S-Map Online – A Basic Guide

www.smap.landcareresearch.co.nz

What is S-map?

S-map is an online database of the soils across New Zealand that is freely available to everyone.

Previously existing soil databases are patchy in scale, age and quality. Many maps do not adequately describe the underlying properties of the soil types they represent. S-map integrates existing soil reports and digital information and updates soil maps where existing data are of low quality.

The goal of S-map is to provide comprehensive, quantitative soil information to support sustainable development and scientific modelling.

S-map provides you with information about the soils on your property. Using the S-map tool you can learn more about your soils and their classification.

This basic guide will step you through S-map and how to use it to find out more about your own soils. Screen shots from the website will be used throughout the guide. Keep an eye out for this star symbol ⭐ it indicates where to click or look for further details.

When you enter the website for the first time, you can select either Explore Maps, Locate Me, Browse Factsheets or First Time Here?

Selecting First Time Here will give you some details about how to navigate the website.
When you select either Explore Maps, Locate Me or Browse Factsheets you will be prompted to enter some credentials - your email and a password. If it is your first time visiting S-map you will need to create an account by selecting Register Here. Follow the steps to register your account.

Once you are logged in you will see a map of New Zealand with a left-hand side menu bar. Headed up Search, followed by Layers. These are your main navigation tools where you can add or take away layers to your map by ticking or unticking the check boxes.
Soil Maps

Zoom in on the map in your farm area to find your property. If you have LINZ Parcels ticked in the layers menu it will put the property boundary outlines on the map, this will make it easier to find your property. You can also search for your address using the Search bar. Tick the check box S-map Polygons & Labels – this layer shows the different soil types present within the shown map area.

Scroll down within the layers box and select the check box NZSC Soil Order, this then overlays some colours, with each colour representing a different soil order.
Soil Summaries

To find out about a soil, select Soil summary in the top menu bar, and again on the right-hand panel that appears, then click on the map where you want to find out more. A marker will appear in the spot you clicked and bring up the Feature Report on the right-hand side, with a list of the soil sibling factsheets at the bottom. You can open and download the factsheets and save them to your own computer for future use or inclusion in your farm environment plan.

If your farm comprises of multiple land parcels that may also span different soil classifications you can draw on the map around your farm boundaries and the feature report will return all the factsheets for the soils within your selected area. You can access this feature by clicking the back button from the feature report, to return to the ‘Add Features’ panel.
Soil Fact Sheets

The factsheets that you can access from the Maps section of the website provide details about each individual soil type, from the key physical properties through to information that is useful to add into Overseer.

There are 2 styles of factsheet you can download, the improved factsheet or the classic factsheet. The improved factsheet includes everything on the classic factsheet along with additional graphics and information on soil horizons, soil classifications and the soil sibling concept.

You can also browse factsheets from the home page of the website. You do need to know the soil name in order to do so.

Further information on New Zealand soils, soil data and S-map can be found on the soils portal https://soils.landcareresearch.co.nz/soil-data

Co-Funders

This fact sheet was produced in association with the Sustainable Farming Fund funded project - The Effect of Medium to Long-Term Irrigation on Soil Water Holding Properties. The project was funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries, backed by contributions in cash and kind from Federated Farmers, Irrigation NZ, Environment Canterbury, Beef + Lamb, Dairy NZ, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, and seven Canterbury irrigation companies. The project research was led by a collaboration between Federated Farmers, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, and the AgriBusiness Group.

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