

# Antigo Silt Loam Wisconsin State Soil

Soil Profile

Surface Soil

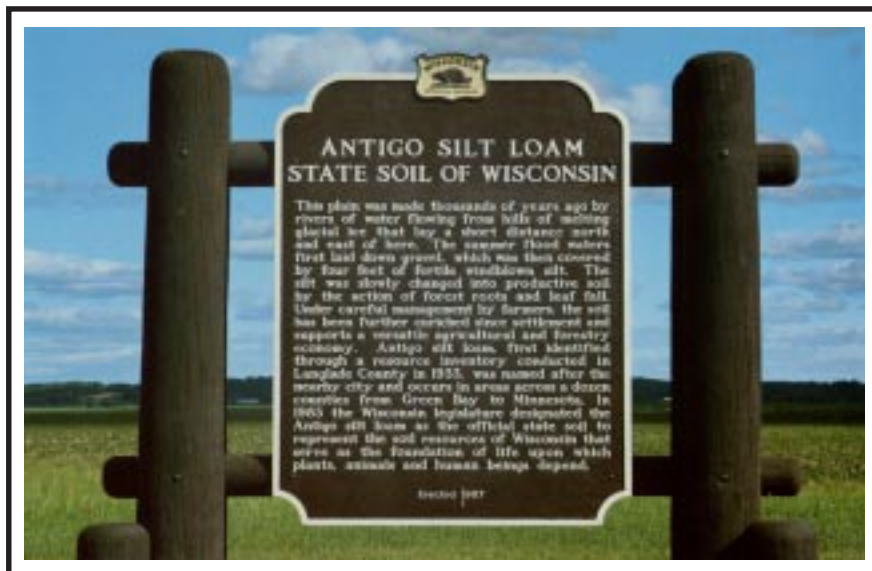
1'

Subsoil

2'

3'

Substratum



Antigo Silt Loam was first identified near the city of Antigo during the Langlade County soil survey project, and was named after the nearby city. This historical marker is located northeast of Antigo on Highway 52. Antigo Silt Loam was named the official State Soil of Wisconsin by the State Legislature in 1983, a declaration reminding us of the importance of our soil resources. Antigo soil represents the more than 800 different types of soil in Wisconsin.



Antigo is one of the most productive agricultural soils in north central Wisconsin. Many areas are used for growing corn, small grains, and hay. In some places, potatoes or snap beans are important crops. Other areas are used for pastureland or timber production. The map indicates the region where areas of Antigo soil occur.



*The Antigo Silt Loam logo was created by Francis Hole, former UW Professor of Soil Science. On the surface, three important Antigo soil uses are depicted. Below the land surface is an expanded scale representation of the main soil layers or horizons.*

## Formation of Antigo

About 11,000 years ago, near the end of the last Ice Age, glacial meltwaters deposited the sand and gravel outwash that forms the lower subsoil and substratum of the Antigo soil. Strong winds and glacial meltwaters then deposited 2 to 3 feet of silty loess and loamy outwash on top of the sand and gravel. Soil development, under northern hardwood forests, produced an organic enriched surface layer and a clay enriched subsoil.

## A Prime Agricultural Soil

Antigo occurs mostly on nearly level ground, suitable for agriculture. The organic enriched surface layer provides an excellent seedbed and good tilth. The silty upper layers hold plenty of nutrients and water for plant growth. The underlying sand and gravel layers allow for good drainage. These factors, combined with a favorable climate, make Antigo a Prime Farmland soil, one of the most productive agricultural soils in north central Wisconsin.

For more information on soils:

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service:  
[www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov)

Soil education site:

[www.statlab.iastate.edu/soils/nssc/educ/Edpage.html](http://www.statlab.iastate.edu/soils/nssc/educ/Edpage.html)

## Conserving the Resource

Soil quality is a good indicator of a healthy ecosystem. The soil stores water for use by plants and filters our ground water and surface water. We depend on the soil to provide us with food and fiber. Soils play a major role in recycling carbon and nitrogen. Without soils neither we or the ecosystems in which we live could exist. The quality of our soil resources directly affects our quality of life. Good conservation practices allow us to use the soil while protecting the environment and keeping the soil healthy for future generations.

NRCS helps landowners conserve, protect, and improve the soils and other natural resources on private lands.

WSPSS promotes the advancement of soil science knowledge and education, protection of our soil resources, and the application of soil science in resource conservation and management.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

 **NRCS** Natural Resources Conservation Service



Wisconsin Society  
of Professional  
Soil Scientists

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