

Notes on depth to bedrock and soils parent material  
11/8/2006

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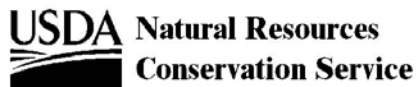
#### SSURGO Parent Material –

Some additional info to pass along as I go through the SSURGO parent material data. In this subset of the SSURGO data we have Parent Material "Group Name" (examples: loamy and sandy alluvium, fine-silty alluvium), PM "Kind" (examples: Residuum, Alluvium, Loess), and PM Origin (examples: Clayey Shale, Limestone and Shale, Calcareous shale). This is to give you an idea of what PM data is available to us, should we decide to use it. PM Origin does have the added problem of being (my best guess here) only 35% complete.

#### Depth To Bedrock -

We do have depth to bedrock, kind of. There is a field in the SSURGO data called, yup, "depth to bedrock". This is the MINIMUM depth it takes to get to bedrock for a given series. This is OK, but like with other SSURGO data, its very incomplete. I did look over a few series and it looks like it might be good enough to use the maximum depth of the series (i.e. the deepest value in the lowest).

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SSURGO Metadata Version: 2.2.1 – Parent Material Associated Data  
from: <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/ssurgometadata.aspx>

Column Physical Name: **pmorder** Column Label: Vertical Order

*The sequence in which the parent material occurs, when more than one parent material exists for one soil profile. If only one parent material occurs for a soil, i.e. no lithologic discontinuities, no entry is required.*

Column Physical Name: **pmmodifier** Column Label: Textural Modifier

*General description of the texture of the parent material. Class limits correspond to those of textural groupings defined in the Soil Survey Manual and family particle-size classes in Soil Taxonomy.*

Column Physical Name: **pmgenmod** Column Label: General Modifier

*A user specified term(s) used to further describe the nature of the parent material for a given soil.*

Column Physical Name: **pmkind** Column Label: Kind

*A term describing the general physical, chemical and mineralogical composition of the material, mineral or organic, from which the soil develops. Mode of deposition and/or weathering may be implied or implicit.*

Column Physical Name: **pmorigin** Column Label: Origin

*The type of bedrock from which the parent material was derived.*

Column Physical Name: **pmgroupname** Column Label: Group Name

*Name for the concatenation of PARENT\_MATERIAL\_MODIFIER, PARENT\_MATERIAL\_KIND, and PARENT\_MATERIAL\_ORIGIN for each of the parent materials that may occur in a vertical cross section of a soil.*