

## READING GUIDE\*

### Interpretations II: Interpretive Soil Properties

*Soil Survey Division Staff (1993), Chapter 6, p. 290-298 (p.8-14)*

**OBJECTIVE:** *To understand the interpretive soil properties used in the development of interpretive rating systems for soil survey.*

1. What are the four general categories of interpretive soil properties used in soil survey? Provide at least one example of each.
2. Why is the assignment of interpretations by map unit normally restricted to named components of the map unit?
3. For each of the following soil properties or characteristics, explain why it may be used to develop soil interpretive ratings: (i) frost-free period, (ii) slope gradient, (iii) available water capacity, (iv) drainage class, (v) flooding, (vi) clay content, (vii) shrink-swell potential, (viii) saturated hydraulic conductivity, (ix) reaction or pH, (x) salinity, (xi) depth to bedrock, (xii) depth to cemented pan, (xiii) subsidence, (xiv) potential frost action, (xv) K factor. Be specific.

**SYNTHESIS:**

4. Which interpretive soil properties will most commonly need to be considered when developing limitation or suitability ratings for soils in West Virginia? Explain your answers.

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\* 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.