

- a) 1 foot below the surface
- b) 8.2 feet below the surface
- c) 1 foot above the surface
- d) 3 feet below the surface



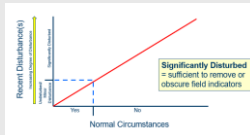
3) Wetland boundaries must be delineated using:

- a) Only the US Army Corps of Engineers 1987 manual for identifying and delineating jurisdictional wetlands
- b) The hydrogeomorphic method
- c) The WCA Rulebook
- d) US Army Corps of Engineers 1987 manual & Regional Supplements

4

4) A seasonally flooded wetland on agricultural land is normally plowed and planted in most years. For delineation purposes, which of the following conclusions is most likely true?

- a) This is not a jurisdictional wetland
- b) Normal circumstances are not present
- c) Normal circumstances exist
- d) A level 2 delineation is required



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5) Explain the concept of a Problem area

- Indicators absent to seasonal, or annual variability; or permanent due to the nature of the soils or species
- Including seasonal wetlands, prairie soils, red parent material etc.



6) Explain the concept of an Atypical Situation

- One or more Indicators absent due to human activity or natural events (beavers, fire, river changing course)

6

- 7) Which of the following can be used for determining the start of the growing season?
- a) Soil temperature at 41 inches below the surface
 - b) Soil temperature at the soil surface
 - c) Soil temperature at 18 inches below the surface
 - d) Soil temperature at 12 inches below the surface



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- 8) What classification system uses Systems, Sub-systems and Classes?

- a)HGM
- b)Eggers and Reed
- c)Cowardin
- d)Circular 39



- 9) Which of the following plant communities would be characteristic of a Circular 39 type 6 wetland?

- a) Sedge meadow
- b) Bog
- c) Alder thicket
- d) Shallow marsh

8

- 10) Which of the follow is not a parameter of the Hydrogeomorphic Method classification system?:

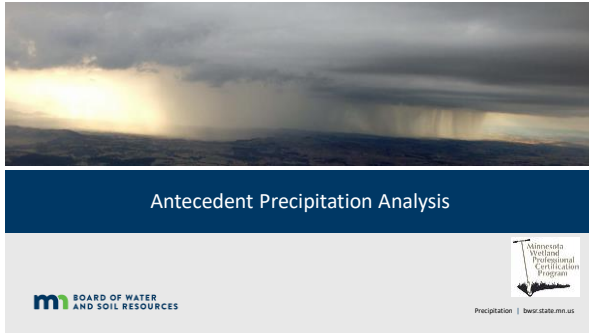
- a) geomorphology
- b) plant community
- c) hydrology
- d) hydraulics



- 11) A natural process in a wetland that can be scientifically assessed can also be described as a:

- a) wetland value
- b) routine assessment method
- c) exemption
- d) wetland function

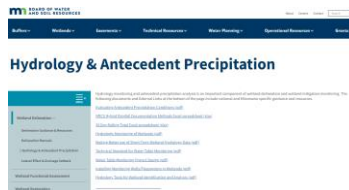
9



10



- Hydrology and Antecedent Precipitation

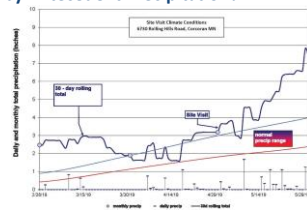


11



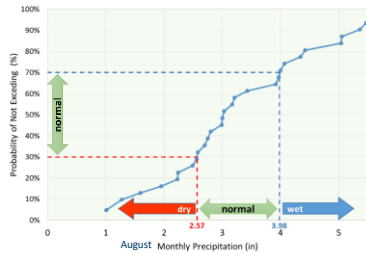
What do we mean by Antecedent Precipitation?

The prior or preceding precipitation events or conditions, leading up to the site visit or when aerial photography was taken.



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What does NORMAL mean? What does WET or DRY mean?



13

When in the process is it needed?

Off-site/Level 1 wetland delineation

On-site/Level 2

- Recommend this be done prior to site visit if possible
- Puts better perspective on site data collection

Other Observations Types

- For interpreting Well or Stage Gauge Data
- Establish baseline conditions for a potential wetland bank/monitoring post construction
- Further defining a wetland boundary/questionable wetland area in difficult/are cases
- May not be needed in advance but will be when interpreting data set.



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How to do it...

• Three-Prior Month Method

- Using State Climatology Tool
- Manual Completion

• Thirty Day Rolling Total

- Summing the prior 30-day precipitation totals for each day and plotting this "rolling total" on a daily basis


• Hybrid Method

- Essentially combines above methods



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With the State Climatology Tool


Minnesota State Climatology Office
State Climatology Office - 604 Division of Ecological and Water Resources University of Minnesota
about us | news | 

Quick Links:
[Twin Cities Climate Data](#)
[Mark Seeley's Weather Page](#)
[Climate Journal](#)
[MNmap](#) (report data)
[CoCoIRing](#)
[NWS Data Retrieval](#)
[Data Summary Tables](#)
[NWS Test Products](#)
Other Topics:
[Kushnoff Lecture Series](#)
[Climate Change](#)
[Heat Island Study](#)

Present Climate Conditions
[Retrieve Past Climate Data](#)
[Summaries & Publications](#)
[Agricultural Climate Data](#)
[Related Web Sites](#)

Latest Developments

- June Hydrology
- Warm Snow End
- May 17 Tornadoes
- May 16 Wisconsin Tornado
- Lake Ice Out
- Spring Phenology
- March 6 Tornadoes


 view from Boundary Ridge Area (left)

<http://climate.umn.edu/>

Precipitation Worksheet Using Gridded Database
 Precipitation data for target watershed:
 county: 5505 township number: 40N
 township range: 20E range number: 20E
 nearest community: Rabea section number: 4
 Annual precipitation at site and date:
 10/1/2014, 10/1/2015

Sum using 1981-2010 normal period

| | 1981-2010 | 1981-2010 | 1981-2010 | 1981-2010 |
|---|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| | May 2014 | April 2015 | March 2016 | |
| 4 1/2" (4.5 inches) monthly total precipitation | 1.07 | 2.78 | 2.89 | |
| 4 1/2" (4.5 inches) monthly total precipitation for this location | 1.07 | 2.78 | 2.89 | |
| Mean is 4.5" above the location of the location | 1.07 | 2.78 | 2.89 | |
| Mean is 4.5" above the location of the location | 1.07 | 2.78 | 2.89 | |
| 4 1/2" (4.5 inches) monthly total | 1.07 | 2.78 | 2.89 | |
| monthly sum | 3.143 | 2.248 | 1.143 | |
| total monthly sum | 10.143 | 10.143 | 10.143 | |

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Hybrid Method

30-day rolling total

with

3-prior-month method

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"Hybrid" method - ERDC/EL TR - WRAP 00 - 01

Date: 15-Jun-2014
 Location: Farmington, MN
 County: Dakota
 State: MN
 Project: WDCP
 State: MN

Soil Name: _____
 Photo/obs date: 15-Jun-2015

Growing Season

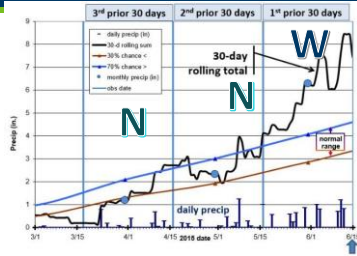
| Prior Period | Condition Dry, Wet, Normal | Condition Value | Period Weight Value | Product of Previous 2 Columns |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st prior 30 days | W | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 2nd prior 30 days | N | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 3rd prior 30 days | N | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Sum | | | | 15 |

Note: If sum is
 6 - 9 prior period has been
 drier than normal
 10 - 14 prior period has been
 normal
 15 - 18 prior period has been
 wetter than normal

Condition value:
 Dry = 1
 Normal = 2
 Wet = 3

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Precipitation Analysis - Farmington MN 6/15/15



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Corps Antecedent Precipitation Tool



<https://www.epa.gov/wotus/antecedent-precipitation-tool-apt>

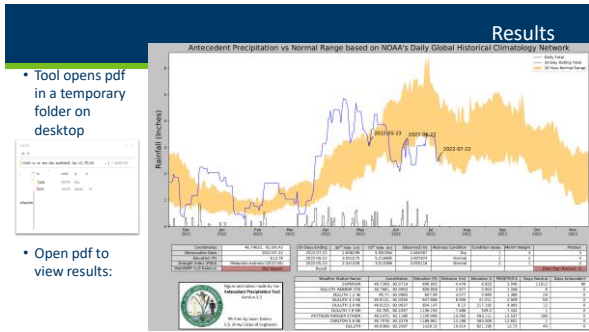
20

Enter Lat-Long, Date and Calculate



Note: Decimal Degrees format = '46.79032'
And include the "." in Longitude

21



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Antecedent Precipitation Evaluation Review

- Important for accurate interpretations/observations
- Done by the delineator
- Included in the report
- Should support your conclusion.
- Not always clear...Best Professional Judgement needed.
- Several methods available, each with certain strengths/weaknesses...
- Discussed in detail via BWSR and other Guidance Documents.

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Overview



- 87 Manual Definitions:
- Normal Circumstances
 - Atypical area
 - Problem area



Midwest and NC/NE require aerial review per Chapter 5:

- "Agricultural lands"
- "Wetlands that periodically lack indicators of wetland hydrology"

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Guidance

March 4, 2015

Guidance for Submittal of Delineation Reports to the St. Paul District Army Corps of Engineers and Wetland Conservation Act Local Governmental Units in Minnesota, Version 2.0

3.7.6 Using Aerial Imagery to Assess Wetland Hydrology

Procedures have been updated and improved for the assessment of wetland hydrology based on aerial imagery. The interagency approach to off-site wetland determinations on agricultural lands (also referred to as the state "Mapping Conventions") is required for CWA and WCA purposes. Refer to the guidance

Guidance for Offsite Hydrology

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Guidance



July 1, 2016

Guidance for Offsite Hydrology/Wetland Determinations

This document replaces all previous Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and St Paul District Corps of Engineers (District) issued guidance of guidance concerning wetland mapping conventions.

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Guidance

- Always use all* imagery in putting the pieces together, and place greatest reliance on more recent years; they tend to best reflect current conditions.

*Use only high quality/good resolution slides. Much better to focus on image quality than normalcy of antecedent conditions.



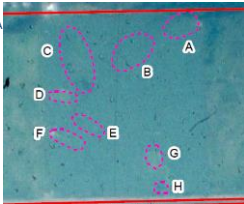
28

Guidance

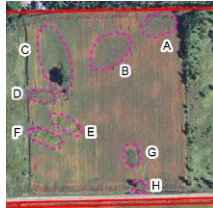
Moving away from FSA images 1979 – 2000

Using more recent and clearer images: 5 normal years

1997 FSA



2010 MnGeo



29

Variables

Vegetation Tolerance

Hydrophytic Veg.



Corn



Soybeans



30

Guidance

Vigor and stress responses to wetland conditions



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Evaluating Images

Signatures:

- CS: Crop stress
- DO: Drowned Out
- NC: Not cropped
- SW: Standing water
- NV: Normal vegetative cover
- NSS: No soil wetness
- AP: Altered pattern
- SS: Soil wetness signature
- CS/DO... (can have multiple, use the /)

*Wetland
Signatures are
a positive
"hit"*

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Evaluating Images

Crop Stress (CS)



33

Evaluating Images

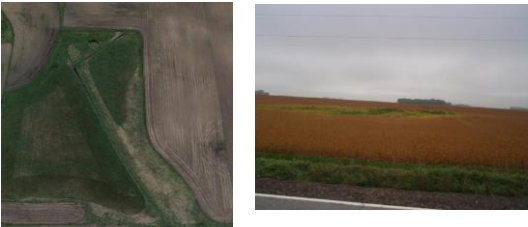
Drowned Out (DO)



34

Evaluating Images

NC – not cropped.



35

Evaluating Images

Standing Water (SW)



36

AP – altered pattern



37

Evaluating Images

WS – wetland signature.



38

Evaluating Images

Normal Vegetative Cover (NV) or No Soil Wetness (NSS)



39

Evaluating Images

Soil Wetness Signature-SS

- In Bare soil images, dark, or wet-appearing photo tone from early growing season
- May even include some standing water
- Note the drift lines around the edge of the basin



40

What signature(s) do you see?



| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Crop Stress (CS) | |
| Drowned Out (DO) | |
| Not Cropped (NC) | |
| Standing Water (SW) | |
| Altered Pattern (AP) | |
| Wetland Signature (WS) | |

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Variables

Stem Density



Alfalfa



Corn

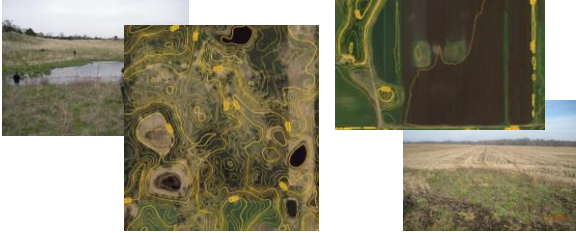


Soybeans

42

Variables

Topography



43

Variables

Reference
Areas



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Variables

Deep Peat Soils



45

Variables

Iron Chlorosis



Winter Freeze

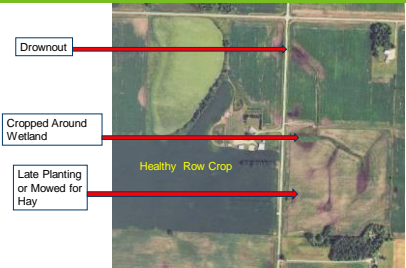


Business Decisions



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Wet Signatures



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Recording on Data Sheet

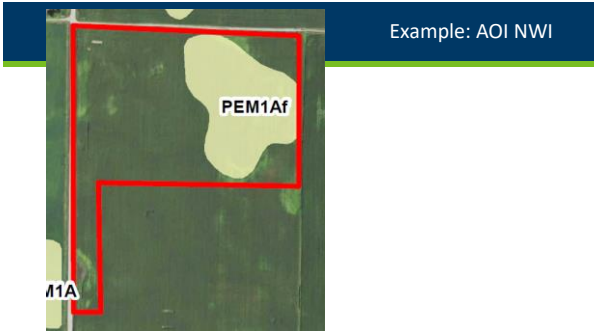
HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:
Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply):
☐ Surface Water (A1)
☐ High Water Table (A2)
☐ Saturation (A3)
☐ Water Marks (B1)
☐ Sediment Deposits (B2)
☐ Drift Deposits (B3)
☐ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
☐ Non-Deposits (B5)
☒ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
☐ Riparian Vegetation/Concave Surface (B8)

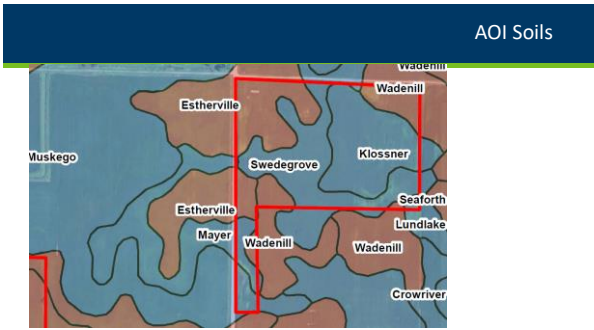
Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required):
☐ Surface Soil Cracks (B9)
☐ Drainage Patterns (B10)
☐ Moss Trim Lines (B16)
☐ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
☐ Crayfish Burrows (C4)
☐ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C6)
☐ Mottled or Mottled Pattern (C7)
☐ Geomorphic Position (D2)
☐ Shallow Aquifers (D3)
☐ Monstrous Relief (D4)
☐ FAC Neutral Test (D5)
☐ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
☐ Aquatic Fauna (B13)
☐ Mud Deposits (B15)
☐ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
☐ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
☐ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
☐ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
☐ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
☐ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Field Observations:
Surface Water Present? Yes ☐ No ☐ Depth (inches): _____
Water Table Present? Yes ☐ No ☐ Depth (inches): _____
Saturation Present? Yes ☐ No ☐ Depth (inches): _____
(includes capillary fringe)
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ☐ No ☐
Describe Wetland Data from gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections, if available.
2016 Joint Guidance for Offsite Hydrology was used.
Remarks: _____

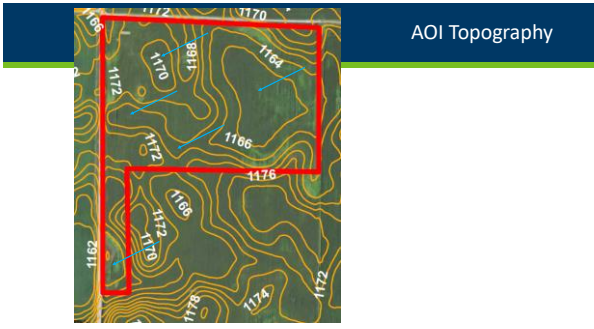
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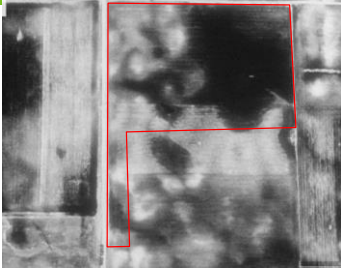


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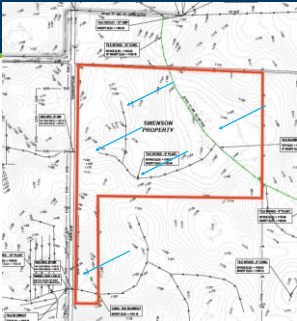
51

Pick wet or current year



52

AOI Detailed Topo



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Antecedent Precip

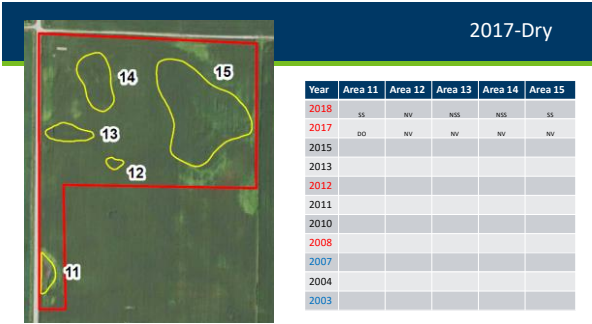


bwsr.state.mn.us/hydrology-antecedent-precipitation

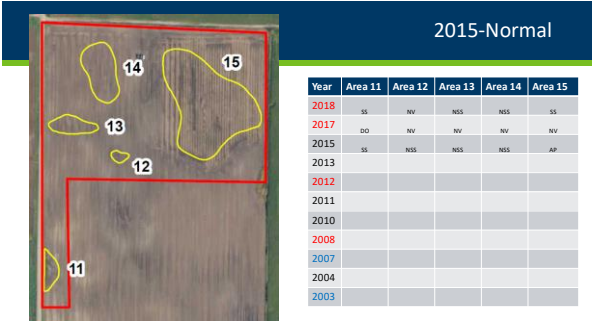
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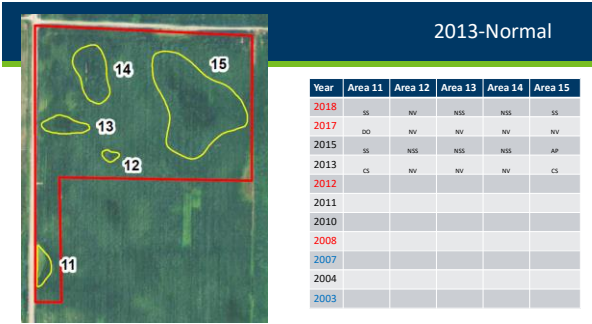
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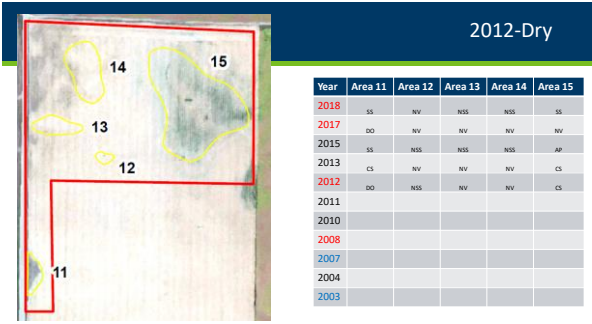
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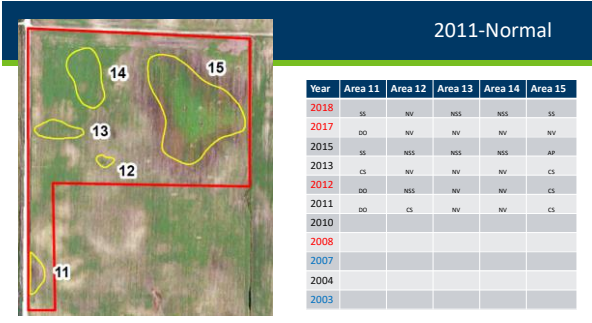
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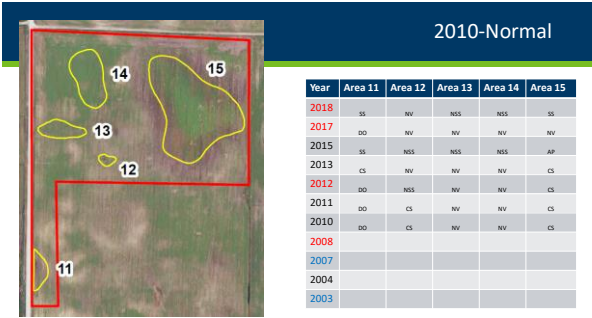
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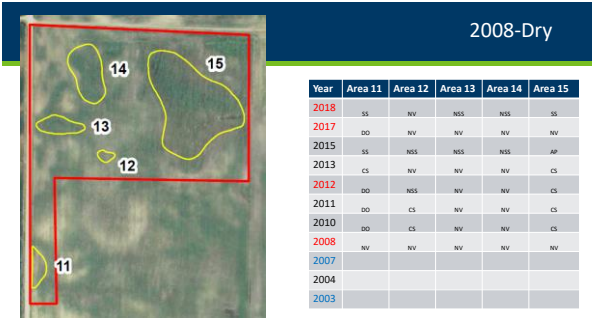
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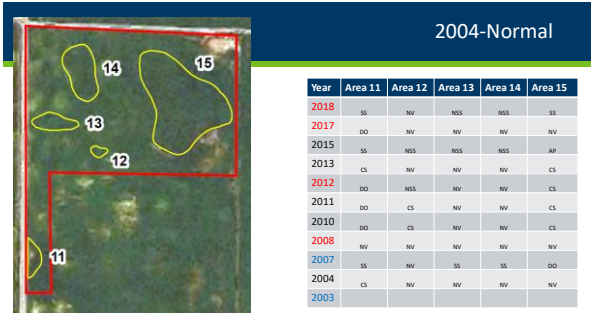
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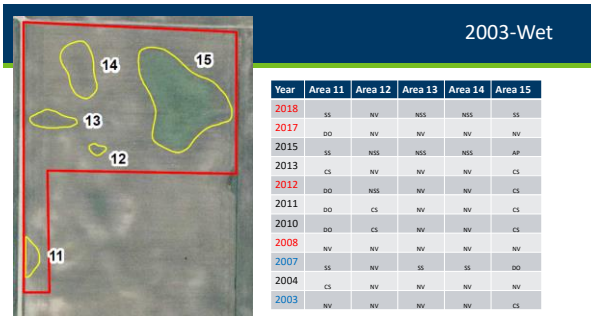
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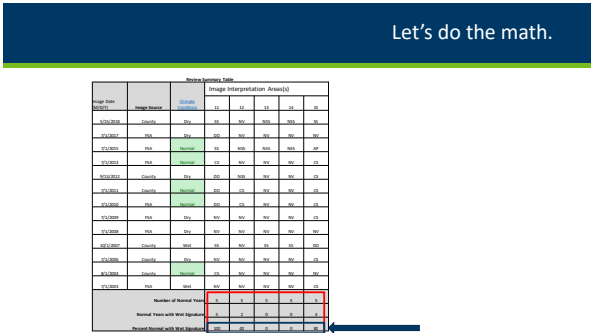
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Document

| Hydric Soils present ^a | Identified on NWI or other wetland map ^b | Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1 | Field verification required ^c | Wetland? ^d |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Yes | Yes | <50% | No | No |
| Yes | Yes | 50-50% | No | Yes |
| Yes | Yes | <50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| Yes | No | <50% | No | No |
| Yes | No | 50-50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| Yes | No | <50% | No | No |
| No | Yes | <50% | No | Yes |
| No | Yes | 50-50% | No | Yes |
| No | Yes | <50% | No | No |
| No | No | <50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| No | No | 50-50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| No | No | <50% | No | No |

| Area | Hydric Soils Present | Identified on NWI or other wetland map | Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1 | Other hydrology indicators present | Wetland? |
|------|----------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|----------|
| 11 | Yes | No | 100 | NA | Yes |
| 12 | Yes | No | 40 | NA | No |
| 13 | Yes | No | 0 | NA | No |
| 14 | Yes | No | 0 | NA | No |
| 15 | Yes | Yes | 80 | NA | Yes |

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Document

| Hydric Soils present ^a | Identified on NWI or other wetland map ^b | Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1 | Field verification required ^c | Wetland? ^d |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
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| Yes | Yes | <50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| Yes | No | <50% | No | No |
| Yes | No | 50-50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| Yes | No | <50% | No | No |
| No | Yes | <50% | No | Yes |
| No | Yes | <50% | No | Yes |
| No | No | <50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| No | No | 50-50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| No | No | <50% | No | No |

| Area | Hydric Soils Present | Identified on NWI or other wetland map | Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1 | Other hydrology indicators present | Wetland? |
|------|----------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|----------|
| 11 | Yes | No | 100 | NA | Yes |
| 12 | Yes | No | 40 | NA | No |
| 13 | Yes | No | 0 | NA | No |
| 14 | Yes | No | 0 | NA | No |
| 15 | Yes | Yes | 80 | NA | Yes |

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Document

| Hydric Soils present ^a | Identified on NWI or other wetland map ^b | Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1 | Field verification required ^c | Wetland? ^d |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Yes | Yes | <50% | No | Yes |
| Yes | Yes | 50-50% | No | Yes |
| Yes | Yes | <50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| Yes | No | <50% | No | No |
| Yes | No | 50-50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| Yes | No | <50% | No | No |
| No | Yes | <50% | No | Yes |
| No | Yes | 50-50% | No | Yes |
| No | No | <50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| No | No | 50-50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicators present |
| No | No | <50% | No | No |

| Area | Hydric Soils Present | Identified on NWI or other wetland map | Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1 | Other hydrology indicators present | Wetland? |
|------|----------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|----------|
| 11 | Yes | No | 100 | NA | Yes |
| 12 | Yes | No | 40 | NA | No |
| 13 | Yes | No | 0 | NA | No |
| 14 | Yes | No | 0 | NA | No |
| 15 | Yes | Yes | 80 | NA | Yes |

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| Document | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|----------------------|
| Hydric Soils present ^a | Identified on NWI or other wetland map ^b | Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1 | Field verification required ^c | Wetland ^d | |
| Yes | Yes | <50% | No | Yes | Yes |
| Yes | Yes | 50-50% | No | Yes | Yes |
| Yes | Yes | <50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicates present | Yes |
| Yes | No | <50% | No | Yes | Yes |
| Yes | No | 50-50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicates present | Yes |
| Yes | No | <50% | No | No | No |
| No | Yes | <50% | No | Yes | Yes |
| No | Yes | 50-50% | No | Yes | Yes |
| No | Yes | <50% | No | No | No |
| No | No | <50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicates present | Yes |
| No | No | 50-50% | Yes | Yes, if other hydrology indicates present | Yes |
| No | No | <50% | No | No | No |
| Area | Hydric Soils Present | Identified on NWI or other wetland map | Percent with wet signatures from Exhibit 1 | Other hydrology indicates present | Wetland ^e |
| 11 | Yes | No | 100 | NA | Yes |
| 12 | Yes | No | 40 | NA | No |
| 13 | Yes | No | 0 | NA | No |
| 14 | Yes | No | 0 | NA | No |
| 15 | Yes | Yes | 40 | NA | Yes |

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Conclusion: Final Determination



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Other uses

Level 1 Delineations

| Delineation Method | Review of offsite mapping resources | Site Visit | Sampling Approach | Complete Field Data Forms | Field Staking of Wetland Boundaries |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Routine Level 1 | Yes | Sometimes | Offsite | No | No |
| Routine Level 2 | Yes | Yes | Onsite, qualitative | Yes | Yes |
| Comprehensive | Yes | Yes | Onsite, quantitative | Yes | Yes |

| WCA Application Type Examples | Commonly Used Delineation Method |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Temporary impact under No-Loss | Routine Level 1 |
| Banking application: pre-application scoping | Routine Level 1 |
| Banking application: full application | Routine Level 2 |
| Road Program Wetland Impact Documentation—Road project through a large continuous wetland | Routine Level 1 |
| Road Program Wetland Impact Documentation—Scattered wetlands within construction corridor | Routine Level 2 |
| Replacement plan | Routine Level 2 |
| Enforcement actions | Routine Level 2 or Comprehensive |
| Wetland boundary approval (no project application) | Routine Level 2 |
| Agricultural exemption determination (8420.0420, subpart 2A) | Routine Level 1 |

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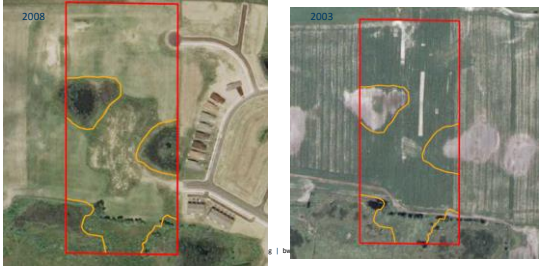


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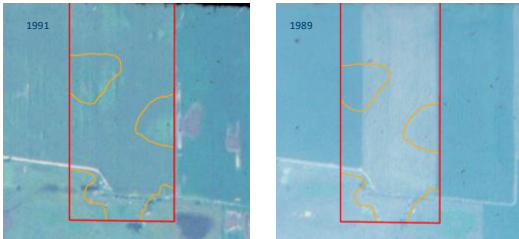
75

Incidental



76

Incidental



77

Incidental



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Final Point

- Except for Level 1 delineations, the results of aerial imagery review are not necessarily the final determination.
- Other data to support conclusions.
- Results do not override site specific data (Level 2, Level 3, Comprehensive).

6/4/2025

WDOP Training | bwtr.state.mn.us

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Basic Soil Concepts

m BOARD OF WATER
AND SOIL RESOURCES



80

Overview

- Basics of Soil
 - Soil formation
 - Landscape position
- Soil Properties
 - Texture
 - Color
- Hydric soil development
- Web Soil Survey
 - Interpreting soil reports
- Hydric soil indicators
 - All
 - Fine
 - Sandy
- Common soil indicators



81

What is Soil?

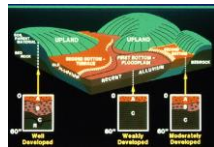
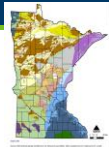
- Natural body that occurs on the land surface, occupies space, and is characterized by one or both of the following:
 - Horizons or layers, or
 - The ability to support rooted plants in a natural environment
 - Upper limit is air or shallow (>2.5 m) water
 - Lower limit is either bedrock or the limit of biological activity
 - Lower limit for classification set at an arbitrary 2 m



82

Factors That Influence Soil Development

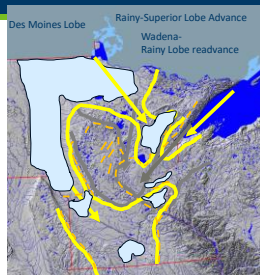
- Climate- weather conditions prevailing over long period of time
- Parent material- geologic material from which soils form
- Topography- landscape position and slope processes
- Organisms- essential role of microbes in the soil, includes humans
- Time- soil doesn't "age", it develops. vegetation, organisms and climate "act on" parent material and topography to develop soil.



83

Parent Material Relates to Glacial Geology

Recent Glacial Geology of MN



84

Soil Taxonomy

- 12 orders of soil taxonomy
- Which ones are common in MN

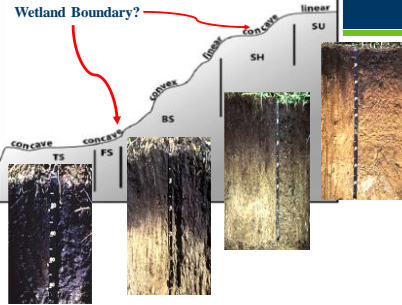


- **Alfisols**: wide range of climate, forest soils, clay in subsoil
- **Andisols**: volcanic, high nutrient
- **Aridisols**: desert soils
- **Entisols**: recent deposition, dunes, slopes, floodplains, sandy
- **Gelisols**: permafrost, high latitudes and/or elevation
- **Histosols**: high organic, most saturated year round
- **Inceptisols**: wide range of climate, moderate weathering
- **Mollisols**: "prairie soils", dark colored, high organic
- **Oxisols**: highly weathered tropical, stable, low fertility
- **Spodosols**: coarse-textured, acidic, conifer forests
- **Ultisols**: humid climate, weathered, clay-rich
- **Vertisols**: high content of expanding clays, Red River Valley

85

Soil Catena

Wetland Boundary?



86

Two Categories of Soil Material - Mineral Soil/Horizons

Mineral horizons

- Primarily sand, silt, and clay, with varying amounts of organic matter

Organic horizon

- consists of mostly decomposed organic material



87

Organic Matter Decomposition

- Fibric (peat)
 - Least decomposed
 - Plant fibers identifiable
 - After rub – >40% of fibers still visible (2/3)
- Hemic (mucky peat)
 - Intermediate decomposition
- Sapric (muck)
 - Most decomposed, <1/3 ID of plant fibers
 - <1/6 of fibers visible after rubbing

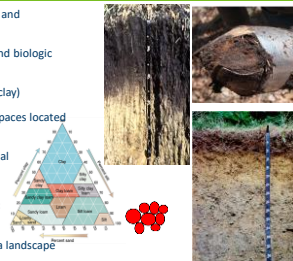


88

Key Soil Properties

Properties that are important to hydric soil development and recognition:

- Horizons- layer of soil with similar physical, chemical, and biologic properties
- Texture- relative proportion of soil particles (sand, silt, clay)
- Structure- arrangement of solid parts and of the pore spaces located between them
- Permeability- ability of water to move through a material
- Color- hue, value, chroma
- Organic matter- percent, thickness, and level of organic decomposition
- Drainage- presence of natural and human drainage on a landscape



89

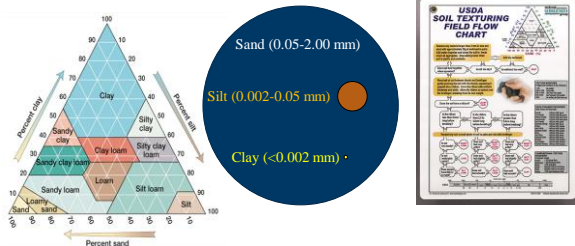
Soil Horizon- layer of soil with similar physical, chemical, and biologic properties



- ← O horizon- Organic horizon, thickness varies
- ← A Horizon- Organic accumulation (typically ~10%), ideally granular structure
- ← E Horizon- Coloring agents (Fe, Organics) removed
- ← B Horizon- Subsoil accumulation of minerals, organics, and sometimes chemicals, blocky structure
- ← C Horizon- Similar to parent material, often less developed with little structure
- ← R Horizon- Parent material

90

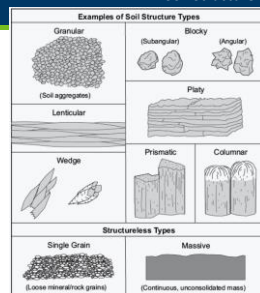
Soil Texture- Relative proportion of soil particles



91

Soil Structure

- Soil Structure- arrangement of solid parts and of the pore spaces located between them
- Aggregation- interaction and arrangement of soil particles
- Precipitation of oxides, carbonates and silicates
 - Cementation
- Can decline under cultivation & irrigation



92

Permeability- ability of water or air to move through the soil profile


- Variables in permeability:
 - Structure- arrangement of soil characterized by size, shape (blocky, columnar, platy, etc.) and grade (weak, strong)
 - Texture- pore space of different particle sizes
- Permeability is "measured" in inches per hour
 - Permeability is an estimated property
- Larger grain sizes= higher permeability



93

Capillary Fringe

- Based upon permeability
- The zone above the free water table that is effectively saturated
 - Water held at tension
 - Theoretical values much higher than "real life"
 - Difficult to measure



94

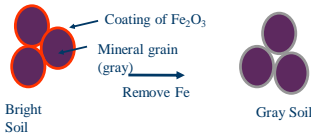
Coloring Agents in Soil

- Organic matter
 - OM will mask all other coloring agents.
- Iron (Fe)
 - brown colors are the result of Fe oxide stains coating individual particles
- Manganese (Mn)
 - resulting in a very dark black or purplish black color
- Calcium
- Lack of coatings
 - Color of the mineral soil grains (stripped)



95

Soil Color

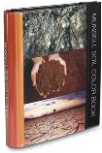


"Bright-colored" soil is bright because the gray-colored mineral grains are coated with a thin layer of "paint" formed by Fe oxides. Stripping the paint off the particles leaves the mineral grains exposed.

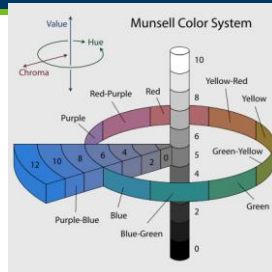
96

Color

- Hue- the spectrum color
- Value- lightness or darkness
- Chroma- "purity" or grayness of color



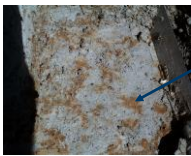
Hue Value Chroma
10YR 2/1



97

Color

- Matrix (predominant) color
- Color of redoximorphic features (concentration or depletion)
 - Contrast, abundance, location, and size of redox features



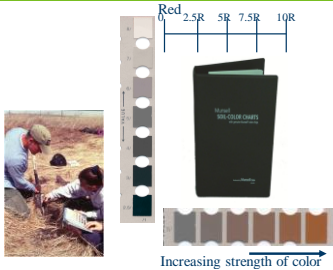
What is the percent of redox?
30%



98

Reading Soil Color

- Optimum conditions
 - Natural light
 - Clear, sunny day
 - Midday
 - Light at right angles
 - Soil moist



99

Abundance and Size of Redox

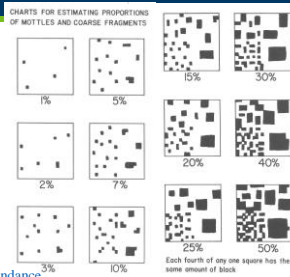
Abundance

- Few -- less than 2%
- Common -- 2 to 20%
- Many -- more than 20%

Size

- Fine -- < 5 mm
- Medium -- 5 to 15 mm
- Coarse -- > 15 mm

Several indicators require at least 2% abundance



100

Contrast

- Contrast refers to the degree of visual distinction between associated colors
- Faint -- evident only on close examination
- Distinct -- readily seen at arms length
- Prominent -- contrast strongly

| Contrast Class | $\frac{R}{U}$ | Difference in Color Between Matrix and RMF (A means "difference between") |
|------------------------|---------------|---|
| Faint [†] | F | Hue (h) Value (v) Chroma (c) |
| | | $\Delta h = 0; \Delta v \leq 2$ and $\Delta c \leq 1$ |
| | | $\Delta h = 1; \Delta v \leq 1$ and $\Delta c \leq 1$ |
| Distinct [†] | D | $\Delta h = 2; \Delta v = 0$ and $\Delta c = 0$ |
| | | $\Delta h = 0; \Delta v \leq 2$ and $\Delta c > 1$ to < 4 |
| | | or $\Delta v > 2$ to < 4 and $\Delta c < 4$ |
| Prominent [†] | P | $\Delta h = 1; \Delta v \leq 1$ and $\Delta c > 1$ to < 3 |
| | | or $\Delta v > 1$ to < 3 and $\Delta c < 3$ |
| | | $\Delta h = 2; \Delta v = 0$ and $\Delta c > 0$ to < 2 |

[†] If compared colors have both a value ≤ 3 and a chroma of ≤ 2 , the contrast is Faint, regardless of hue differences.

Several indicators require distinct or prominent contrast!

101

Definition of a Hydric Soil

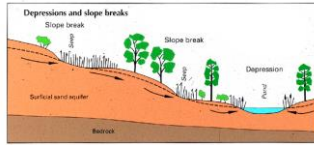
- A hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.



102

Landscape and formation of hydric soils

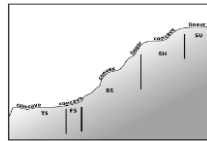
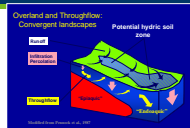
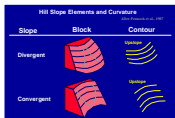
- Landscape position
 - Surface shape (linear, concave, convex)
 - Erosional or depositional
- Hydraulics
 - How water moves
- Hydroperiod- seasonal pattern of water table depth in a wetland
 - Long term- organic
 - Seasonal inundation- thick O, dark A
 - Seasonal saturation- thin O
 - Floodplain- thin, stratified layers



103

Landscape Position

- Location relative to other landforms
- Critically influences water flow and soil formation
- Most wetlands, even groundwater seeps, are on some sort of concave surface



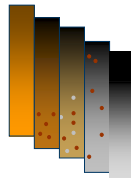
104

Hydric Soil Development

Hydric soils indicators develop in **anaerobic** conditions by the process of :

1. **Reduction** and Re-oxidation of Iron
2. **Organic Matter** Accumulation

Foundation of the Field Indicator Manual.



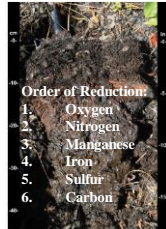
105

Hydric Soil Development

Soil microbes that drive reduction require:

1. Anaerobic conditions i.e. (saturated soil)
2. Organic matter (energy source)
3. Soil temperature warm enough for microbial respiration (>41F)
4. Duration of conditions (Time)

In anaerobic conditions decomposition slows and leads to organic accumulation



106

Conceptual overview of aquic conditions

- Here's what happens when water moves into a soil profile:
 - Downward movement
 - Lateral movement
 - Lose some things
 - Changes in chemical state in others

Think old car left in the elements-chemical reactions leave "rust in the soil"



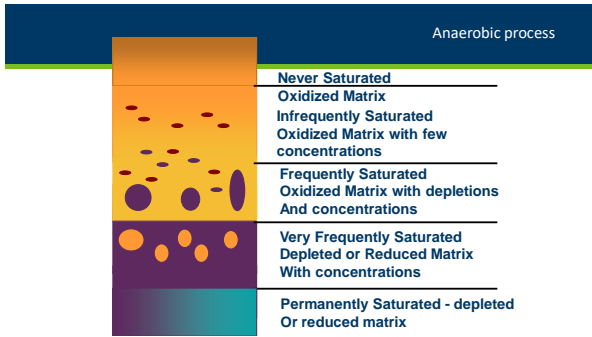
107

Change in the state of iron

- Available O_2 , NO_3 , and Mn depleted
- $Fe^{3+} \longrightarrow Fe^{2+}$ (Mobile)
- **Bluish Grey** when **reduced**
- **Grey** when **depleted** from soil
- **Orange** or **Red** when **oxidized**



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109

Depleted Matrix

Iron removed or re-organized in profile leaving Grey matrix

- Value 4 or More
- Chroma 2 or Less

110

Depleted Matrix Requirement

Do Not Need Concentrations

Need Concentrations (2%)

High Value (4 or more)


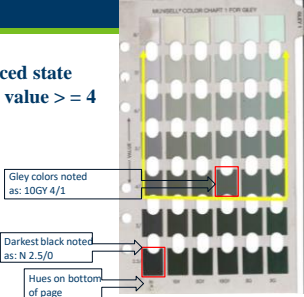
Low Chroma (2 or Less)

111

Gleyed Matrix Requirements

Gleyed Matrix

- Iron Present, but in reduced state (Fe^{2+}) Gleyed color with value ≥ 4

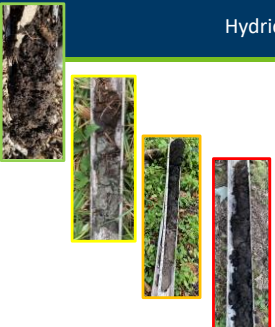
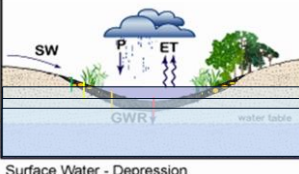
Gley colors noted as: 10GY 4/1

Darkest black noted as: N 2.5/0

Hues on bottom of page


112

Hydric Soils in Depression Wetlands






Surface Water - Depression

113



Hydric Soil Indicators

114

Field Indicators of Hydric Soils

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

- National Technical
Committee for Hydric
Soils

Used for **on-site**
verification of hydric soils

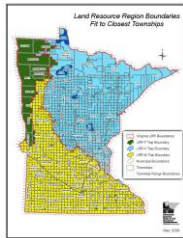
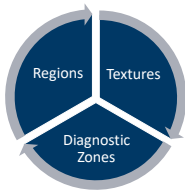


**Field Indicators of
Hydric Soils in the
United States**
A Guide for Identifying and Delineating
Hydric Soils, Version 5.2, 2015



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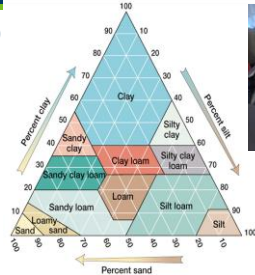
Field Indicator Organization- Regions



116

Field Indicator Organization- Texture

- Use regardless of texture(s)
 - All Mineral
 - All Organic
- Typically, organic matter
influences near the surface
- Includes smell
 - Rotten egg

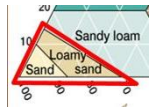


117

Soil Indicator Groups- Texture

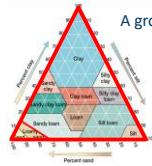
Sandy Soil Indicators (S):

- Use when texture is:
 - Loamy Fine Sand or coarser



Fine Grained Soil Indicators (F):

- Use when texture is:
 - Loamy Very Fine Sand or finer



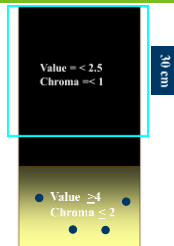
A group- all textures

118

Diagnostic Zones

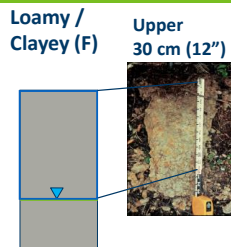
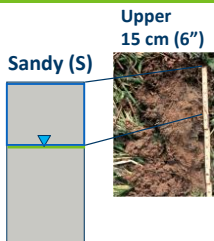
• Layers with :

- Certain **Colors**
 - high value and low chroma
 - redoximorphic features
 - organic matter accumulations
- Specific **Depths** from Surface
- **Thickness** requirements




119

Diagnostic Zones for S and F indicator groups



120



Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States
A Guide for Identifying and Interpreting Hydric Soils, Version 3.0, 2024

Key terms to help interpret indicators:

- Aquic- moisture regime, reducing regime virtually free of dissolved oxygen
- Histic- saturated organic horizon
- Epipedon-horizon near the surface
- Depletions- areas of low chroma where oxides have been stripped away
- Concentrations-zones where oxides have accumulated

Credit: USDA & NRCS for following pictures

121

A1—Histosol (for use in all LRRs) or **Histel** (for use in LRRs with permafrost). Classifies as a Histosol (except Folist) or as a Histel (except Folist).

User Notes: In a Histosol, typically 40 cm (16 inches) or more of the upper 80 cm (32 inches) is organic soil material (Fig. 7). Organic soil materials have organic carbon contents (by weight) of 12 to 18 percent or more, depending on the clay content of the soil. These materials include muck (sapric soil material), mucky peat (hemisapric soil material), and peat (fibric soil material). See *Keys to Soil Taxonomy* (Soil Survey Staff, 2014) for a complete definition.




Figure 7—Indicator A1 (Histosol or Histel). This soil has more than 40 cm (16 inches) of organic material, starting at the soil surface.

Format of Indicator Descriptions

- Alpha-numeric designation
 - A1
- Short name
 - Histosol
- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
 - Use in all LRRs
- Description of the indicator
- User notes
 - Additional information, explanation and guidance
- Supplement adds regional likelihood, locations

122

A1- Histosol

- **A1. Histosol:** Classifies as a Histosol. A Histosol has a layer of organic matter accumulation of ≥ 16 inches in the upper 32 inches of soil material.
- Use in all LRRs

A1—Histosol (for use in all LRRs) or **Histel** (for use in LRRs with permafrost). Classifies as a Histosol (except Folist) or as a Histel (except Folist).

User Notes: In a Histosol, typically 40 cm (16 inches) or more of the upper 80 cm (32 inches) is organic soil material (Fig. 7). Organic soil materials have organic carbon contents (by weight) of 12 to 18 percent or more, depending on the clay content of the soil. These materials include muck (sapric soil material), mucky peat (hemisapric soil material), and peat (fibric soil material). See *Keys to Soil Taxonomy* (Soil Survey Staff, 2014) for a complete definition.

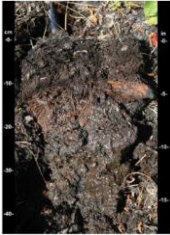


Figure 7—Indicator A1 (Histosol or Histel). This soil has more than 40 cm (16 inches) of organic material, starting at the soil surface.

123

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A2- Histic Epipedon

Histic epipedon- saturated, organic horizons 8 inches or more thick in the upper part

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
 - Use in all LRRs

A2.—Histic Epipedon. For use in all LRRs. A histic epipedon underlain by mineral soil material with chroma of 2 or less.

User Notes: Most histic epipedons are surface horizons 20 cm (8 inches) or more thick of organic soil material (fig. 8). Aquic conditions or artificial drainage is required. See *Keys to Soil Taxonomy* (Soil Survey Staff, 2014) for a complete definition.

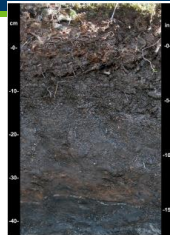


Figure 9.—Indicators A2 (Histic Epipedon) and A3 (Black Histic). This soil meets the depth criterion of A2 and the color and depth criteria of A3. The black color, a requirement of A3, results from the accumulation of organic matter when the soil is saturated and anaerobic.



A3- Black Histic

- A layer of peat, mucky peat, or muck 8 in or more thick that starts at a depth of ≤ 6 in from the soil surface; has hue of 10YR or yellower, value of 3 or less, and chroma of 1 or less; and is underlain by mineral soil material with chroma of 2 or less.
- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)

A3.—Black Histic. *For use in all LRRs.* A layer of peat, mucky peat, or muck 20 cm (8 inches) or more thick that starts at a depth of ≤ 15 cm (6 inches) from the soil surface; has hue of 10YR or yellower, value of 3 or less, and chroma of 1 or less; and is underlain by mineral soil material with chroma of 2 or less.

User Notes: Unlike indicator A2, this indicator does not require proof of aquic conditions or artificial drainage (fig. 8).

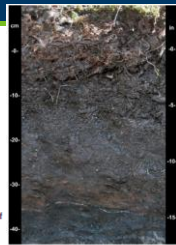


Figure 8.—Indicators A2 (Histic Epipedon) and A3 (Black Histic). This soil meets the depth criterion of A2 and the color and depth criteria of A3. The black color, a requirement of A3, results from the accumulation of organic matter when the soil is saturated and anaerobic.



A11- Depleted Below Dark Surface

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
- Use in all MN LRRs

A11.—Depleted Below Dark Surface. For use in all LARs, except for W, X, and Y, for testing in LARs W, X, and Y: A layer with a depleted or gleyed matrix that has 60 percent or more change of 2 or less, starting at a depth ≥ 30 cm (12 inches) from the soil surface, and having a minimum thickness of either:

- a. 15 cm (6 inches), or
- b. 5 cm (2 inches) if the 5 cm consists of fragmental soil material.

Organic, loamy, or clayey layer(s) above the doped/ or glycol matrix must have value of 3 or less and chroma of 2 or less starting at a depth <15 cm (6 inches) from the soil surface and extend to the doped/ or glycol matrix. Any sandy material above the doped/ or glycol matrix must have value of 3 or less and chroma of 1 or less starting at a depth <15 cm (6 inches) from the soil surface and extend to the doped/ or glycol matrix. Viewed through a 10x or 15x hand lens, at least 70 percent of the visible sand particles must be masked with organic material. Observed without a hand lens, the sand particles appear to be close to 100 percent masked.

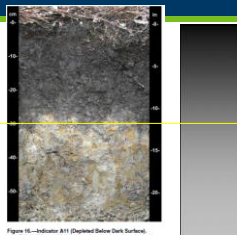


Figure 16.—Indicator A11 (Depleted Below Dark Surface).
This soil has a thick dark surface horizon that meets the requirements of indicator A11. Unlike the matrix in Figure 15, the depleted matrix below the dark surface horizon in this soil starts at a depth of about 20 cm, which is too deep to meet the requirements of indicator F3 (Depleted Matrix). Indicator A11 allows a deeper depleted matrix than indicator E3.



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A12- Thick Dark Surface

Figure 17.—Indicator A12 (Thick Dark Surface). Top: A photograph is provided to determine whether a soil meets the requirements of this indicator to the 100 depth in the field. Bottom: Color calibration chart.

A12.—Thick Dark Surface. For use in all LRRs. A layer at least 15 cm (6 inches) thick with a depleted or glewed matrix that has 60 percent or more chroma of 2 or less starting below 30 cm (12 inches) of the surface. The layer(s) above the depleted or glewed matrix and starting at a depth <15 cm (6 inches) from the soil surface must have value of 2.5 or less and chroma of 1 or less to a depth of at least 30 cm (12 inches) and value of 2 or less and chroma of 1 or less in any remaining layer above the depleted or glewed matrix. In any layer(s) indicated above the depleted or glewed matrix, at least 70 percent of the visible soil particles must be masked with organic material, viewed through a 10x or 15x hand lens. Otherwise, without a hand lens, the particles appear to be change to 100 percent masked.

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
- Use in all LRRs
- User notes
 - Most often associated with overthickened soils in concave landscape positions.

127

F3- Depleted Matrix

Figure 18.—Indicator F3 (Depleted Matrix). Top: A photograph is provided to determine whether a soil meets the requirements of this indicator to the 100 depth in the field. Bottom: Color calibration chart.

F3.—Depleted Matrix. For use in all LRRs, except W, X, and Y; for testing in LRRs W, X, and Y. A layer that has a depleted matrix with 60 percent or more chroma of 2 or less and that has a minimum thickness of either:

- 5 cm (2 inches) if the 5 cm starts at a depth ≤ 10 cm (4 inches) from the soil surface, or
- 15 cm (6 inches), starting at a depth ≤ 25 cm (10 inches) from the soil surface.

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
- Use in all LRRs

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F6- Redox Dark Surface

Figure 19.—Indicator F6 (Redox Dark Surface). Top: A photograph is provided to determine whether a soil meets the requirements of this indicator to the 100 depth in the field. Bottom: Color calibration chart.

F6.—Redox Dark Surface. For use in all LRRs, except W, X, and Y; for testing in LRRs W, X, and Y. A layer that is at least 15 cm (4 inches) thick, starting at a depth ≤ 25 cm (10 inches) from the mineral soil surface, and has:

- A Matrix value of 2 or less and chroma of 1 or less and 2 percent or more distinct or prominent water concentrations occurring as soil masses or pore linings, or
- A Matrix value of 3 or less and chroma of 2 or less and 5 percent or more distinct or prominent water concentrations occurring as soil masses or pore linings.

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
- Use in all LRRs

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F7- Depleted Dark Surface

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
 - Use in all LRRs
- User notes
 - Careful to not mistake an E horizon for depletions!

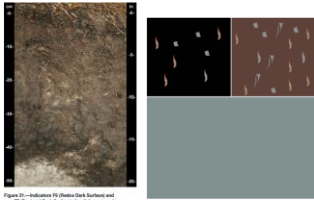


Figure 21.—Indicators F6 (Redox Dark Surface) and F7 (Depleted Dark Surface). A soil that meets the requirements of indicator F6 consistently also meets the requirements of indicator F7. If the dark surface layer has depletions, it meets F7 after two consecutive depletions.

F7.—Depleted Dark Surface. For use in all LRRs, except W, X, and Y; for testing in LRRs W, X, and Y. Redox depletions with value of 5 or more and chroma of 2 or less in a layer that is at least 10 cm (4 inches) thick, starting at a depth ≤ 20 cm (8 inches) from the mineral soil surface, and has:
a. Matrix value of 3 or less and chroma of 1 or less and 10 percent or more redox depletions, or
b. Matrix value of 3 or less and chroma of 2 or less and 20 percent or more redox depletions.

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S5- Sandy Redox

- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
 - Use in all LRRs

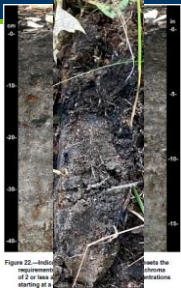


Figure 22.—Indicator S5 (Sandy Redox). This soil has a sandy redox horizon (S5) starting at a depth of 15 cm (6 inches) from the soil surface. The horizon has a matrix value of 60 percent or more chroma of 2 or less and 2 percent or more distinct or prominent redox concentrations occurring as soft masses and/or pore linings.

S5.—Sandy Redox. For use in all LRRs, except for Q, V, W, X, and Y. A layer starting at a depth ≤ 15 cm (6 inches) from the soil surface that is at least 10 cm (4 inches) thick and has a matrix with 60 percent or more chroma of 2 or less and 2 percent or more distinct or prominent redox concentrations occurring as soft masses and/or pore linings.

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Soil Profile Description: (describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

| Depth (inches) | Moisture | Color (moist) | % | Color (moist) | % | Type ¹ | Lo ² | Texture | Remarks |
|----------------|----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|---|-------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|
| 0-3 | 10yr 2/1 | 100 | | | | | | Clay Loam | |
| 3-22 | 10yr 5/2 | 80 | 7.5yr 5/6 | 20 | C | M | | Loamy clay | |

Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, M=Reduced Matrix, CD=Covered or Coated Sand Grains, Location: PL=Flow Linings, M=Matrix

Hydric Soil Indicators:

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Indicators for Probable Hydric Soils ³ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Prairie Redox (A16) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Muck (A3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Striped Matrix (S6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stratified Layers (A5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thin Dark Surface (A12) | <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3) | | |

¹Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? Yes ☐ No ☐

Remarks: _____

Figure 23.—Indicator F7 (Depleted Matrix). This soil has a matrix value of 3 or less and chroma of 2 or less and 10 percent or more redox depletions at a depth of 10 cm (4 inches) from the soil surface. The indicator requires a minimum of two depletions.

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Problematic Hydric Soils

- Covered in Chapter 5 of the regional supplements
- Problematic hydric soils are the norm in some landscapes

- **Red** Parent Material (*inhibited, or difficult to see redox features*)
- Active floodplains (*deposition of new material*)
- Drained systems (*relict hydric indicators*)
- **High Value** (*bright*) / Low Chroma (*grey*),
- Thick prairie soils
- Sandy soils

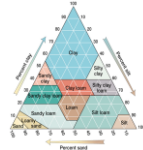
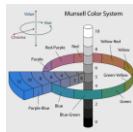


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Review

- Soil formation
 - Parent material, landscape position, horizons
- Soil Properties
 - Texture
 - Sand, silt, clay
 - Color
 - Hue, value, chroma
- Hydric soil development
 - Anaerobic conditions, reduction, organic accumulation

- Hydric soil indicators
 - All, Fine, Sandy
- Common soil indicators
 - Organic Indicators (A1, A2, A3)
 - Depleted Matrix (A11, A12, F3)
 - Redoximorphic features (F6, F3)



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Soil Survey Overview



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Attributes from Soil Survey to help understand Functions

• Geomorphc description

• Landform

• Slope shape

• Parent material

• Typical profile

• Textures

• Depths

• Properties and qualities

• Slope

• Restrictive layer

• Drainage class

• Depth to water table

• Frequency of flooding/ponding

Description of Normanna

Setting

Landform: Moraines

Landform position (two-dimensional): Summit, back/slope

Down slope shape: Linear

Across slope shape: Linear

Parent material: Loamy material over dense loamy till

Typical profile

A - 0 to 4 inches: loam

Bw - 4 to 43 inches: gravelly sandy loam

2Bw,BtC,2BtC - 43 to 48 inches: gravelly sandy loam

2BtCt - 48 to 80 inches: gravelly sandy loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 3 to 8 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: 30 to 60 inches to dense material

Natural drainage class: Moderately well drained

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Very low to moderately low (0.00 to 0.06 in/hr)

Depth to water table: About 18 inches

Frequency of flooding: None

Frequency of ponding: None

Available water storage in profile: Low (about 5.2 inches)

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USDA
SOIL TEXTURING
FIELD FLOW
CHART

Texture by Feel

| Soil texture by feel | Approximate percentages of sand, silt, and clay |
|----------------------|---|
| Sandy | 70-85% sand, 15-30% silt, 0-5% clay |
| Silty | 50-60% sand, 35-50% silt, 5-15% clay |
| Clayey | 40-50% sand, 25-35% silt, 25-40% clay |
| Loamy | 40-60% sand, 35-50% silt, 5-15% clay |
| Sandy loam | 60-70% sand, 20-35% silt, 5-10% clay |
| Silty loam | 50-60% sand, 35-50% silt, 5-15% clay |
| Clay loam | 40-50% sand, 25-35% silt, 25-40% clay |
| Sandy clay | 60-70% sand, 20-35% silt, 5-10% clay |
| Silty clay | 50-60% sand, 35-50% silt, 5-15% clay |
| Clay | 40-50% sand, 25-35% silt, 25-40% clay |

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