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Instructions for Accessing and Using the NCSS Web Soil Survey to Determine Dominant Map Units and Related Soil Information (8-15)

What is the Web Soil Survey?	The National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) Web Soil Survey is a tool, located on the Internet, which can be used to obtain all the information traditionally found in soil surveys. For nutrient management consultants in Maryland, it streamlines the process of determining dominant soil map units in fields where the Phosphorus Site Index is calculated.
Where is the Web Soil Survey	Log on to the NCSS Web Soil Survey web site at: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/
Located?	Click on the "Start WSS" button to begin.

The simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data.



Graphics courtesy of NCSS

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Locate the To locate the field of interest, follow the steps in the table below. **Field**

Step	Action
1	Select an Area of Interest (AOI).
	• Click on the Address tab OR click on the State and County
	tab and enter the required information.
	• Click on the "View" button.
2	To move the map to your location of interest:
	• Click on the "Pan" button on the tool bar in the map
	window.
	- Area of Interest Interactive Map 🛛 😵
	• Click on the map and drag to reposition the image.
3	To obtain a closer view of your AOI:
	• Click on the "Zoom In" button on the tool bar in the map
	window.
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	• Place the cursor on a corner of the area that you want to enlarge and drag across the area
	enharge and drag deross the area.
	• At any time, you can click on the "Zoom History Back"
	button to return to your previous view.
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Define Field Boundaries and Identify Soil Types To identify soil types on the field of interest, follow the steps in the table below.

Step	Action
1	To define the field boundaries:
	• Click on the "AOI polygon" button on the tool bar in the map window.
	Area of Interest Interactive Map 6
	 Click around the perimeter of the field. Double-click to complete the polygon. The field selected is identified on the map and the acreage is displayed in the "AQI Information" block on the left side of the screen
2	To identify soil types:
	• Click on the "Soil Map" tab at the top of the screen. The soil types of the field are now displayed on the map and the acres and percentages of each soil type are displayed in the "Map Unit Legend" block on the left side of the screen.

Print a Soil Map and a Map Unit Summary To print a soil map and a map unit summary, follow the steps in the table below.

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1	Click on the "Drintchle Version" butten leasted on the ten right of
1	Click on the Printable Version button located on the top right of
	the page.
2	Click on "Custom Subtitle" and type in the field name.
3	Click on the "View" button.
	<i>Note 1:</i> You may need to temporarily allow pop-ups if the printable map does not come into view.Go to the "Tools" option on your browser, click on "Pop-up Blocker" and then click on "temporarily allow pop-ups" (these directions may vary for different browsers). <i>Note 2:</i> The image will also not display if you are zoomed in too closely. Click on the "Zoom Out" button and then click once on the soils map.
	Area of Interest Interactive Map
4	You can now print the map and map unit summary, or save as a
	.pdt file.

View or Print a Map Unit Description

Step	Action
1	Click on the "Soil Data Explorer" tab at the top of the screen.
2	Click on the "Soil Reports" tab.
3	Click on the "AOI Inventory" cell.
4	Click on the "Map Unit Description (Brief)" cell.
	<i>Note:</i> Some reports are not available individually. If this is the case, select "Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated) and then "View Soil Report" to get a report of all map unit descriptions.
5	Click on the box in front of soil of interest so that a green check appears.
6	Click the "View Soil Report" button.
	<i>Note:</i> You may need to temporarily allow pop-ups if the printable
	document does not come into view. Go to the "Tools" option, click
	on "Pop-up Blocker" and then click on "temporarily allow pop-
	ups" (these directions may vary for different browsers).
7	To print, follow steps one (1) through four (4) in "Print a Soil Map
	and a Map Unit Summary" on page 3 of this document.

To view or print a map unit description, follow the steps in the table below.

Locate a Second Field

At times, it will be necessary to document soil type on more than one field on a farm. To identify a second field, follow the steps in the table below.

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Step	Action
1	To access the Interactive Map:
	• Click on the Area of Interest (AOI) tab at the top left side of the screen. (The map displayed will show the field previously selected.)
	Area of Interest Soil Soil Data Download Shopping (A01) Map Explorer Soils Data Cart (Free)
	Search Image: Contractive Map Area of Interest Image: Contractive Map Area of Interest Image: Contractive Map Quick Navigation Image: Contractive Map
2	Proceed to Step 2, "Locate the Field" found on page 2. <i>Note:</i> Creating a new AOI will remove any previous AOIs, so
	make sure you have saved the reports you need before proceeding.