Altered Hydric Soils. (S10-hurt124837-Poster)

Authors:

- G.W.Hurt* - *USDA, NRCS*
- P.M.Whited - *USDA, NRCS*
- V.W.Carlisle - *University of Florida*

Abstract:

Although all hydric soils have formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding and anaerobiosis, present conditions are not necessarily the same as when the soils formed. Soils that have experienced substantial changes may be subdivided into: 1) artificial; 2) drained (protected); 3) historic; and 4) relict. Artificial hydric soils were once nonhydric but are presently hydric because of human modifications to hydrology or soils that have resulted in near-surface wetness (saturation and anaerobiosis). Drained hydric soils are soils that have experienced hydrologic modifications to reduce wetness, usually prior to landuse changes. These soils are hydric because they have a hydric soil indicator or they meet the hydric soil requirements for saturation and anaerobic conditions. Historic hydric soils were once hydric soils but now are nonhydric due to geologic or human modifications (additions) to the extent that they no longer express discernible wetland morphology. Relic hydric soils, presently nonhydric, were formed by geologic modifications to hydrology resulting in soil morphological features that do not reflect recent conditions of saturation and anaerobiosis. Recognition and delineation of altered hydric soils are increasingly frequent challenges faced by wetland scientists.

Corresponding Author Information:

Wade Hurt
USDA, NRCS
P.O. Box 110290
Gainesville, FL 32611-0290

phone: 352-392-1951
fax: 352-392-3902
e-mail: Wade_Hurt@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu

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