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Department of  
Agriculture



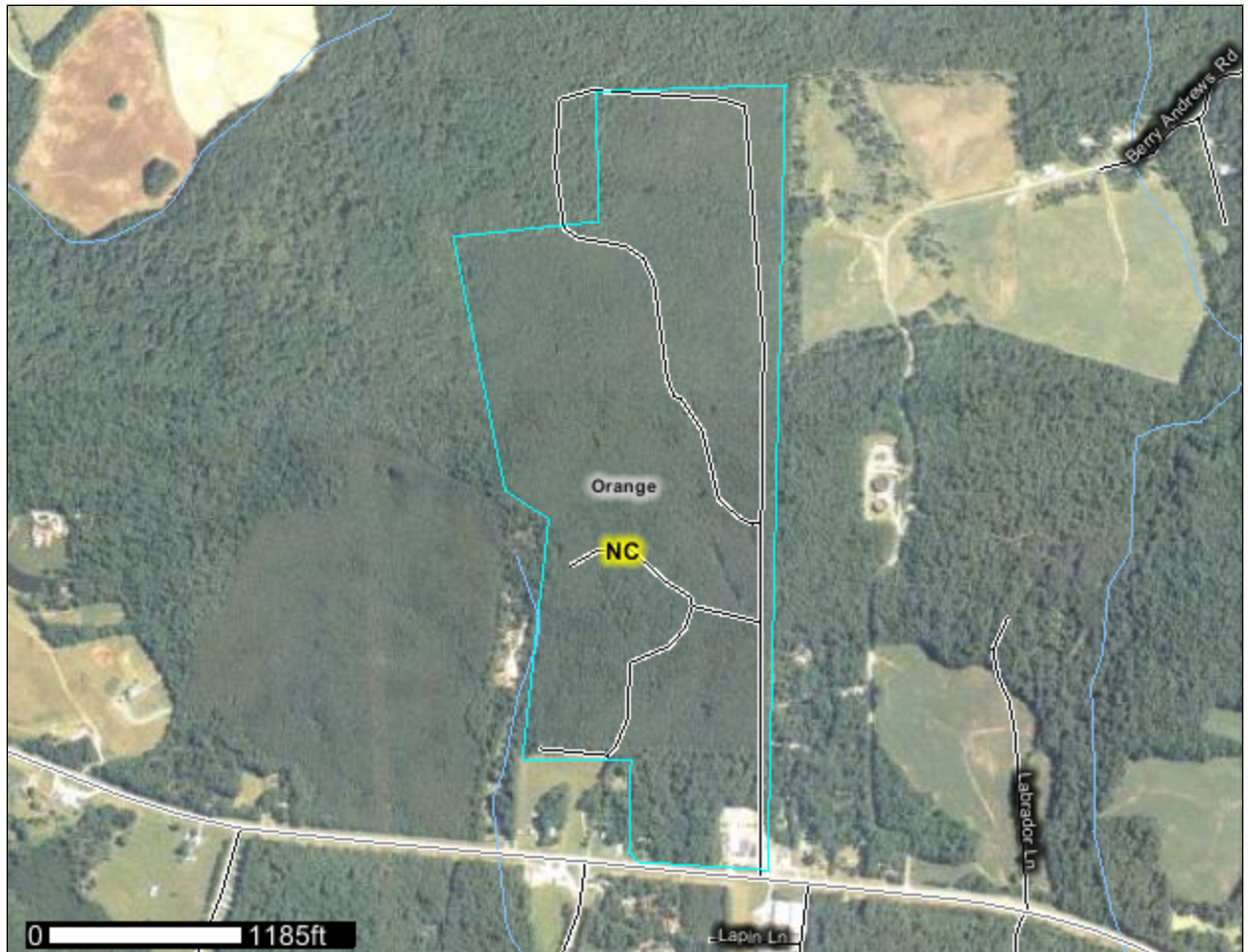
NRCS

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

A product of the National  
Cooperative Soil Survey,  
a joint effort of the United  
States Department of  
Agriculture and other  
Federal agencies, State  
agencies including the  
Agricultural Experiment  
Stations, and local  
participants

# Custom Soil Resource Report for Orange County, North Carolina

## Orange County Solid Waste Transfer Station



# Preface

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Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in survey areas. They highlight soil limitations that affect various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the survey areas. Soil surveys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the surveys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil surveys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations.

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (<http://soils.usda.gov/sqi/>) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nracs>) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist ([http://soils.usda.gov/contact/state\\_offices/](http://soils.usda.gov/contact/state_offices/)).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Soil Data Mart Web site or the NRCS Web Soil Survey. The Soil Data Mart is the data storage site for the official soil survey information.

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# **How Soil Surveys Are Made**

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Soil surveys are made to provide information about the soils and miscellaneous areas in a specific area. They include a description of the soils and miscellaneous areas and their location on the landscape and tables that show soil properties and limitations affecting various uses. Soil scientists observed the steepness, length, and shape of the slopes; the general pattern of drainage; the kinds of crops and native plants; and the kinds of bedrock. They observed and described many soil profiles. A soil profile is the sequence of natural layers, or horizons, in a soil. The profile extends from the surface down into the unconsolidated material in which the soil formed or from the surface down to bedrock. The unconsolidated material is devoid of roots and other living organisms and has not been changed by other biological activity.

Currently, soils are mapped according to the boundaries of major land resource areas (MLRAs). MLRAs are geographically associated land resource units that share common characteristics related to physiography, geology, climate, water resources, soils, biological resources, and land uses (USDA, 2006). Soil survey areas typically consist of parts of one or more MLRA.

The soils and miscellaneous areas in a survey area occur in an orderly pattern that is related to the geology, landforms, relief, climate, and natural vegetation of the area. Each kind of soil and miscellaneous area is associated with a particular kind of landform or with a segment of the landform. By observing the soils and miscellaneous areas in the survey area and relating their position to specific segments of the landform, a soil scientist develops a concept, or model, of how they were formed. Thus, during mapping, this model enables the soil scientist to predict with a considerable degree of accuracy the kind of soil or miscellaneous area at a specific location on the landscape.

Commonly, individual soils on the landscape merge into one another as their characteristics gradually change. To construct an accurate soil map, however, soil scientists must determine the boundaries between the soils. They can observe only a limited number of soil profiles. Nevertheless, these observations, supplemented by an understanding of the soil-vegetation-landscape relationship, are sufficient to verify predictions of the kinds of soil in an area and to determine the boundaries.

Soil scientists recorded the characteristics of the soil profiles that they studied. They noted soil color, texture, size and shape of soil aggregates, kind and amount of rock fragments, distribution of plant roots, reaction, and other features that enable them to identify soils. After describing the soils in the survey area and determining their properties, the soil scientists assigned the soils to taxonomic classes (units). Taxonomic classes are concepts. Each taxonomic class has a set of soil characteristics with precisely defined limits. The classes are used as a basis for comparison to classify soils systematically. Soil taxonomy, the system of taxonomic classification used in the United States, is based mainly on the kind and character of soil properties and the arrangement of horizons within the profile. After the soil scientists classified and named the soils in the survey area, they compared the

## Custom Soil Resource Report

individual soils with similar soils in the same taxonomic class in other areas so that they could confirm data and assemble additional data based on experience and research.

The objective of soil mapping is not to delineate pure map unit components; the objective is to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. Each map unit is defined by a unique combination of soil components and/or miscellaneous areas in predictable proportions. Some components may be highly contrasting to the other components of the map unit. The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The delineation of such landforms and landform segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

Soil scientists make many field observations in the process of producing a soil map. The frequency of observation is dependent upon several factors, including scale of mapping, intensity of mapping, design of map units, complexity of the landscape, and experience of the soil scientist. Observations are made to test and refine the soil-landscape model and predictions and to verify the classification of the soils at specific locations. Once the soil-landscape model is refined, a significantly smaller number of measurements of individual soil properties are made and recorded. These measurements may include field measurements, such as those for color, depth to bedrock, and texture, and laboratory measurements, such as those for content of sand, silt, clay, salt, and other components. Properties of each soil typically vary from one point to another across the landscape.

Observations for map unit components are aggregated to develop ranges of characteristics for the components. The aggregated values are presented. Direct measurements do not exist for every property presented for every map unit component. Values for some properties are estimated from combinations of other properties.

While a soil survey is in progress, samples of some of the soils in the area generally are collected for laboratory analyses and for engineering tests. Soil scientists interpret the data from these analyses and tests as well as the field-observed characteristics and the soil properties to determine the expected behavior of the soils under different uses. Interpretations for all of the soils are field tested through observation of the soils in different uses and under different levels of management. Some interpretations are modified to fit local conditions, and some new interpretations are developed to meet local needs. Data are assembled from other sources, such as research information, production records, and field experience of specialists. For example, data on crop yields under defined levels of management are assembled from farm records and from field or plot experiments on the same kinds of soil.

Predictions about soil behavior are based not only on soil properties but also on such variables as climate and biological activity. Soil conditions are predictable over long periods of time, but they are not predictable from year to year. For example, soil scientists can predict with a fairly high degree of accuracy that a given soil will have a high water table within certain depths in most years, but they cannot predict that a high water table will always be at a specific level in the soil on a specific date.

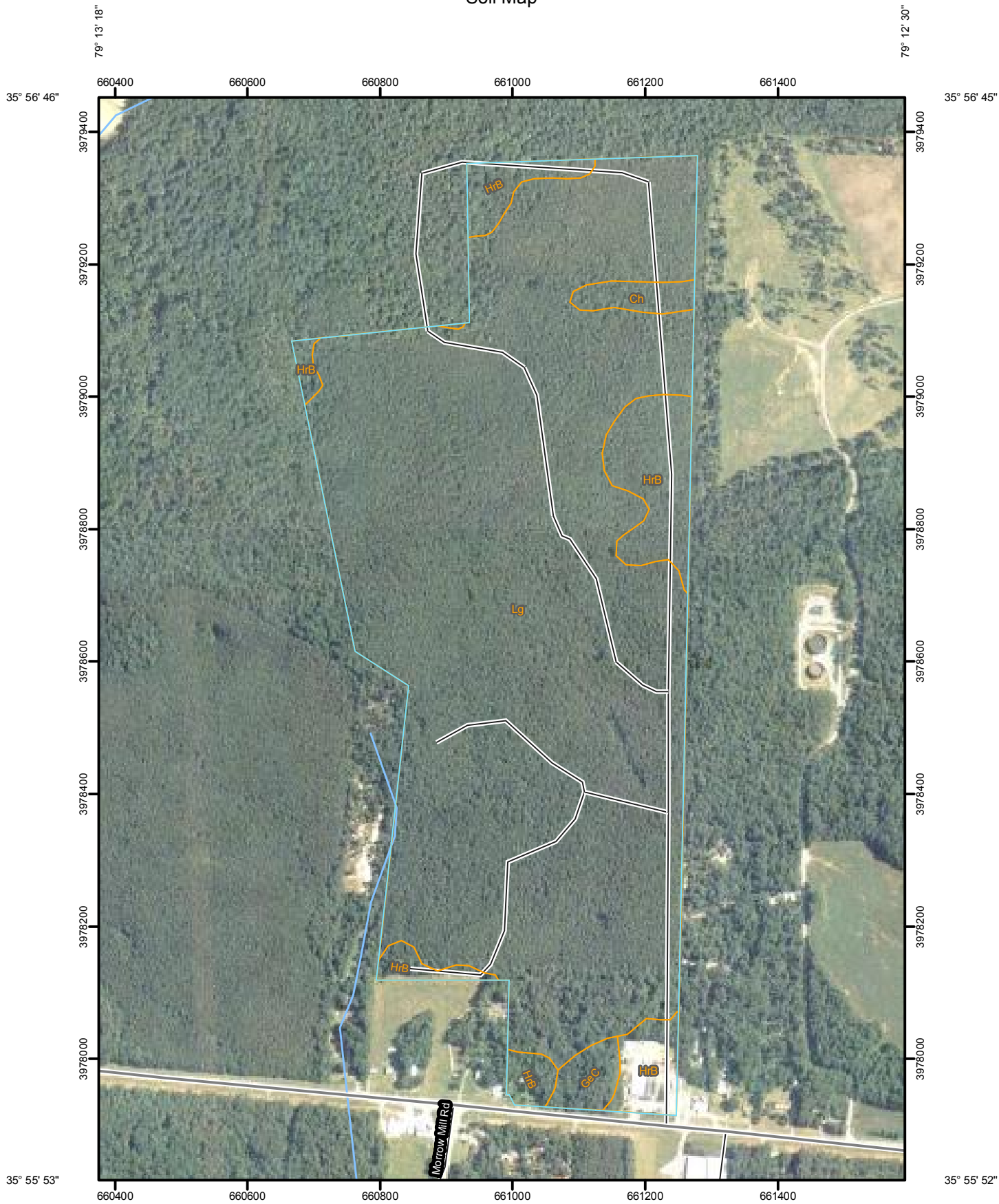
After soil scientists located and identified the significant natural bodies of soil in the survey area, they drew the boundaries of these bodies on aerial photographs and identified each as a specific map unit. Aerial photographs show trees, buildings, fields, roads, and rivers, all of which help in locating boundaries accurately.

# Soil Map

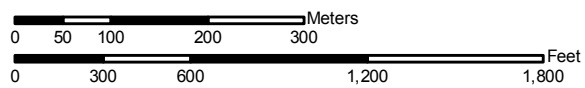
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The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.

# Custom Soil Resource Report Soil Map



Map Scale: 1:7,800 if printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet.




79° 13' 19"

79° 12' 31"

# Custom Soil Resource Report

## MAP LEGEND






















### Area of Interest (AOI)


 Area of Interest (AOI)


### Soils


 Soil Map Units

### Special Point Features




-  Blowout
-  Borrow Pit
-  Clay Spot
-  Closed Depression
-  Gravel Pit
-  Gravelly Spot
-  Landfill
-  Lava Flow
-  Marsh or swamp
-  Mine or Quarry
-  Miscellaneous Water
-  Perennial Water
-  Rock Outcrop
-  Saline Spot
-  Sandy Spot
-  Severely Eroded Spot
-  Sinkhole
-  Slide or Slip
-  Sodic Spot
-  Spoil Area
-  Stony Spot

 Very Stony Spot

 Wet Spot

 Other



### Special Line Features

-  Gully
-  Short Steep Slope
-  Other






### Political Features

 Cities

### Water Features

-  Oceans
-  Streams and Canals

### Transportation

-  Rails
-  Interstate Highways
-  US Routes
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads

## MAP INFORMATION

Map Scale: 1:7,800 if printed on A size (8.5" × 11") sheet.

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:20,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for accurate map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>  
 Coordinate System: UTM Zone 17N NAD83

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Orange County, North Carolina  
 Survey Area Data: Version 9, Mar 20, 2007

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 6/16/2006

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

## Map Unit Legend

Orange County, North Carolina (NC135)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Ch	Chewacla loam	1.9	1.2%
GeC	Georgeville silt loam, 6 to 10 percent slopes	2.1	1.3%
HrB	Herndon silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	15.6	10.1%
Lg	Lignum silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	135.0	87.3%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>154.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Map Unit Descriptions

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If

## Custom Soil Resource Report

intensive use of small areas is planned, however, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

## Orange County, North Carolina

### Ch—Chewacla loam

#### Map Unit Setting

*Elevation:* 200 to 1,400 feet

*Mean annual precipitation:* 37 to 60 inches

*Mean annual air temperature:* 59 to 66 degrees F

*Frost-free period:* 200 to 240 days

#### Map Unit Composition

*Chewacla and similar soils:* 85 percent

*Minor components:* 5 percent

#### Description of Chewacla

##### Setting

*Landform:* Flood plains

*Down-slope shape:* Concave

*Across-slope shape:* Linear

*Parent material:* Loamy alluvium derived from igneous and metamorphic rock

##### Properties and qualities

*Slope:* 0 to 2 percent

*Depth to restrictive feature:* More than 80 inches

*Drainage class:* Somewhat poorly drained

*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Moderately high to high  
(0.57 to 1.98 in/hr)

*Depth to water table:* About 6 to 24 inches

*Frequency of flooding:* Frequent

*Frequency of ponding:* None

*Available water capacity:* High (about 11.5 inches)

##### Interpretive groups

*Land capability (nonirrigated):* 4w

##### Typical profile

*0 to 4 inches:* Loam

*4 to 26 inches:* Silty clay loam

*26 to 38 inches:* Loam

*38 to 60 inches:* Clay loam

*60 to 80 inches:* Loam

#### Minor Components

##### Wehadkee, undrained

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent

*Landform:* Depressions on flood plains

*Down-slope shape:* Concave

*Across-slope shape:* Linear

## **GeC—Georgeville silt loam, 6 to 10 percent slopes**

### **Map Unit Setting**

*Elevation:* 300 to 750 feet

*Mean annual precipitation:* 37 to 60 inches

*Mean annual air temperature:* 59 to 66 degrees F

*Frost-free period:* 200 to 240 days

### **Map Unit Composition**

*Georgeville and similar soils:* 90 percent

### **Description of Georgeville**

#### **Setting**

*Landform:* Hillslopes on ridges

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Summit, shoulder

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Side slope

*Down-slope shape:* Linear

*Across-slope shape:* Convex

*Parent material:* Residuum weathered from slate and/or metavolcanics and/or argillite

#### **Properties and qualities**

*Slope:* 6 to 10 percent

*Depth to restrictive feature:* More than 80 inches

*Drainage class:* Well drained

*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Moderately high to high  
(0.57 to 1.98 in/hr)

*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches

*Frequency of flooding:* None

*Frequency of ponding:* None

*Available water capacity:* High (about 9.2 inches)

#### **Interpretive groups**

*Land capability (nonirrigated):* 3e

#### **Typical profile**

*0 to 7 inches:* Silt loam

*7 to 10 inches:* Silty clay loam

*10 to 44 inches:* Clay

*44 to 53 inches:* Silty clay loam

*53 to 80 inches:* Loam

## **HrB—Herndon silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes**

### **Map Unit Setting**

*Elevation:* 320 to 700 feet

*Mean annual precipitation:* 37 to 60 inches

*Mean annual air temperature:* 59 to 66 degrees F

*Frost-free period:* 200 to 240 days

### **Map Unit Composition**

*Herndon and similar soils:* 85 percent

### **Description of Herndon**

#### **Setting**

*Landform:* Interfluves

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Summit

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Interfluve

*Down-slope shape:* Convex

*Across-slope shape:* Convex

*Parent material:* Residuum weathered from slate and/or metavolcanics and/or argillite

#### **Properties and qualities**

*Slope:* 2 to 6 percent

*Depth to restrictive feature:* More than 80 inches

*Drainage class:* Well drained

*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Moderately high to high  
(0.57 to 1.98 in/hr)

*Depth to water table:* More than 80 inches

*Frequency of flooding:* None

*Frequency of ponding:* None

*Available water capacity:* Moderate (about 7.4 inches)

#### **Interpretive groups**

*Land capability (nonirrigated):* 2e

#### **Typical profile**

*0 to 3 inches:* Silt loam

*3 to 9 inches:* Silt loam

*9 to 14 inches:* Silty clay loam

*14 to 34 inches:* Silty clay

*34 to 48 inches:* Silty clay loam

*48 to 80 inches:* Silt loam

## **Lg—Lignum silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes**

### **Map Unit Setting**

*Elevation:* 200 to 1,400 feet

*Mean annual precipitation:* 37 to 60 inches

*Mean annual air temperature:* 59 to 66 degrees F

*Frost-free period:* 200 to 240 days

### **Map Unit Composition**

*Lignum and similar soils:* 85 percent

*Minor components:* 2 percent

### **Description of Lignum**

#### **Setting**

*Landform:* Interfluves

*Landform position (two-dimensional):* Summit

*Landform position (three-dimensional):* Interfluve

*Down-slope shape:* Convex

*Across-slope shape:* Linear

*Parent material:* Residuum weathered from metavolcanics and/or residuum weathered from argillite

#### **Properties and qualities**

*Slope:* 0 to 3 percent

*Depth to restrictive feature:* 40 to 60 inches to paralithic bedrock

*Drainage class:* Moderately well drained

*Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat):* Very low to moderately low (0.00 to 0.06 in/hr)

*Depth to water table:* About 12 to 30 inches

*Frequency of flooding:* None

*Frequency of ponding:* None

*Available water capacity:* Moderate (about 8.2 inches)

#### **Interpretive groups**

*Land capability (nonirrigated):* 2w

#### **Typical profile**

*0 to 2 inches:* Silt loam

*2 to 12 inches:* Silt loam

*12 to 39 inches:* Silty clay

*39 to 56 inches:* Silt loam

*56 to 80 inches:* Weathered bedrock

### **Minor Components**

#### **Wehadkee, undrained**

*Percent of map unit:* 2 percent

*Landform:* Depressions on flood plains

*Down-slope shape:* Concave

*Across-slope shape:* Linear

## Custom Soil Resource Report

# **Soil Information for All Uses**

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## **Suitabilities and Limitations for Use**

The Suitabilities and Limitations for Use section includes various soil interpretations displayed as thematic maps with a summary table for the soil map units in the selected area of interest. A single value or rating for each map unit is generated by aggregating the interpretive ratings of individual map unit components. This aggregation process is defined for each interpretation.

## **Land Classifications**

Land Classifications are specified land use and management groupings that are assigned to soil areas because combinations of soil have similar behavior for specified practices. Most are based on soil properties and other factors that directly influence the specific use of the soil. Example classifications include ecological site classification, farmland classification, irrigated and nonirrigated land capability classification, and hydric rating.

## **Hydric Rating by Map Unit**

This rating indicates the proportion of map units that meets the criteria for hydric soils. Map units are composed of one or more map unit components or soil types, each of which is rated as hydric soil or not hydric. Map units that are made up dominantly of hydric soils may have small areas of minor nonhydric components in the higher positions on the landform, and map units that are made up dominantly of nonhydric soils may have small areas of minor hydric components in the lower positions on the landform. Each map unit is designated as "all hydric," "partially hydric," "not hydric," or "unknown hydric," depending on the rating of its respective components.

"All hydric" means that all components listed for a given map unit are rated as being hydric, while "not hydric" means that all components are rated as not hydric. "Partially hydric" means that at least one component of the map unit is rated as hydric, and at least one component is rated as not hydric. "Unknown hydric" indicates that at least one component is not rated so a definitive rating for the map unit cannot be made.

Hydric soils are defined by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) as soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part

## Custom Soil Resource Report

(Federal Register, 1994). Under natural conditions, these soils are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation.

The NTCHS definition identifies general soil properties that are associated with wetness. In order to determine whether a specific soil is a hydric soil or nonhydric soil, however, more specific information, such as information about the depth and duration of the water table, is needed. Thus, criteria that identify those estimated soil properties unique to hydric soils have been established (Federal Register, 2002). These criteria are used to identify map unit components that normally are associated with wetlands. The criteria used are selected estimated soil properties that are described in "Soil Taxonomy" (Soil Survey Staff, 1999) and "Keys to Soil Taxonomy" (Soil Survey Staff, 2006) and in the "Soil Survey Manual" (Soil Survey Division Staff, 1993).

If soils are wet enough for a long enough period of time to be considered hydric, they should exhibit certain properties that can be easily observed in the field. These visible properties are indicators of hydric soils. The indicators used to make onsite determinations of hydric soils are specified in "Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States" (Hurt and Vasilas, 2006).

### References:

Federal Register. July 13, 1994. Changes in hydric soils of the United States.

Federal Register. September 18, 2002. Hydric soils of the United States.

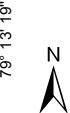
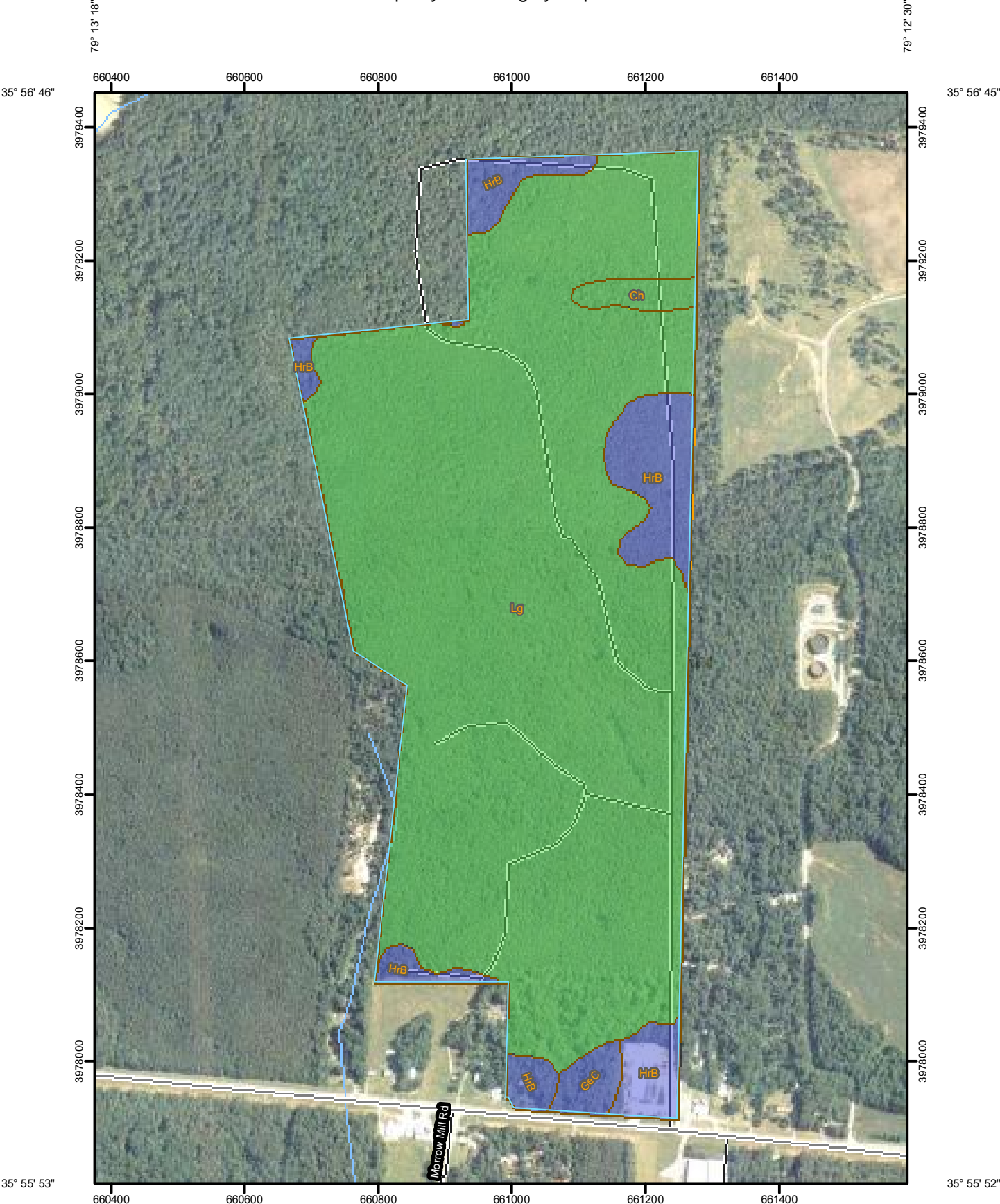
Hurt, G.W., and L.M. Vasilas, editors. Version 6.0, 2006. Field indicators of hydric soils in the United States.

Soil Survey Division Staff. 1993. Soil survey manual. Soil Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 18.

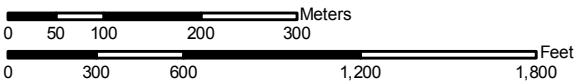
Soil Survey Staff. 1999. Soil taxonomy: A basic system of soil classification for making and interpreting soil surveys. 2nd edition. Natural Resources Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 436.

Soil Survey Staff. 2006. Keys to soil taxonomy. 10th edition. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

# Custom Soil Resource Report Map--Hydric Rating by Map Unit




Map Scale: 1:7,800 if printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet.



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## MAP LEGEND

### Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)


### Soils


 Soil Map Units

### Soil Ratings

 All Hydric

 Partially Hydric

 Not Hydric

 Unknown Hydric


 Not rated or not available

### Political Features

 Cities

### Water Features

 Oceans

 Streams and Canals


### Transportation

 Rails

 Interstate Highways

 US Routes

 Major Roads

 Local Roads

## MAP INFORMATION

Map Scale: 1:7,800 if printed on A size (8.5" × 11") sheet.

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:20,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for accurate map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>  
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 17N NAD83

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Orange County, North Carolina  
Survey Area Data: Version 9, Mar 20, 2007

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 6/16/2006

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

**Table—Hydric Rating by Map Unit**

<b>Hydric Rating by Map Unit— Summary by Map Unit — Orange County, North Carolina</b>				
<b>Map unit symbol</b>	<b>Map unit name</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Acres in AOI</b>	<b>Percent of AOI</b>
Ch	Chewacla loam	Partially Hydric	1.9	1.2%
GeC	Georgeville silt loam, 6 to 10 percent slopes	Not Hydric	2.1	1.3%
HrB	Herndon silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not Hydric	15.6	10.1%
Lg	Lignum silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Partially Hydric	135.0	87.3%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>154.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Rating Options—Hydric Rating by Map Unit**

*Aggregation Method:* Absence/Presence

*Tie-break Rule:* Lower

## Soil Reports

The Soil Reports section includes various formatted tabular and narrative reports (tables) containing data for each selected soil map unit and each component of each unit. No aggregation of data has occurred as is done in reports in the Soil Properties and Qualities and Suitabilities and Limitations sections.

The reports contain soil interpretive information as well as basic soil properties and qualities. A description of each report (table) is included.

## Land Classifications

This folder contains a collection of tabular reports that present a variety of soil groupings. The reports (tables) include all selected map units and components for each map unit. Land classifications are specified land use and management groupings that are assigned to soil areas because combinations of soil have similar behavior for specified practices. Most are based on soil properties and other factors that directly influence the specific use of the soil. Example classifications include ecological site classification, farmland classification, irrigated and nonirrigated land capability classification, and hydric rating.

## Hydric Soils

This table lists the map unit components that are rated as hydric soils in the survey area. This list can help in planning land uses; however, onsite investigation is recommended to determine the hydric soils on a specific site (National Research Council, 1995; Hurt and others, 2002).

The three essential characteristics of wetlands are hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology (Cowardin and others, 1979; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1987; National Research Council, 1995; Tiner, 1985). Criteria for all of the characteristics must be met for areas to be identified as wetlands. Undrained hydric soils that have natural vegetation should support a dominant population of ecological wetland plant species. Hydric soils that have been converted to other uses should be capable of being restored to wetlands.

Hydric soils are defined by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) as soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part (Federal Register, 1994). These soils, under natural conditions, are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation.

The NTCHS definition identifies general soil properties that are associated with wetness. In order to determine whether a specific soil is a hydric soil or nonhydric soil, however, more specific information, such as information about the depth and duration of the water table, is needed. Thus, criteria that identify those estimated soil properties unique to hydric soils have been established (Federal Register, 2002). These criteria are used to identify map unit components that normally are associated with wetlands. The criteria used are selected estimated soil properties that are described in "Soil

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Taxonomy" (Soil Survey Staff, 1999) and "Keys to Soil Taxonomy" (Soil Survey Staff, 2006) and in the "Soil Survey Manual" (Soil Survey Division Staff, 1993).

If soils are wet enough for a long enough period of time to be considered hydric, they should exhibit certain properties that can be easily observed in the field. These visible properties are indicators of hydric soils. The indicators used to make onsite determinations of hydric soils are specified in "Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States" (Hurt and Vasilas, 2006).

Hydric soils are identified by examining and describing the soil to a depth of about 20 inches. This depth may be greater if determination of an appropriate indicator so requires. It is always recommended that soils be excavated and described to the depth necessary for an understanding of the redoximorphic processes. Then, using the completed soil descriptions, soil scientists can compare the soil features required by each indicator and specify which indicators have been matched with the conditions observed in the soil. The soil can be identified as a hydric soil if at least one of the approved indicators is present.

Map units that are dominantly made up of hydric soils may have small areas, or inclusions, of nonhydric soils in the higher positions on the landform, and map units dominantly made up of nonhydric soils may have inclusions of hydric soils in the lower positions on the landform.

The criteria for hydric soils are represented by codes in the table (for example, 2B3). Definitions for the codes are as follows:

1. All Histels except for Folistels, and Histosols except for Folists.
2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups, Albolls suborder, Historthels great group, Histoturbels great group, Pachic subgroups, or Cumulic subgroups that:
  - A. are somewhat poorly drained and have a water table at the surface (0.0 feet) during the growing season, or
  - B. are poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
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3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long or very long duration during the growing season.
4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during the growing season.

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### Report—Hydric Soils

Hydric Soils— Orange County, North Carolina				
Map symbol and map unit name	Component	Percent of map unit	Landform	Hydric criteria
Ch—Chewacla loam				
	Wehadkee, undrained	5	Depressions on flood plains	2B3, 4
Lg—Lignum silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes				
	Wehadkee, undrained	2	Depressions on flood plains	2B3, 4

### Water Features

This folder contains tabular reports that present soil hydrology information. The reports (tables) include all selected map units and components for each map unit. Water Features include ponding frequency, flooding frequency, and depth to water table.

### Water Features

This table gives estimates of various soil water features. The estimates are used in land use planning that involves engineering considerations.

*Hydrologic soil groups* are based on estimates of runoff potential. Soils are assigned to one of four groups according to the rate of water infiltration when the soils are not protected by vegetation, are thoroughly wet, and receive precipitation from long-duration storms.

The four hydrologic soil groups are:

Group A. Soils having a high infiltration rate (low runoff potential) when thoroughly wet. These consist mainly of deep, well drained to excessively drained sands or gravelly sands. These soils have a high rate of water transmission.

Group B. Soils having a moderate infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. These consist chiefly of moderately deep or deep, moderately well drained or well drained soils that

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have moderately fine texture to moderately coarse texture. These soils have a moderate rate of water transmission.

Group C. Soils having a slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. These consist chiefly of soils having a layer that impedes the downward movement of water or soils of moderately fine texture or fine texture. These soils have a slow rate of water transmission.

Group D. Soils having a very slow infiltration rate (high runoff potential) when thoroughly wet. These consist chiefly of clays that have a high shrink-swell potential, soils that have a high water table, soils that have a claypan or clay layer at or near the surface, and soils that are shallow over nearly impervious material. These soils have a very slow rate of water transmission.

If a soil is assigned to a dual hydrologic group (A/D, B/D, or C/D), the first letter is for drained areas and the second is for undrained areas.

*Surface runoff* refers to the loss of water from an area by flow over the land surface. Surface runoff classes are based on slope, climate, and vegetative cover. The concept indicates relative runoff for very specific conditions. It is assumed that the surface of the soil is bare and that the retention of surface water resulting from irregularities in the ground surface is minimal. The classes are negligible, very low, low, medium, high, and very high.

The *months* in the table indicate the portion of the year in which a water table, ponding, and/or flooding is most likely to be a concern.

*Water table* refers to a saturated zone in the soil. The water features table indicates, by month, depth to the top (*upper limit*) and base (*lower limit*) of the saturated zone in most years. Estimates of the upper and lower limits are based mainly on observations of the water table at selected sites and on evidence of a saturated zone, namely grayish colors or mottles (redoximorphic features) in the soil. A saturated zone that lasts for less than a month is not considered a water table.

*Ponding* is standing water in a closed depression. Unless a drainage system is installed, the water is removed only by percolation, transpiration, or evaporation. The table indicates *surface water depth* and the *duration* and *frequency* of ponding. Duration is expressed as *very brief* if less than 2 days, *brief* if 2 to 7 days, *long* if 7 to 30 days, and *very long* if more than 30 days. Frequency is expressed as none, rare, occasional, and frequent. *None* means that ponding is not probable; *rare* that it is unlikely but possible under unusual weather conditions (the chance of ponding is nearly 0 percent to 5 percent in any year); *occasional* that it occurs, on the average, once or less in 2 years (the chance of ponding is 5 to 50 percent in any year); and *frequent* that it occurs, on the average, more than once in 2 years (the chance of ponding is more than 50 percent in any year).

*Flooding* is the temporary inundation of an area caused by overflowing streams, by runoff from adjacent slopes, or by tides. Water standing for short periods after rainfall or snowmelt is not considered flooding, and water standing in swamps and marshes is considered ponding rather than flooding.

*Duration* and *frequency* are estimated. Duration is expressed as *extremely brief* if 0.1 hour to 4 hours, *very brief* if 4 hours to 2 days, *brief* if 2 to 7 days, *long* if 7 to 30 days, and *very long* if more than 30 days. Frequency is expressed as none, very rare, rare, occasional, frequent, and very frequent. *None* means that flooding is not probable; *very rare* that it is very unlikely but possible under extremely unusual weather conditions (the chance of flooding is less than 1 percent in any year); *rare* that it is unlikely but possible under unusual weather conditions (the chance of flooding is 1 to 5 percent in any year); *occasional* that it occurs infrequently under normal weather

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conditions (the chance of flooding is 5 to 50 percent in any year); *frequent* that it is likely to occur often under normal weather conditions (the chance of flooding is more than 50 percent in any year but is less than 50 percent in all months in any year); and *very frequent* that it is likely to occur very often under normal weather conditions (the chance of flooding is more than 50 percent in all months of any year).

The information is based on evidence in the soil profile, namely thin strata of gravel, sand, silt, or clay deposited by floodwater; irregular decrease in organic matter content with increasing depth; and little or no horizon development.

Also considered are local information about the extent and levels of flooding and the relation of each soil on the landscape to historic floods. Information on the extent of flooding based on soil data is less specific than that provided by detailed engineering surveys that delineate flood-prone areas at specific flood frequency levels.

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Water Features— Orange County, North Carolina										
Map unit symbol and soil name	Hydrologic group	Surface runoff	Month	Water table		Ponding			Flooding	
				Upper limit	Lower limit	Surface depth	Duration	Frequency	Duration	Frequency
				<i>Ft</i>	<i>Ft</i>	<i>Ft</i>				
Ch—Chewacla loam										
Chewacla	C	Very high	January	0.5-2.0	>6.0	—	—	None	Brief	Frequent
	C	Very high	February	0.5-2.0	>6.0	—	—	None	Brief	Frequent
	C	Very high	March	0.5-2.0	>6.0	—	—	None	Brief	Frequent
	C	Very high	April	1.0-2.7	>6.0	—	—	None	Brief	Frequent
	C	Very high	May	1.5-4.0	>6.0	—	—	None	Brief	Frequent
	C	Very high	June	4.0-5.0	>6.0	—	—	None	Brief	Frequent
	C	Very high	October	4.0-5.0	>6.0	—	—	None	—	—
	C	Very high	November	1.0-2.7	>6.0	—	—	None	Brief	Frequent
	C	Very high	December	0.5-2.0	>6.0	—	—	None	Brief	Frequent
GeC—Georgeville silt loam, 6 to 10 percent slopes										
Georgeville	B	Medium	Jan-Dec	—	—	—	—	None	—	—
HrB—Herndon silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes										
Herndon	B	Low	Jan-Dec	—	—	—	—	None	—	—
Lg—Lignum silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes										
Lignum	C	Medium	January	1.0-2.5	2.5-3.5	—	—	None	—	None
	C	Medium	February	1.0-2.5	2.5-3.5	—	—	None	—	None
	C	Medium	March	1.0-2.5	2.5-3.5	—	—	None	—	None
	C	Medium	April	1.0-2.5	2.5-3.5	—	—	None	—	None
	C	Medium	December	1.0-2.5	2.5-3.5	—	—	None	—	None

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