

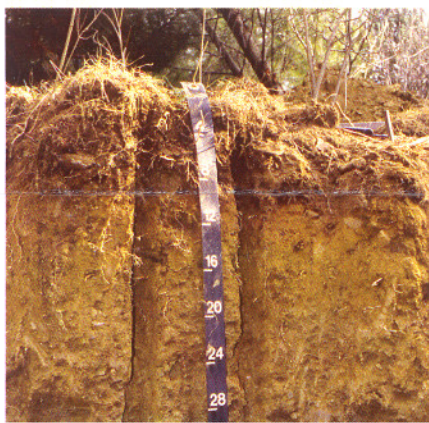
National Cooperative Soil Survey Plymouth County Massachusetts

About the National Cooperative Soil Survey

The National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) is a nationwide partnership of federal, regional, state and local agencies; and private entities and institutions that works together to cooperatively investigate, inventory, document, classify, interpret, disseminate, and publish information about soils of the United States and its trust territories and commonwealths.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for leadership and coordination of NCSS activities, and for the extension of soil survey technology to global applications.

NRCS works to protect and conserve natural resources on our nation's private lands.



Contact us:

Soil survey users needing assistance using or interpreting Plymouth County Soil Survey data may contact:

NRCS Field Office - West Wareham
508-295-5151 x2

Plymouth County Soil Survey Update completed, now on-line

The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces the publication of the Plymouth County, Massachusetts Soil Survey Update. The survey provides soil maps that identify soil types in the area, along with information on the characteristics of those soil types.

Soil surveys are often used by farmers, real estate agents, land use planners, engineers, town boards of health, conservation commissions, soil boards and many others who need information about this valuable natural resource.

The Plymouth County Soil Survey can be accessed in several ways depending upon user needs.

Homeowners, farmers and other general users can access the data through the **Web Soil Survey** at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>. This is a web-based system where users can tailor soil survey mapping and interpretations for their particular "area of interest."

Land use professionals, government agencies and others who use GIS software can download soils data through the **Soil Data Mart** at <http://soiladatamart.nrcs.usda.gov>. The shapefile can then be used in conjunction with a database to tailor custom soil resource planning products.

The previous Plymouth County publication was released in July 1969 and was based on field work performed from 1950 through 1963. NRCS soil scientists have remapped this area in order to provide much more detailed soils information in the update.

The updated survey includes soil mapping with a minimum size delineation of a half acre. The accuracy is greatly improved and the soils descriptions reflect the advancement of soil science and technology. It is currently the most advanced soil survey in the state today.

The Plymouth County Soil Survey Update consists of 458,567 acres and 231 mapping units (groupings of similar soils) performed at a map scale of 1:12,000.

A soil survey is the systematic examination, description, classification, and mapping of soils in an area. Soil surveys are classified according to the kind and intensity of field examination.

A soil survey commonly has maps with soil boundaries over an aerial photograph base. A soil survey also contains soil descriptions and tables of soil properties and features. NRCS soil scientists examine soils within these defined land areas and observe landscapes and landforms in order to group soils by similar characteristics, including soil color, soil texture, pH, and permeability.