

NRCS Method for Determination of Soil Permeability

The NRCS Web Soil Survey can be found at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

To Use:

Click: START WSS

The first “tab” it brings you to is the Area of Interest
Under Quick Navigation, Navigate by: Click: Address
Enter address, the site will zoom into the general area.

Under Area of Interest Interactive Map
Click on AOI icon, draw box around desired location.
Site will re-zoom on the area of interest.

Select the Tab “Soil data explorer”

Select tab “Soil Physical Properties and Qualities” and select “Soil Physical Properties “
from the list on the left.

Scroll down list on the left until you find “Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity (Ksat) and
select it.

Leave options as they are for aggregation method (which is Dominant Component). Tie-
break rule leave as “Fastest”.

Enter the depth range as say 18 inches to 36 inches (make sure bullet “inches” is marked)

Select “View Ratings”

Wait a few seconds and scroll up to top of page

You will find the rating in a table in micrometers per second. You can use Google to
convert micrometers per second to inches per hour.