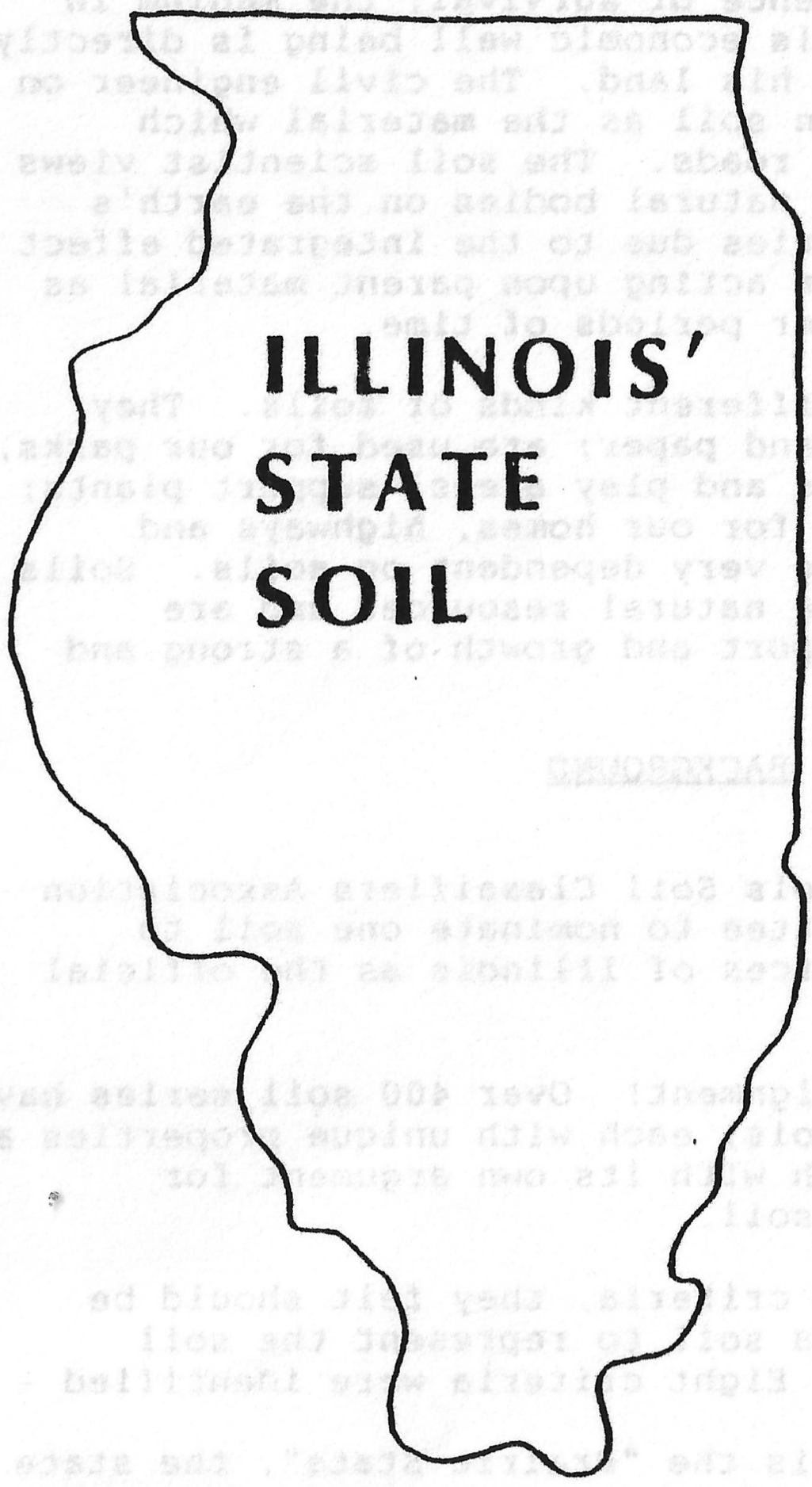
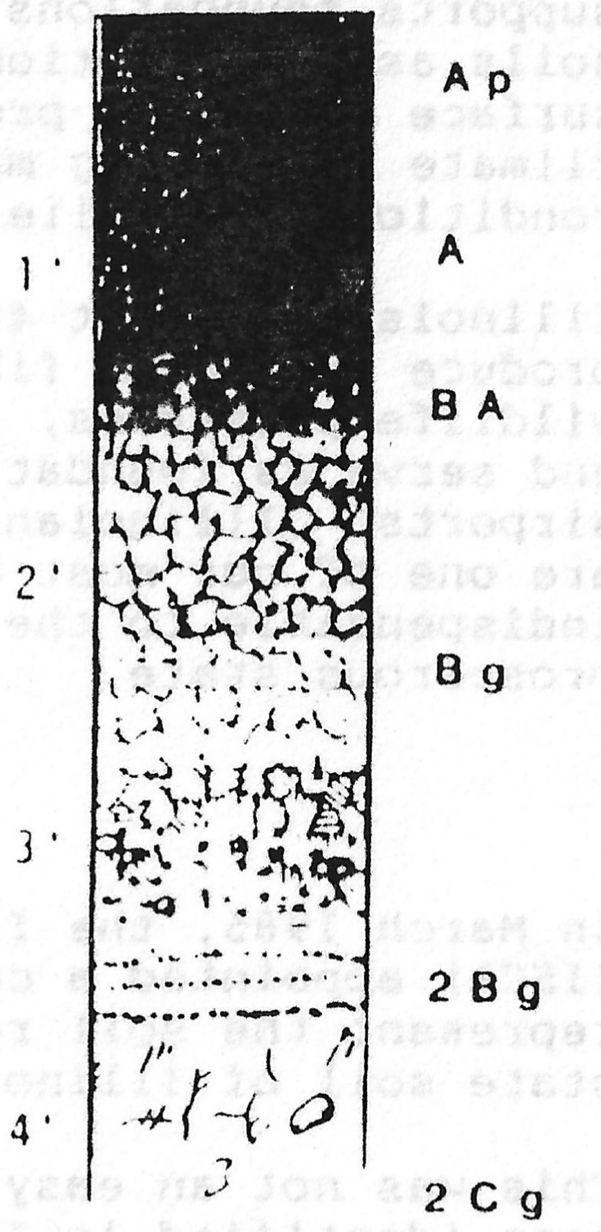
DRUMMER
silty clay loam

ILLINOIS' STATE SOIL





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Illinois Soil Classifiers Association

and

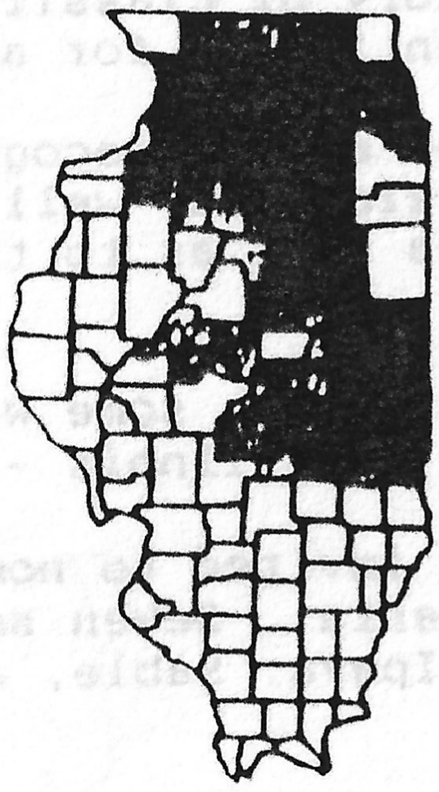
Soil and Water Conservation Society

Prime Farmland

Drummer is one of the more productive soils in the state. It has a productivity index of 150 and qualifies as prime farmland. Most areas of Drummer has been drained and are cropped. Corn and soybeans are the principal crops.

Distribution and extent

Drummer soils are the most extensive in the state. More than 1.6 million acres of Drummer have been mapped in 39 of Illinois' 102 counties.



Type location

The location that typifies the Drummer soil series is in Champaign County on the University of Illinois south farm.

Classification

Drummer is a fine-silty, mixed, mesic Typic Haplaquoll. This classification is very typical of wet, dark colored "prairie soils" in Illinois.

History

The Drummer series was established in Ford County in 1929.

Name recognition

Soil series are generally named for a geographic location near where they are first identified. The Drummer series was named for Drummer Creek in Drummer Township, Ford County, Illinois. It has good name recognition throughout the state.

Parent Material

Drummer soils typically formed in 40 to 60 inches of Peoria age loess (wind deposited silt) and in the underlying stratified glacial outwash.

The Illinois Soil Classifiers and the Soil and Water Conservation Society hope that a state soil will provide our organizations and other groups with a symbol to help in efforts to inform the public of the vast importance of the soil resources of Illinois.

For more information call 217-762-7697 or 217-398-5286.

INTRODUCTION

For many Illinoians the soil is a common place feature of nature not well understood or appreciated. It is present almost everywhere and has always been with us. Because of this, the majority of us have never taken the time to find out what soil is, how it formed, and what its' basic properties are.

The noun "soil" is derived through Old French, from the Latin "solum", which means floor or ground. In general, soil refers to the loose surface of the earth as distinguished from rock. Many people think of soil as the material which nourishes and supports growing plants. To the farmer it is the essence of survival; the medium in which his crops grow. His economic well being is directly linked to the quality of his land. The civil engineer on the other hand looks upon soil as the material which supports foundations and roads. The soil scientist views soils as a collection of natural bodies on the earth's surface that have properties due to the integrated effect of climate and living matter acting upon parent material as conditioned by relief over periods of time.

Illinois has about 400 different kinds of soils. They produce our food, fiber and paper; are used for our parks, wildlife preserves, lawns and play areas; support plants; and serve as foundations for our homes, highways and airports. Illinoians are very dependent on soils. Soils are one of our most basic natural resources and are indispensable to the support and growth of a strong and prosperous state.

BACKGROUND

In March 1985, the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association (ISCA) appointed a committee to nominate one soil to represent the soil resources of Illinois as the official state soil of Illinois.

This was not an easy assignment! Over 400 soil series have been identified in Illinois, each with unique properties and characteristics, and each with its own argument for consideration for state soil.

The committee identified criteria, they felt should be considered in selecting a soil to represent the soil resources of the state. Eight criteria were identified -

1. Since Illinois is the "Prairie State", the state soil should have formed under prairie vegetation.

2. The soil should be a highly productive agricultural soil. It should be "prime farmland".

3. The soil should be extensive in Illinois.

4. The soil should have originated in Illinois and the "type location" should be located in Illinois.

5. The soil should have a "firm" scientific classification that is supported by laboratory data.

6. The soil have a history of classification and mapping and have been in use for a long period.

7. The soil name must be easily recognized, spelled, and pronounced and relatively well known to the non-soil scientist as well as to the soil scientist.

8. The soil should reflect, in some way, the major soil parent material in Illinois - loess.

During 1986 ISCA members were invited to nominate soils based on the established criteria. Seven soils, Cisne, Drummer, Flanagan, Hoyleton, Ipava, Sable, and Saybrook, were nominated.

In January 1987, a ballot by mail election was held where ISCA members voted for a soil to be designated as the state soil. Drummer silty clay loam was selected by more than a 2 to 1 margin over its nearest competition, Cisne silt loam.

DRUMMER SILTY CLAY LOAM

The Drummer soil series consists of very deep, poorly drained soils that formed in 40 to 60 inches of loess or silty water-laid material and in the underlying stratified glacial outwash. Drummer soils are found on nearly level or depressional parts of till plains and outwash plains throughout northern and central Illinois.

A typical profile of Drummer silty clay loam is -

Horizon	Depth	Description
Ap	0-7 inches	black silty clay loam
A	7-14 inches	black silty clay loam
BA	14-19 inches	very dark gray silty clay loam
Bg	19-41 inches	dark gray, grayish brown, and gray; mottled silty clay loam
2Bg	41-47 inches	gray, mottled loam
2Cg	47-60 inches	dark gray, mottled, stratified loam and sandy loam

Prairie influence

The Drummer soils formed under a luxuriant growth of marsh grasses and sedges, that was typical of much of the native prairie at the time of settlement.

Soils formed under prairie vegetation are normally dark colored and high in organic matter content. Illinois is known for its' "black dirt" and much of this "black dirt" is Drummer silty clay loam.