

READING GUIDE*

Interpretations IV: Mapping and Analysis

Soil Survey Division Staff (1993), Chapter 6, p. 319-325 (p.29-34)

OBJECTIVE: *To understand how soil interpretations are applied to soil map units, and to appreciate how soil maps are generalized to produce scale-appropriate products for land-use planning applications.*

1. How are interpretations, which are derived for soil series, applied to soil map units? What are the challenges in assigning interpretation ratings to different kinds of map units (consociations, complexes, associations)?
2. When more than one component series is named for a map unit (e.g., a complex or association), how can interpretations for the different components be applied to different portions of the landscape?
3. How does the presence of similar included soils influence the application of soil interpretations to a map unit?
4. How does the presence of dissimilar included soils influence the application of soil interpretations to a map unit?
5. What information is needed to properly extend soil series interpretations to map unit delineations? How are these interpretations of map units presented?
6. What are the two methods by which detailed soil maps can be generalized to create smaller scale maps?
How is the assigning of soil interpretations to map units influenced by this generalization?
7. **Why is it recommended that the area of the map unit delineation not exceed the area of concern for the mapping and analysis of soil interpretations?**
8. How do soil maps generalized for the purposes of operating units, communities, and regions differ in their characteristics, their use, and their application of interpretations?

SYNTHESIS:

9. What are the advantages and disadvantages of expressing interpretation ratings for map units as probability statements (e.g., “the area has a 70% chance of severe limitations for houses with basements because of hard bedrock at depths of less than 40 inches”)? How else could interpretations for map units be presented when multiple components, each with differing interpretation ratings, are within a map unit?

* Questions in plain type represent basic facts and concepts. Questions in **bold** type are those that are answered in the text but require more careful consideration. The Synthesis questions at the end help you apply the facts and concepts to a relevant issue.