



United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS: What's Happening with Connecticut Soils

May 13, 2015

Clarification of Wetland Soil Criteria for Human-Altered and Human-Transported Soils in Connecticut



Wetland soils disturbed by humans and no longer in their natural state can be hard to describe. Recently a team of soil scientists from the North Central Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, a private consultant, and Environmental Analysts with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Inland Wetlands Management Section prepared a document on describing disturbed wetland soils in Connecticut.

The Connecticut General Statutes Section 22a-38 defines inland wetlands as: "land, including submerged land, not regulated pursuant to sections 22a-28 to 22a-35, inclusive, which consists of any of the soil types designated as poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial, and floodplain by the National Cooperative Soil Survey, as may be amended from time to time, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture". The document discusses:

- hydrologic alteration
- human-altered and human-transported (HAHT) soils
- drainage class for unmapped soil types, problematic
- problematic morphological features in HAHT soils
- floodplains and alluvial soils
- levees and other alterations of flooding regime
- generalizations concerning depths of fill and how it affects identification of wetland soils
- buried soils, surface mantles, and their effect on drainage class

A copy of this document is available on the Connecticut NRCS website:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ct/soils/>. For more information, contact your soils experts at USDA State Office at 860-871-4011.