

READING GUIDE*

Orders of Soil Survey

Soil Survey Division Staff (1993), Chapter 2, p. 47-58 (p.24-33)

OBJECTIVE: *To understand the properties of the different orders of soil surveys, and how these differences influence their uses and limitations.*

1. Why are some soil surveys made to include greater detail and more precise information, while others are more generalized?
2. **How must methods be adjusted to accommodate the development of soil surveys of higher or lower order?**
3. What are the typical uses of each of the five orders of soil surveys?
4. What are the minimum sizes for soil map unit delineations on each of the five orders of soil surveys?
5. How do the kind and components of map units change among the five orders of soil surveys?
6. What is the typical map scale used for field mapping and publication of each of the five orders of soil surveys?
7. **How do the number and type of inclusions change among the five orders of soil surveys?**
8. What are some typical uses of each of the five orders of soil survey?
9. How do generalized soil maps and schematic soil maps differ from soil maps made by traditional field investigations? Consider both the mapping methods and the uses of these maps.

SYNTHESIS:

10. How are different orders of soil survey incorporated and used in most soil survey reports?
11. How can soil surveys of more than one order be used jointly to guide land use decision making?

* 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.