

Narragansett Silt loam -- Rhode Island's State Soil



Typical Landscape Setting of Narragansett Soils



Narragansett Soil Profile

Surface layer: dark brown silt loam

Subsoil - upper: yellowish brown silt loam

Subsoil - lower: olive brown silt loam

(the top and subsoil layers consist of a silty eolian (loess) post-glacial deposit)

Substratum: light olive brown loamy fine sand to gravelly coarse sand (loose, sandy, ablation till deposit)

Narragansett soils occur on approximately 12,000 acres in Rhode Island and also occur in the adjacent states of Connecticut and Massachusetts. They are productive agricultural soils. Silage corn, hay, and vegetables are the principal crops. Oaks, white pine, and beech are the most common forest species. Many areas are used for residential development. The name "Narragansett" is the name of the town where the soil was first classified. The town was named for the indigenous Narragansett Tribe. Narragansett is an English corruption of Nanhigganeuck, their actual name meaning "people of the small point."

The Narragansett soil series consist of well drained, loamy soils that formed in friable (ablation) glacial till mantled with a silty eolian (loess) cap. These soils are on uplands. The average annual precipitation ranges from 40 to 50 inches. The average annual temperature is 45 to 52 degrees F.



Distribution of Narragansett Soils