



























Possible phosphorus transport rating values for soil erosion are (Part A - Table 1):

**0** for fields with no surface outlet (such as for karst areas in the Suwannee River watershed).

**1** for fields with a calculated soil loss (A) of less than 5 tons/acre/year.

**2** for fields with a calculated soil loss (A) of between 5 and 10 tons/acre/year.

**4** for fields with a calculated soil loss (A) of between 10 and 15 tons/acre/year.

**8** for fields with a calculated soil loss (A) of more than 15 tons/acre/year.

### Soil Erosion Calculation Example

Situation: An area in the southeastern portion of the county has the following conditions:

Soil: From soil survey the soil is map unit FmB (Faceville). The soil was verified on-site as being Faceville on a 0.5 percent slope with a slope length of 75 feet.

Crop: The field is peanuts conventionally tilled annually and the residue is removed. Average yield is 3000 lbs/acre/year and the field is cropped on contour.

$$A = R * K * LS * C * P$$

R = 450 (for all of Gadsden County)

K = 0.20 (from Table 13)

L S= 0.36 (from Table 4)

C = 0.484 (from Table 7)

P = 0.5 (from Table 9; field is contour cropped)

A = 450 \* 0.20 \* 0.36 \* 0.484 \* 0.5

A = 7.8 tons/acre/year

The resulting Soil Erosion value assigned to the Phosphorus Transport Rating - Part A (Table 1) would be 2 (5 to 10 T/A). Without conservation tillage this is a common result obtained in Gadsden County.

### Runoff Potential

Usage of the following runoff potential criteria is based on a minimum of 10 observations (soil borings) per spray field/application area unless the number of borings identifies the site as a problem area or a uniform area. At least one observation is to be made in each of the landforms present. Examples of landforms are flats, flatwoods, depressions, terraces, rises, knolls, hills, hillsides, sideslopes, toeslopes, footslopes, etc. If there is no surface outlet for the field in consideration, the rating is Very Low (**0**) for Runoff Potential.

The NRCS Hydrologic Soil Groups, slope, and the presence or absence of artificial drainage are used to evaluate runoff potentials.

## Runoff Potential Rating Criteria - Part A (see Table 1)

### Very Low (0):

Soils in Hydrologic Soil Group A with  $\geq 75\%$  ground cover **and slopes of 8% or less.**

**or:**

any Hydrologic Soil Group with no surface outlet.

### Low (1):

Soils in Hydrologic Soil Groups A with  $< 75\%$  ground cover with surface outlet and A/D (with effective drainage depth of greater than 48") **and slopes of 8% or less** (Effective drainage is water control that is designed and maintained according to NRCS standards that will perform the desired water control.)

### Medium (2):

Soils in Hydrologic Group A and A/D (with effective drainage depth of 37" to 48") **and slopes of more than 8%.**

**or:**

Soils in Hydrologic Groups B and A/D or B/D (with effective drainage depth of 37" to 48") **and slopes of 5% or less.**

### High (4):

Soils in Hydrologic Group B and B/D (with effective drainage depth of 20" to 36") **and slopes of more than 5% up to and including 8%.**

**or:**

Soils in Hydrologic Groups C and A/D, B/D or C/D (with effective drainage depth of 20" to 36") **and slopes of 5% or less.**

### Very High (8):

Soils in Hydrologic Group B and B/D (with effective drainage depth of 37" to 48") **and slopes of more than 8%.**

**or:**

Soils in Hydrologic Groups C and C/D (with effective drainage depth of 20" to 36") **and slopes of more than 5%.**

**or:**

Soils in Hydrologic Groups D and A/D, B/D, and C/D in undrained condition.

Runoff Potentials are presented in Table 13 based on the above criteria and the definitions of the four hydrologic soil groups below. These are potentials to be used in conjunction with the soil survey of Gadsden County (Thomas, et al. 1961). Potentials presented are interpretations and are not factual data. As with all interpretations, **runoff potentials should be confirmed by on-site investigations. Slope and hydrologic group should be determined on-site.**

**Group A:** Soils having a high infiltration rate (low runoff potential) when thoroughly wet. These consist mainly of deep, well-drained to excessively-drained sands or gravelly sands. These soils have a high rate of water transmission.

**Group B:** Soils having a moderate infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. These consist chiefly of moderately deep or deep, moderately well-drained or well-drained soils that have moderately fine texture to moderately coarse texture. These soils have a moderate rate of water transmission.

**Group C:** Soils having a slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. These consist chiefly of soils having a layer that impedes the downward movement of water or soils of moderately fine texture or fine texture. These soils have a slow rate of water transmission.

**Group D:** Soils having a very slow infiltration rate (high runoff potential) when thoroughly wet. These consist chiefly of clays that have a high shrink/swell potential, soils that have a high water table, soils that have a claypan or clay layer at or near the surface, and soils that are shallow over nearly impervious material. These soils have a very slow rate of water transmission.

**Artificial Drainage**

Presence of artificial drainage can change the runoff potential of a soil. Drained Runoff Potentials in Table 13 have been assigned to those soils deemed drainable by NRCS. Drained Runoff Potentials presented are based on NRCS “Technical Release No. 55-Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds, Amendment FL3” (Table 12).

**Table 12.** Reclassification of Runoff Potential and Hydrologic Group Based on Drainage.

Effective Drainage Depth (Inches) <sup>a</sup>	Drained Runoff Potential	Drained Hydrologic Group
Less than 20	Very High	D
20-36	High	C
37-48	Medium	B
Greater than 48	Low	A

<sup>a</sup> Effective drainage is defined as having good surface drainage with a designed subsurface drainage system properly installed and maintained with a water removal rate of at least 0.5 inches/day. **Rarely have agricultural fields in Gadsden County been effectively drained to a depth of more than 24 inches.**

Drained Runoff Potentials in Table 13 are based on the maximum effective drainage depth expected for each soil. Actual effective drainage may be less than the maximum. For example, Rutledge (Table 13--map unit RuA) has a drained runoff potential of Low. This rating is based on a maximum effective drainage depth of greater than 48 inches. If field conditions indicate a site had been effectively drained to a depth of only 24 inches, then the on-site runoff potential would be High (Table 12) and the resulting Phosphorus Transport Rating – Part A value for runoff would be 4 (Table 1).

**Leaching Potential**

Usage of the following leaching potential criteria is based on a minimum of 5 observations (e.g. soil borings) per 40 acres of application area unless the number of borings identify the site as a problem area or a uniform area. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) should be used for the assessment of all Karst areas. At least one observation is to be made in each landform present.

Presence or absence of a loamy/clayey layer and thicknesses of sandy layers, and presence or absence of coated sand are used to evaluate leaching potentials.

### **Leaching Potential Rating Criteria – Part A (see Table 1)**

#### **Very Low (0):**

At least 80 percent of observations have a loamy or clayey layer at least 25 cm (10 inches) thick starting within 50 cm (20 inches). Typically, these soils are Typic Paleudults.

#### **Low (1):**

At least 80 percent of observations have a loamy or clayey layer at least 25 cm (10 inches) thick starting within 200 cm (80 inches). Typically, these soils are Arenic and Grossarenic Paleudults.

#### **Medium (2):**

At least 80 percent of observations have a loamy or clayey layer at least 25 cm (10 inches) thick starting at a depth below 200 cm (80 inches) but above seasonal high saturation **and** sand grains in the E and Bw horizons have coatings (chroma  $\geq 3$ ) to a depth of at least 100 cm (40 inches); or at least 80 percent of observations have no loamy or clayey layer at least 25 cm (10") thick, but have a layer at least 200 cm (80") thick with coated sand grains (chroma equal to or greater than 3). The entire 200 cm (80") layer must be above seasonal high saturation.

#### **High (4):**

At least 20 percent of observations have no loamy or clayey layer,(or the loamy or clayey layer is less than 25 cm (10 inches) thick) **and** the combined thickness of layers with coated sand grains (chroma  $\geq 3$  in the E, Bw, and C horizons and any chroma in the Bh horizons) is more than 50 cm (20 inches) and less than 200 cm (80 inches).

#### **Very High (8):**

At least 20 percent of observations have no loamy or clayey layer (or the layer is less than 25 cm (10 inches) thick) **and** the combined thickness of layers with coated sand grains (chroma  $\geq 3$  in the E, Bw, and C horizons and any chroma in the Bh horizons) is equal to or less than 50 cm (20 inches).

Leaching Potentials are presented in Table 13 based on the above criteria. These are potentials to be used in conjunction with the soil survey of Gadsden County (Thomas, et al. 1961). Potentials presented are interpretations, and are not factual data. As with all interpretations, **leaching potentials should be confirmed by on-site investigations.**

The rating of Medium Leaching Potential may be unique to Florida. This rating is based on deeper observation of soils that would normally be rated as having a High or Very High Leaching Potential. The rating of Medium Leaching Potential is given to soils with a significant loamy/clayey layer below the normal (2m or 80 inches) soil classification depth. Use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and/or geological investigations is needed to rate a site as having a Medium Leaching Potential and the depth to the loamy/clayey layer must be **above** the seasonal high saturation (water table).

Sinkholes occur where calcareous limestone below the land surface has been naturally dissolved by circulating ground water. A sinkhole forms when soil or weakened rock falls into underlying cavernous limestone. The sinkhole depth to width ratio tends to relate to soil slope stability-- typically the width is 5



times the depth. Gadsden County does not have areas considered to be high risk for sinkhole development. However, if sinkhole development is suspect the GPR will be used to determine the leaching potential.

### Phosphorus Runoff and Leaching Potentials Ratings for Florida Soil Survey Map Units

The runoff and leaching potentials (Table 13) were created by comparing estimated soil properties found in the soil survey of Gadsden County (Thomas, et al. 1961) with the above criteria. The potentials presented herein are interpretations, and not factual data. As with all interpretations based on information in a published soil survey or other sources of estimated soil properties, **phosphorus runoff and leaching potentials should be confirmed by on-site investigations.** However, a soil survey is an excellent place to initiate off-site investigation before making on-site determinations. For information on how to use a soil survey, see Circular 959 Soil Ratings for Crop Production and Water Quality Protection (Brown, et. al. 1991). However, note that phosphorus runoff and leaching potentials were derived from criteria that are different from the criteria used to derive the pesticide runoff and leaching potentials.

**Table 13.** Runoff, Leaching Potentials and K-Factors for Gadsden County Soils.

Map Unit	Seq. No. <sup>a</sup>	Soil Name	Undrained Runoff Potential	Undrained and Drained Leaching Potential	Drained Runoff Potential	K-Factor
Ab	1	Alluvial	Very High	Low		0.20
Ab	2	Bigbee	Low <sup>b</sup>	Very High		0.10
Ab	3	Kinston	Very High	Very Low		0.24
AdB	1	Arrendondo	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
AdC	1	Arrendondo	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
AfD	1	Arrendondo	Medium	Low		0.10
AfD	2	Fellowship	Very High	Very Low		0.32
BaC	1	Binnsville	Very High	Very High <sup>c</sup>		0.37
BcB	1	Blanton	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
BfB	1	Blanton	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
BfC	1	Blanton	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
BtB	1	Blanton Variant	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
CaC3	1	Carnegie	High	Very Low		0.32
CnA	1	Carnegie	Medium	Very Low		0.17
CnB	1	Carnegie	Medium	Very Low		0.17
CnB2	1	Carnegie	Medium	Very Low		0.17
CnC	1	Carnegie	High	Very Low		0.32
CnC2	1	Carnegie	High	Very Low		0.32
CnD	1	Carnegie	Very High	Very Low		0.32
Co	1	Congaree	High	Very Low		0.28
CrB	1	Cuthbert	Medium	Very Low		0.28
CrC	1	Cuthbert	High	Very Low		0.28
CsD	1	Cuthbert	Very High	Very Low		0.32

**Table 13 (cont.).** Runoff, Leaching Potentials and K-Factors for Gadsden County Soils.

Map Unit	Seq. No. <sup>a</sup>	Soil Name	Undrained Runoff Potential	Undrained and Drained Leaching Potential	Drained Runoff Potential	K-Factor
CsF	1	Cuthbert	Very High	Very Low		0.32
EcB	1	Eustis	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
EcD	1	Eustis	Medium <sup>d</sup>	Low		0.10
EdB	1	Eustis	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
EmB	1	Eustis	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
EmC	1	Eustis	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
EsA	1	Eustis	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
EsB	1	Eustis	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.15
EsC	1	Eustis	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.15
FaC3	1	Faceville	High	Very Low		0.24
FaD3	1	Faceville	Very High	Very Low		0.24
FmA	1	Faceville	Medium	Very Low		0.20
FmB	1	Faceville	Medium	Very Low		0.20
FmB2	1	Faceville	Medium	Very Low		0.20
FmC	1	Faceville	High	Very Low		0.20
FmC2	1	Faceville	High	Very Low		0.17
FmD	1	Faceville	Very High	Very Low		0.24
FsD	1	Faceville	Very High	Very Low		0.17
FsD	2	Shubuta	Very High	Very Low		0.32
FsD3	1	Faceville	Very High	Very Low		0.24
FsD3	2	Shubuta	Very High	Very Low		0.32
FsF	1	Faceville	Very High	Very Low		0.32
FsF3	1	Faceville	Very High	Very Low		0.32
GoA	1	Goldsboro	Medium	Very Low		0.17
GoB	1	Goldsboro	Medium	Very Low		0.17
GmA	1	Goldsboro	Medium	Low		0.15
GmB	1	Goldsboro	Medium	Low		0.15
GmC	1	Goldsboro	High	Low		0.15
Gr	1	Grady	Very High	Very Low	Very High	0.24
Gu	1	Gullied Land	Very High	Variable		0.24
Ha	1	Hannahatchee	High	Very Low		0.10
HcB	1	Huckabee	Low <sup>b</sup>	High		0.10
Iq	1	Izagora	High	Very Low		0.20
KaA	1	Kalmia	Medium	Very Low		0.15
KbA	1	Klej	High	Low		0.10
KbB	1	Klej	High	Low		0.10
KcB	1	Klej	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
KsB	1	Klej	High	Low		0.10
KsC	1	Klej	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
LaB	1	Lakeland	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
LaD	1	Lakeland	Medium	Low		0.10

**Table 13 (cont.).** Runoff, Leaching Potentials and K-Factors for Gadsden County Soils.

Map Unit	Seq. No. <sup>a</sup>	Soil Name	Undrained Runoff Potential	Undrained and Drained Leaching Potential	Drained Runoff Potential	K-Factor
LcB	1	Lakeland	Low <sup>b</sup>	High		0.10
LcD	1	Lakeland	Low <sup>b</sup>	High		0.10
LdB	1	Lakeland	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
LdD	1	Lakeland	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
LeA	1	Lakeland	Medium	Low		0.10
LeB	1	Lakeland	Medium	Low		0.10
LmC	1	Lakeland	High	Low		0.10
LnB	1	Lakeland	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
LnC	1	Lakeland	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
LnD	1	Lakeland	Medium	Low		0.10
LsF	1	Lakeland	Very High	Low		0.15
LtC	1	Lakeland	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.10
LtC	2	Eustis	High	Low		0.32
LtD	1	Lakeland	Medium	Low		0.10
LtD	2	Eustis	Very High	Low		0.32
LtF	1	Lakeland	Medium	Low		0.10
LtF	2	Eustis	Very High	Low		0.32
Lv	1	Leaf	Very High	Very Low		0.32
Lw	1	Leon	Very High	High	Medium	0.10
LyA	1	Lynchburg	High	Very Low		0.15
LyB	1	Lynchburg	Medium	Very Low		0.17
LzA	1	Lynchburg	High	Low		0.10
LzB	1	Lynchburg	High	Low		0.10
Ma	1	Made Land	High	Variable		0.17
MgA	1	Magnolia	Medium	Very Low		0.20
MgA2	1	Magnolia	Medium	Very Low		0.20
MgB	1	Magnolia	Medium	Very Low		0.20
MgB2	1	Magnolia	Medium	Very Low		0.20
MsC	1	Magnolia	High	Very Low		0.20
MgC2	1	Magnolia	High	Very Low		0.20
MgD	1	Magnolia	Very High	Very Low		0.24
MfB3	1	Magnolia	Medium	Very Low		0.24
MfC3	1	Magnolia	High	Very Low		0.24
MfD3	1	Magnolia	Very High	Very Low		0.24
Mp	1	Mine Pits	Variable	Variable		Variable
MyB	1	Myatt	Very High	Very Low		0.20
NfA	1	Norfolk	Medium	Very Low		0.15
NfB	1	Norfolk	Medium	Very Low		0.15
NfB2	1	Norfolk	Medium	Very Low		0.15
NfC	1	Norfolk	High	Very Low		0.15
NfC2	1	Norfolk	High	Very Low		0.15

**Table 13 (cont.).** Runoff, Leaching Potentials and K-Factors for Gadsden County Soils.

Map Unit	Seq. No. <sup>a</sup>	Soil Name	Undrained Runoff Potential	Undrained and Drained Leaching Potential	Drained Runoff Potential	K-Factor
NfD	1	Norfolk	Very High	Very Low		0.15
NpA	1	Norfolk	Medium	Very Low		0.17
NpB	1	Norfolk	Medium	Very Low		0.17
NpB2	1	Norfolk	Medium	Very Low		0.17
NsA	1	Norfolk	Medium	Low		0.15
NsB	1	Norfolk	Medium	Low		0.15
NsC	1	Norfolk	High	Low		0.15
NsD	1	Norfolk	Medium	Low		0.15
NtA	1	Norfolk	Medium	Low		0.28
NtB	1	Norfolk	Medium	Low		0.28
NtC	1	Norfolk	High	Low		0.28
OfA	1	Orangeburg	Medium	Very Low		0.20
OfB	1	Orangeburg	Medium	Very Low		0.20
OfB2	1	Orangeburg	Medium	Very Low		0.20
OfC	1	Orangeburg	High	Very Low		0.20
OfC2	1	Orangeburg	High	Very Low		0.20
OfD	1	Orangeburg	Very High	Very Low		0.20
OtA	1	Orangeburg	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.15
OtB	1	Orangeburg	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.15
OtC	1	Orangeburg	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.15
OtD	1	Orangeburg	Medium	Low		0.15
PsA	1	Plummer	Very High	Low	Medium	0.10
PsB	1	Plummer	High	Low		0.10
PhA	1	Plummer	High	Low		0.10
PhB	1	Plummer	High	Low		0.10
PcA	1	Plummer	High	Low		0.10
Pt	1	Portsmouth	Very High	Very Low	High	0.15
Ra	1	Rains	Very High	Very Low	High	0.20
RbB3	1	Red Bay	Medium	Very Low		0.20
RbC3	1	Red Bay	High	Very Low		0.20
RbD3	1	Red Bay	Very High	Very Low		0.24
ReA	1	Red Bay	Medium	Very Low		0.10
ReB	1	Red Bay	Medium	Very Low		0.10
ReB2	1	Red Bay	Medium	Very Low		0.20
ReC	1	Red Bay	High	Very Low		0.10
ReC2	1	Red Bay	High	Very Low		0.20
ReD	1	Red Bay	Very High	Very Low		0.17
RmA	1	Ruston	Medium	Very Low		0.10
RmB	1	Ruston	Medium	Very Low		0.10
RmB2	1	Ruston	Medium	Very Low		0.20
RmC	1	Ruston	High	Very Low		0.10

**Table 13 (cont.).** Runoff, Leaching Potentials and K-Factors for Gadsden County Soils.

Map Unit	Seq. No. <sup>a</sup>	Soil Name	Undrained Runoff Potential	Undrained and Drained Leaching Potential	Drained Runoff Potential	K-Factor
RmC2	1	Ruston	High	Very Low		0.20
RmD	1	Ruston	Very High	Very Low		0.10
RfC3	1	Ruston	High	Very Low		0.24
RsA	1	Ruston	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.15
RsB	1	Ruston	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.15
RsC	1	Ruston	Low <sup>b</sup>	Low		0.15
RsD	1	Ruston	Medium	Low		0.15
RtC	1	Ruston	High	Very Low		0.10
RtC	2	Orangeburg	Medium	Low		0.20
RtD	1	Ruston	Very High	Very Low		0.17
RtD	1	Orangeburg	High	Low		0.20
RtF	1	Ruston	High	Low		0.15
RtF3	1	Ruston	High	Low		0.15
RtF3	2	Orangeburg	Very High	Low		0.10
RuA	1	Rutlege	Very High	Very High	Low <sup>b</sup>	0.10
RuB	1	Rutlege	High	Low		0.10
SaB	1	Sawyer	High	Very Low		0.20
SaC	1	Sawyer	Very High	Very Low		0.20
ShB	1	Shubuta	High	Very Low		0.37
ShB	2	Susquehanna	High	Very Low		0.37
SnC	1	Susquehanna	Very High	Very Low		0.37
SnC	1	Susquehanna	Very High	Very Low		0.37
SrD	1	Susquehanna	Very High	Very Low		0.37
SrD	2	Boswell	Very High	Very Low		0.37
SfF	1	Susquehanna	Very High	Very Low		0.37
SrF	2	Boswell	Very High	Very Low		0.37
SsD	1	Susquehanna	Very High	Very Low		0.37
SsD	2	Sawyer	Very High	Very Low		0.37
SsF	1	Susquehanna	Very High	Very Low		0.32
Sw	1	Swamp	Very High	Variable		0.20
TfA	1	Tifton	Medium	Very Low		0.17
TfB	1	Tifton	Medium	Very Low		0.17
TfB2	1	Tifton	Medium	Very Low		0.17
TfC2	1	Tifton	High	Very Low		0.17
ZuB	1	Zuber	Medium	Very Low		0.17
ZuC	1	Zuber	Medium	Very Low		0.15

<sup>a</sup> Seq. No. indicates a particular soil series name among one or more names constituting a map unit name.

<sup>b</sup> Rate Very Low where percent ground cover is greater than 75%.

<sup>c</sup> Rate Very Low if thickness of loamy/clayey layers is more than 10 inches.

<sup>d</sup> Rate Low or Very Low (where percent ground cover is greater than 75%) where slope 8 percent or less.

### Potential to Reach Water Body

This parameter is used to address the potential for runoff to reach a water body. If there is no direct discharge from the edge of a field, the potential to affect a water body is considered to be “very low.” If the P concentration of the runoff can be attenuated by flow through a wetland, buffer strip or overland treatment area, the potential is considered “low.” If there is ditch drainage or direct discharge to a water body, the index value is increased to “medium.” When there is potential for direct discharge to a lake, sinkhole, or natural stream the potential for water quality degradation by P is enhanced and the index rating is increased to “high.”

### Potential to Reach Water Body Rating Criteria (see Table 1)

**Very Low (0):**

No direct discharge from the edge of the field.

**Low (1):**

Discharge through wetlands, buffer area (refer to table below for buffer width), storm water detention, or overland treatment.

**Medium (2):**

No buffer, ditch drainage to or direct discharge to a water body.

**High (4):**

Direct discharges to a lake, sinkhole, or natural stream.

Non-Application Buffer Widths <sup>1</sup>		
Object, Site	Situation	Base Buffer Width from Object, Site (ft.)
Well, potable	Located up-slope of application site	150
Well, potable	Located down-slope of application site provided conditions warrant application	300
Waterbody, Stream <sup>2</sup> , sinkhole or wetland	Good vegetation <sup>3</sup> /. Add 2 feet for each 1% slope for slopes up to 8%.	50 (+)
Waterbody, Stream <sup>2</sup> , sinkhole or wetland	Poor vegetative cover or Predominant slope > 8% <sup>3</sup> /	100
Public Road – roadside ditch	Irrigated wastewater or solids applied with spreader	30

1/ Research has shown that forested or forest/grass buffers are more effective at removing phosphorus. Grass buffers are more effective at removing nitrogen. Every effort should be made to reduce phosphorus inputs at their sources. If phosphorus is managed responsibly on-site, buffers can store significant amounts of the excess; but if phosphorus is uncontrolled buffers can quickly become saturated and over whelmed. Even with their limits, buffers still perform a valuable service by displacing phosphorus-producing activities away from streams and regulating the flow of phosphorus. Taken in part from “A Review Of The Scientific Literature On Riparian Buffer Width, Extent And Vegetation”, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia.

2/ Waterbody includes pond, lake, or open sinkhole. Open sinks include paleo sinks without a confining layer within 80 inches of the surface. Stream includes both perennial and intermittent streams and canals.

3/ Good vegetation refers to a well-managed, dense stand that is not overgrazed.

## Phosphorus Transport Potential Due to Phosphorus Source Management - Part B (Table 2)

Phosphorus transport potential due to phosphorus source management is as follows:

- Fertility Index Value
- P Application Source and Rate
- Application Method
- Waste Water Application

### Criteria

#### **Fertility Index Value:**

Existing soil P levels are included in the P Index and identified as the “fertility index”. The “fertility index” is defined as Mehlich-3 extractable P, of a 0-15 cm (0-6 inches) depth soil sample, in ppm (parts per million) multiplied by 2 to convert to pounds per acre. The 0.025 multiplication factor was selected to provide a value range similar to those used for other parameters in the P Index.

Obtain soil samples by taking 15 to 20 small cores (for areas up to 40 acres) at random over the entire area to a depth of about 6 inches. Place the 15 to 20 plugs in a container, mix them thoroughly, and send approximately one pint of the mixed sample to the UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory (ESTL) or other qualified laboratory for analysis.

#### **P Application Source and Rate:**

The multiplication factors for the application of P vary based on the source (fertilizer, manure, compost, biosolids, or waste water). Fertilizer, manure, and compost have the multiplier 0.05. For biosolids the multiplier is lower (0.015) because of evidence that the Fe and Al content of biosolids will decrease the P availability in biosolids-amended soils. In contrast, P in water from municipal and lagoon effluents is mostly in a soluble form and therefore the multiplier is higher (0.10).

#### **Application Method:**

The application method is not a consideration for sites that have No Surface Outlet or where solids are incorporated immediately after application or injected (value 0). For all other sites, effluent applied via irrigation are typically applied frequently (weekly, bi-weekly) and in small amounts or where solids are incorporated within one day of application; therefore, the potential for P loss is low (value 2). In contrast, solids (fertilizers, compost, biosolids, manures) surface-applied and not incorporated would have a higher potential for loss, particularly through surface runoff (value 6). Incorporated solids within 5 days of application have a medium potential for loss (value 4).

#### **Waste Water Application Volume:**

Excessive volumes of water may exacerbate movement of P via downward or lateral leaching, depending on the landscape. The 0.20 multiplication factor was selected to provide a value range similar to those used for other parameters in the P Index.

## **RESULTING P INDEX**

The P Index is obtained by multiplying the site and transport characteristics totals – Part A (Table 1) by the phosphorus source totals – Part B (Table 2). The results are interpreted according to guidelines in Table 3.

On sites with a LOW or MEDIUM vulnerability rating, it is possible to use a nitrogen-based budget to determine application rates. On sites with a HIGH or VERY HIGH vulnerability rating, it is necessary to use a phosphorus-based budget to determine application rates.

### **Assessing the P Index Results**

The numerical result of the P Index has no absolute value, but is immediately translated into a qualitative rating (LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH, or VERY HIGH). For each qualitative rating a description is given for the level of concern that each specifically assessed field has for P loss potential (Table 3). Some general guidance is given for each qualitative level as to the intensity and type of remedial action or mitigation that would be necessary to reduce P loss risk.

### **Conservation Planning Notes**

Since output from the P Index includes information that is specific to each of the site and transport characteristics – Part A (Table 1) and phosphorus source management – Part B (Table 2), the conservation planner can identify which characteristics/management have the greatest influence in determining the final vulnerability rating and may be targeted for remedial action. Table 14 may be used to record notes to explain, clarify, and/or define site characteristics and source management used to evaluate a site. Each factor can be revisited and planning changes made, thereby changing the resulting P Index. For example, terraces can be installed, thereby lowering soil erosion and the final P Index. Similarly, the P Index can be lowered by reducing the planned P application rate.



**Table 14.** Conservation Planning Notes.

Client Name:	County:	Date:
Planner:	Field(s):	Crop:
<b>Site and Transport Characteristics</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	
Soil Erosion		
Runoff Potential		
Leaching Potential		
Potential to Reach Water Body		
<b>Phosphorus Source Management</b>		
Fertility Index Value		
P Application Source and Rate		
P Application Method		
Waste Water Application		

## **GLOSSARY** (as used in the P Index the following definitions apply)

**No Surface Outlet** – The combination of slope and permeability of the application site that will not discharge surface flow from that site in a 2 year – 24 hour rainfall event.

(This level of evaluating runoff is not intended to require calculation for the rainfall events but is intended to evaluate those sites that do not have external surface flows during most years. Where these sites occur, additional comments may need to be recorded on the back of form FL-CPA-41)

**Compost** – animal wastes and plant debris that has gone through the composting process.

**Biosolids** – Residuals, domestic wastewater residuals and/or septage as defined in Chapter 62-640 Florida Administrative Code. Biosolids include co-compost with a minimum of 50% biosolids.

**Landform** - Any physical, recognizable form or feature of the earth's surface, having a characteristic shape and produced by natural causes.

Examples of individual landforms and their definitions are:

**Karst** - Topography with sinkholes, caves, and underground drainage that is formed in limestone, gypsum, or other rocks by dissolution, and that is characterized by sinkholes, caves, and underground drainage.

**Knoll** - A small, low, rounded hill rising above adjacent landforms.

**Subsurface Drainage** – Lowering of the water table in order to improve vegetative growth, remove surface runoff from wet areas, or relieve artesian pressure. Subsurface drainage can be achieved by either using drainage tile or drainage ditches, typically spaced at regular intervals.

## **REFERENCES**

Brown, R.B., A.G. Hornsby, and G.W. Hurt. 1991. Soil ratings for crop production and water quality protection. Circular 959. Florida Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Florida Ecological Sciences Staff. 1999. Florida Agronomy Field Handbook, Chapter 6. USDA, NRCS, Gainesville, FL.

Florida Phosphorus Index Work Group. 2000. The Florida phosphorus index. <http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx?Fips=12001&MenuName=menuFL.zip> (The Florida Phosphorus Index sheets are located in Section IV of the Table of Contents under C.Tools.)

Thomas, B.P., H.H. Weeks, and M.W. Hazen, Jr., 1961. Soil Survey of Gadsden County, Florida. USDA/SCS in cooperation with the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Agricultural Experimental Stations and Soil and Water Science Department; and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.