

Minnesota State Soil - **Lester**



Surface layer very dark grayish brown loam
Subsurface layer brown clay loam
Subsoil dark yellowish brown clay loam
Substratum yellowish brown loam

Lester soils are in 17 different counties in south-central Minnesota. They are of moderate extent and total over 500,000 acres. These soils formed under alternating prairie and forest vegetation that has been removed in most areas for agricultural production. The principal crops are corn and soybeans. These soils are very productive and of significant importance to the economy in Minnesota.

Lester soils are well drained and formed in loamy, calcareous glacial till on ground moraines. The mean annual precipitation is about 28 inches, and the mean annual soil temperature is about 49 degrees F.



MAPSS was established in 1973, the Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS) is the only organization representing the professional interests of soil scientists in Minnesota. MAPSS promotes the understanding and wise use of Minnesota's soil resources. Our members consist of professional soil scientists, consultants, researchers, teachers and students, as well as those who just have an interest in soils.





Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists MAPSS

Soil – We can't grow without it

Lester the Official Minnesota State Soil

Why do we have a Minnesota State Soil?

Soils are supremely important to all we do – yet under appreciated for the benefits they provide. MAPSS hopes to engage teachers and the general public in an awareness campaign promoting the value of soils.

This process begins with the soil designation effort and culminates in November 2012 with:

- ✓ The University of Minnesota Soil Science Department celebrating 100 years of service
- ✓ The Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists Celebrating 40 years of service
- ✓ “Dig – it,” – The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural Sciences highly successful interactive traveling exhibit on soils opening at the Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. (<http://forces.si.edu/soils/video/tour.html>)

The state designation adds significant credibility to the vital benefit soils provide to our economy, ecology, and culture. The designation provides invaluable assistance to our efforts to promote soils to educators and the general public.

Lester facts:

Series Proposed, 1939, McLeod County – Lester Prairie
Series Established: 1945, Dakota County
Genesis: Prairie / Forest Border
Area: over 500,000 acres
Production: Primarily corn and soybeans
Lester represents the properties of both agricultural and forest soils



An Official Minnesota State Soil Provides:

- ✓ Recognition of one of Minnesota's unique natural resources
- ✓ Recognition of the importance of soil to our economic well-being and sustenance
- ✓ Soil is the foundation of life: Agriculture, forestry, wildland, parks, home landscapes, wetland, prairie, forest, and water protection
- ✓ Recognition of the educational opportunity about the importance of the use and conservation of soil



Soil - Our sustainable resource

Directly supports: Crop production, horticulture, livestock and poultry, dairy, energy production, forestry and fiber production, home lawns, recreation areas and parks, wastewater and biosolid treatment

Indirectly supports: Food production and manufacturing, meat and dairy products production, wood products and paper products

Soils sustain 235,000 jobs in Minnesota

Serving Soil Science Needs Since 1973

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