

MICHIGAN: A GEOGRAPHY  
Chapter 19: Soils of Michigan  
Author: Randy Schaetzl, MSU

Introduction

The complex soil landscape of Michigan

Factors that affect soil development and distribution

- Time
- Parent material
- Climate
- Vegetation
- Relief/topography

Major soil regions of Michigan

- Spodosols/Entisols/Histosols on dry, sandy uplands

FOCUS: Kalkaska sand, Michigan's state soil

- Figure: Kalkaska sand, the state soil of Michigan. Photo by R. Schaetzl.

- Inceptisols on wet, loamy or clayey lake plains
- Alfisols on loamy till plains
- Mollisols on sandy, former prairies
- Entisols on dunes and xeric outwash plains
- Histosols on swamps, marshes and wetlands

FOCUS: The NRCS soil mapping effort in Michigan

Conclusions