Summary

1. Soil moisture was never intended to be measured directly in ongoing soil surveys. It was to be estimated from climatological data.
2. The limits for moisture and temperature were arbitrarily selected to avoid splitting series.
3. Care should be taken to group soils clearly, efficiently, and logically (i.e., usefully).
4. Soil moisture and temperature were introduced to allow for natural regional physiographic groupings of soils.
5. The purpose of the SMCS was to permit the calculation of moisture regimes from climatic data.

We have become bogged down in trying to apply these broad regional climatic concepts outlined in Soil Taxonomy to a detailed local level using sophisticated research and monitoring methods. The localized variability has overwhelmed us. We should attempt to draw parallels between soils and plant ecology and natural groupings (such as climate) that have regional application on a continuum. Localized variations do not and should not always be handled taxonomically. We should not be taxonomy purists.

References


Kentucky Soil Touches Us All:
State Soil Designated

Harry Evans

Kentucky has joined the small group of states who recognize the importance of one of their often ignored resources—soil. The 1990 General Assembly designated the Crider soil series as Kentucky’s State soil.

House Bill 460, sponsored by Rep. Dorsey Ridley passed through both the House and the Senate with relative ease. Backers of the bill included the Kentucky Association of Soil Classifiers (KASC), many of Kentucky’s Conservation Districts, Kentucky Farm Bureau, and others. Few legislators opposed the bill but some thought it was frivolous. We heard the usual jokes about dirty work, dirty politics, etc. The media enjoyed the effort. A state