Investigating Histosols with the Ground Penetrating Radar

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The use of ground penetrating radar (GPR) technology has expanded rapidly in the past few years. This technology has successfully been used to investigate organic soils in northeastern Sweden (Bjelm, 1980; Ulrikssen, 1980 and 1982); in eastern Newfoundland (Remotec Applications, Inc., 1982); and in southern Florida (Shih and Doolittle). In these studies GPR technology was used to: determine the depth and thickness of organics; characterize and profile the sediments at the base of organics; estimate the degree(s) of humification; and to classify the organic soils. Unfortunately, little of this technology and information has been readily available to soil scientists working in areas of Histosols. Some of the results from these GPR investigations which apply to soil survey operations will be summarized in this article.

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2 Trade names have been used to provide specific information. The mention does not constitute endorsement.