

## Soil Is More Than Just Dirt

Soil is a valuable natural resource. The Cecil County Soil Survey displays maps and describes the different soil types found in the county. Each soil map unit has a unique set of characteristics relating to its structure, texture, tendency to erode, depth to bedrock and subsurface layers. This information is used to prepare charts that show each distinct soil's strengths and limitations for certain land uses such as farming, forestry, wildlife habitat, recreation, development and even home gardens.

You can make an appointment with the Cecil Soil Conservation District to find your property on an aerial photograph with the soil types superimposed. The soil descriptions list characteristics of the soil types on your property and how to use those soils to their best advantage. An online version of Cecil County's Soil Survey will soon be available for public use at <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>.

### Soil Profile

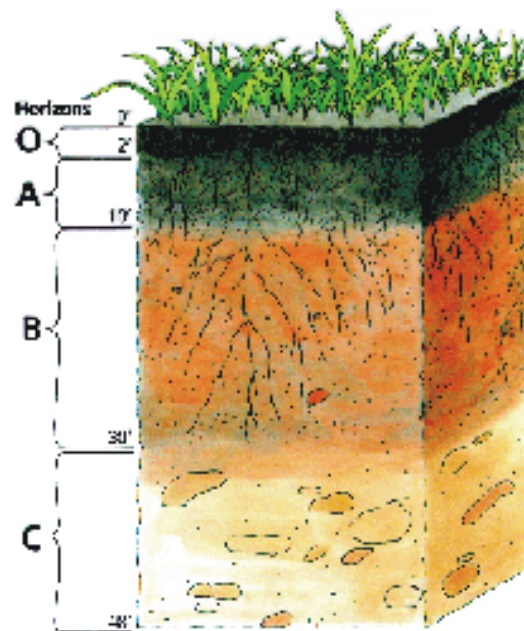
**O horizon:** layers of organic matter at the surface.

**A horizon:** layers close to the surface, dominated by mineral particles and darkened by the accumulation of organic matter.

**B horizon:** accumulated materials washed down from the layers above or materials formed in place through the weathering process.

**C horizon:** least weathered horizon, influenced little by soil forming processes.

**R horizon:** bedrock



*Image credit: Soil Profile*

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/office/ssr7/profile/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_047970](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/office/ssr7/profile/?cid=nrcs142p2_047970)