

Important Notice - New Soils Information for Clermont County

There have been some recent modifications to the soils information in Clermont County that have not been incorporated into the 2002 version of the Clermont County Soil Survey. Many people are using this 2002 version, which was the last distributed release. It is still available in two CD formats (Digital Soil Survey or Digital Soils Information) from Clermont SWCD and via download from [Clermont SWCD](#) and [ODNR](#) websites.

There are a number of reasons for the recent or upcoming modifications detailed below. For instance, disturbed soils (building sites, etc.) no longer have the same profile or properties as original soil units mapped in the 1960s and shown in the current Soil Survey. Efforts are underway in the Tri-State and other developing areas to map these “urban land complex” soil types and their new properties. Other modifications include those associated with naming or nomenclature, and those that result from changes in national or state soil mapping convention. One notable initiative involves changing of soil names so they are consistent across county lines.

Users should be aware that county soil surveys have limitations because they are time consuming and expensive to update and distribute on a frequent basis. The soils information field is quickly transitioning to web based tools, as they can be updated on a continuous basis as important changes occur. It is recommended that users utilize the [USDA Web Soil Survey](#) if they want the most up to date information regarding County soils. **The soils information in the USDA Web Soil Survey and that contained in [USDA Soils Data Mart](#) are considered to be the official SSURGO Certified Soil Survey information for Clermont County.** Users can also consult this [table](#) to determine what source of soils information best suits their specific needs.

Recent Modifications (as of 7/9/10)

New map unit symbols - A new map unit symbol system was set up to be able to create a statewide legend that will be consistent across county boundaries, meaning that the same symbols will represent the same soil. Previously, map unit symbols were developed for each county when the soil survey was being updated in that specific county. While an effort was made to match the soils and symbols of adjoining counties, it was never possible to make these exact matches. Ultimately, this led to confusion with users who utilized the soils information in multiple counties, and in some instances this led to mistakes in making land use decisions.

Once fully implemented, the new map unit symbols will be comprised of 6 symbols, for example:

Current Symbol : HkD2 - Hickory loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded
New Symbol : Hic2D2 - Hickory loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded

- The first 3 characters will always be letters. These will ideally be the first 3 letters of the series name, or at least the initial letter followed by 2 letters to make the first 3 letters a mnemonic representation of the series name. (example, Cle1A – Clermont soils)
- The 4th character will be a number for texture, unless it is a soil complex without a specific surface texture in which case it will be denoted as an “X”. The following table indicates the texture that corresponds with the number.

texture character codes	texture
1	silt loam
2	loam
3	silty clay loam
4	sandy loam
5	clay loam
6 through 9	varies

- The 5th character will be an upper case letter designating slope (A = 0-2%, B = 2-6%....)
- The 6th character will be for erosion class, flood frequency, or other phase criteria. Only 1 (slight erosion), 2 (moderate), and 3 (severe) will be used. Zero (no erosion, or deposition) won't be used. In the case of flooding, F for frequent, O for occasional, and R for rare.

List of Recent Modifications

Below is a summary of recent modifications to the soils information in Clermont County. Those soil types shown with *asterisk indicate soil series names not previously used in Clermont County. For a complete description of the soil type or series listed below and a map showing the extent of mapping units, visit <http://ortho.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/cgi-bin/osd/osdnamequery.cgi>

Blanchester – name no longer used; soil units included within other adjacent soil types

*Bonnell – soil type added because found along border of adjacent county

Clermont – old designation was Ct; new designation is Cle1A.

*Elkinsville – soil type added because found along border of adjacent county

*Faywood – soil type added because found along border of adjacent county

*Jessup – soil type added because found along border of adjacent county

*Nolin - soil type added because found along border of adjacent county

*Pate_- soil type added because found along border of adjacent county

*Rossmoyne Bonnell Complex - soil type added because found along border of adjacent county

*Sciotoville - soil type added because found along border of adjacent county

*Westboro Schaffer silt loams, 0-2 percent_slope - soil type added because found along border of adjacent county and new name accounts for presence or absence of fragipan

Upcoming Changes

Avonburg – During recent soil survey update activities, data showed that not all of the Avonburg soils had the criteria necessary to make a [fragipan](#). The majority of the map unit contained a soil (Westboro) that has horizons with fragic characteristics that do not meet all of the criteria for a fragipan. Therefore, Westboro Schaffer soil complex will eventually replace Avonburg completely. Schaffer soils contain a fragipan.

Rossmoyne – Like the Avonburg soils, data showed that not all of the Rossmoyne soils had the criteria necessary to make a fragipan. The majority of the map unit contained a soil (Jonesboro) that has horizons with fragic characteristics that do not meet all of the criteria for a fragipan. Therefore, Jonesboro Rossmoyne soil complex will eventually replace Rossmoyne completely. Rossmoyne soils have a fragipan and will remain as a member of the soil complex.