There was a good possibility that two different soil series had been used to name a variant for the same soil, however there was no expedient way to determine this.

**Discussion**

In effect, 635 soil series, for which there are no official soil series descriptions, no listing in the soil classification file, and for which soil interpretation records have not been maintained have been published in soil surveys.

Some users of soil survey information have difficulty understanding the concept of variants. It is difficult to explain why two map units have the same series name but different interpretations. This is especially troublesome when a variant resembles other series as much as the one for which it is named. It is difficult to explain why a soil named as a variant has the same name as a soil that has properties different enough to place it in a separate class.

**Rationale for Change**

Computer records have relieved the once laborious job of keeping track of soil series and their classification. A typifying pedon description, interpretation record, and supporting field notes, to include 10 pedon descriptions, is expected for the correlation of a variant. Reservation of a series name and circulation of a proposed official series description does not add appreciably to the work involved.

Discontinuing the use of variants will (i) ensure that all soils unique enough to be separated and used in mapping are properly classified in the lowest category of the NCSS soil classification system, (ii) improve credibility with users of soil survey information and (iii) ensure records are available for use with national, state, and local computerized systems. Although the NSH provides for the use of variants to prevent delays in publication of soil surveys, it should be revised. With current technology, variants can no longer be justified in the modern soil survey.

**High Intensity Soil Surveys in New Hampshire**

James P. Gove and Sidney A. L. Pilgrim

The soil surveys prepared by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), using the standards of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS), have long been recognized as excellent planning tools. The surveys are multi-use inventories that have been utilized in such widely divergent projects as locating prime farmlands to townwide land-use planning. For instance, many towns in New Hampshire have used NCSS soil maps as the basis for their master plans and zoning ordinances. Despite the utilitarian nature of these soil surveys, however, they are not intended for site-specific uses.

Most of the NCSS soil surveys have a map detail of Order 2, which means that the minimum size delineation ranges from 2.5 to 6 acres. Soil conditions

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