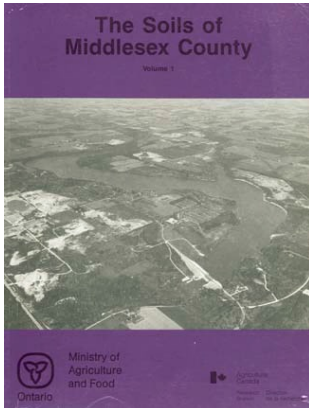


## How to use and interpret soil map information

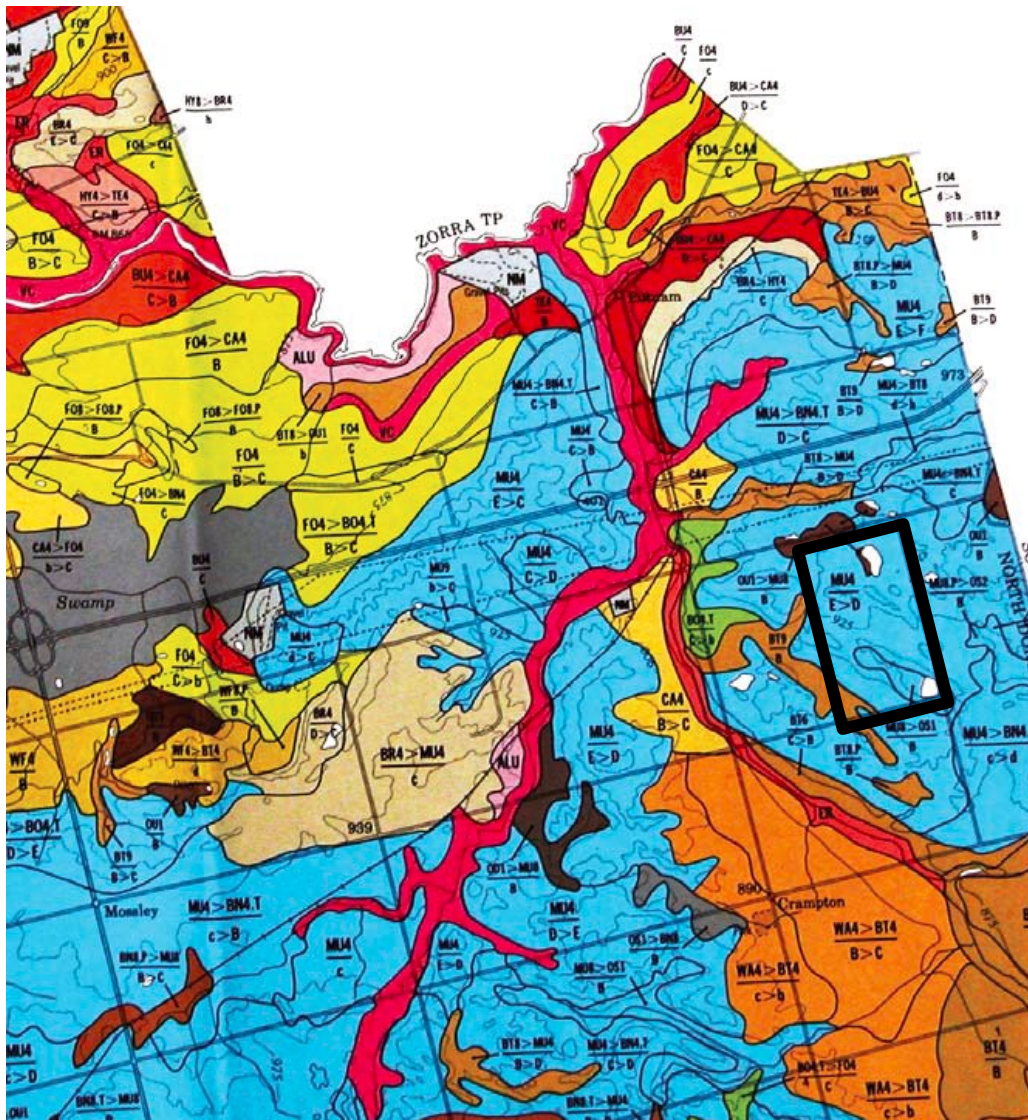


Soil maps are available for most counties in Ontario. Soils are mapped based on key properties such as surface and subsurface texture, natural drainage (before drainage tile installation), stoniness, slope and other criteria.

The level of detail may vary depending upon the county/regional municipality and survey date.

This information can then be used to determine risk of soil erosion, soil compaction, etc.

*(Portion of) the Middlesex County Soil Map - with soil, topographic and municipal features*



**Soil legend –explains the terms used for each map unit description on the map**

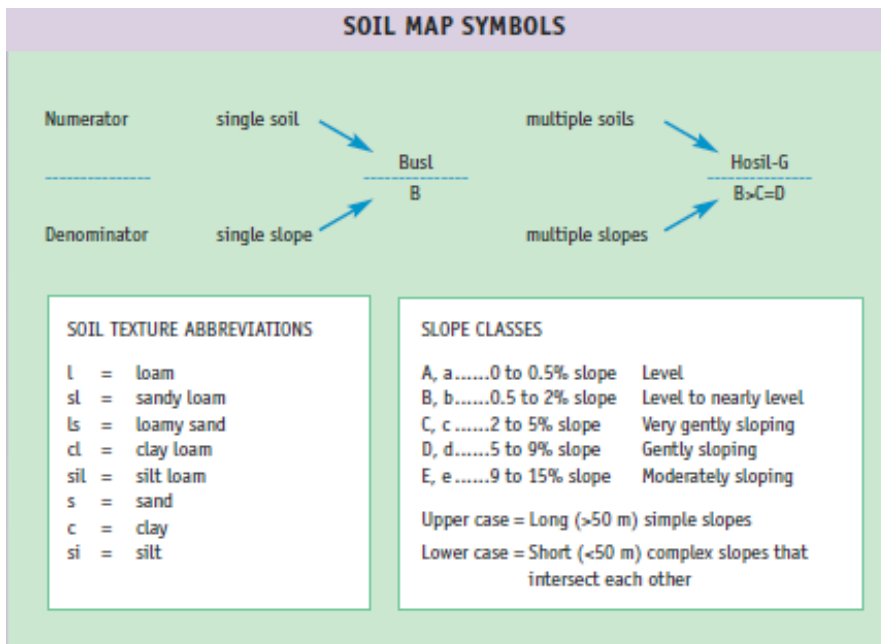
SOIL SERIES	SOIL SERIES MEMBERS & DRAINAGE	USUAL SURFACE TEXTURE	SOIL MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	LANDSCAPE UNITS*	DOMINANT SOIL DRAINAGE COMPONENT	SIGNIFICANT SOIL DRAINAGE COMPONENT
Bennington (BN)	Bennington – Well Tavistock – Imperfect Maplewood – Poor	Silt loam, loam	40–100 cm of glaciolacustrine loam, silt loam and occasionally very fine sandy loam overlying clayey glaciolacustrine deposits	BN4	Well to imperfect	—
				BN6	Well to imperfect	Poor
				BN8	Poor	—
				BN9	Poor	Well to imperfect
Muriel (MU)	Muriel – Moderately well Gobles – Imperfect Kelvin – Poor	Silt loam, loam, silty clay loam	Silty clay loam, silty clay, and occasionally clay loam glacial till deposited by glaciation from the Lake Erie Basin	MU4	Moderately well to imperfect	—
				MU6	Moderately well to imperfect	Poor
				MU8	Poor	—
				MU9	Poor	Moderately well to imperfect

For the field identified on the map above the soil information would be:

Field ID	Soil Series	Surface Texture	Subsurface Texture	Natural Drainage*
1	Muriel	Silt loam	Silt loam	Well

\*Natural drainage can also be found on the soil summary sheet for the county.

**The following graphic explains the codes described in the legend (Soil type, slope class, etc.)**



Newer soil maps like the one for Middlesex County provide more soil information than the older maps. Where a “>” sign is used two soil types and/or slopes can be found in that map unit. When recording the soil series use the soil type or the slope that is on the left of the sign i.e. WA4>BT4 use WA4.

## **Finding Soil Information**

The soil information needed to complete section 2 of the Farmland Health Check-Up workbook can be found in several sources, including:

### **a) Soil Survey Maps and Reports**

- The maps and soil summary sheets can be found on the CCA Farmland Health Check-up Resources webpage at:  
[http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/programs/glasi/farmland\\_health\\_check-up\\_cca.htm](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/programs/glasi/farmland_health_check-up_cca.htm)
- They can also be found at the Canadian Soil Information Service (CANSIS) website: <http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/>
- To purchase a hard copy of the soil survey map and report visit Service Ontario Publications  
<https://www.publications.serviceontario.ca/pubont/servlet/ecom/> and search for “soil survey reports”. They are \$15.00 each.

### **b) Agricultural Information Atlas**

These can be found at the AgMaps Geographic Information Portal at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/gis/portal.htm#1>

### **Want more soil information?**

- Contact your local office of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Call the toll-free Agricultural Information Contact Centre, 1-877-424-1300
- Visit the OMAFRA website at [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)
- Contact your local conservation authority or municipal office