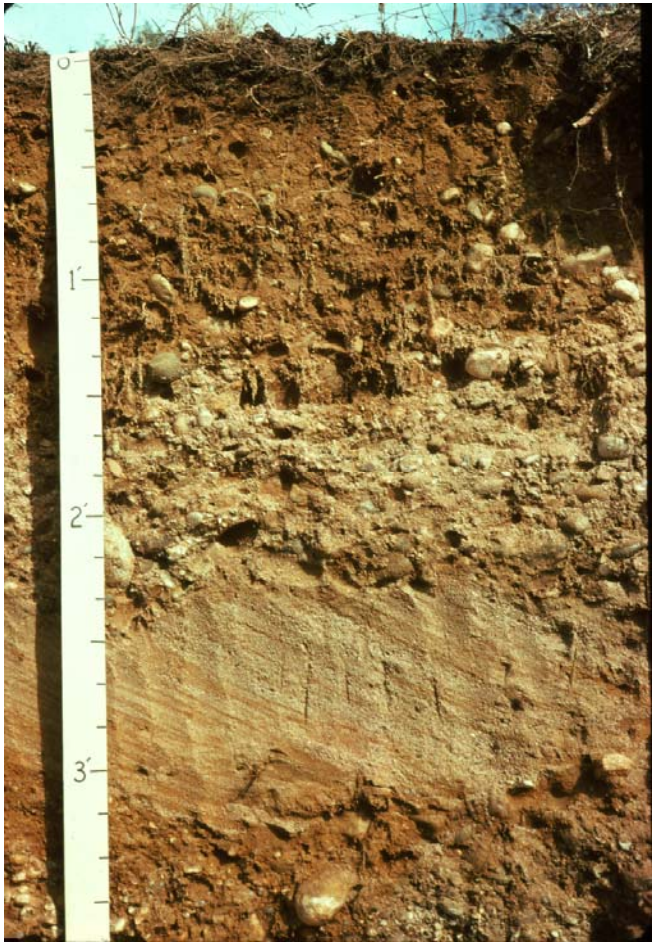
What is a soil?

- It’s the living skin of our planet Earth.
- The soil is composed of sand, silt, clay and partially decomposed organic matter.
- In soil science, the soil starts at the ground surface and typically extends down 6 feet.
- Underlying the soil are unweathered geologic sediments and bedrock.
- There are more living things in a handful of soil than people living in the World.

How did our soils form in New England?

Soil Forming Factors:

- Time
- Parent Material (geologic sediments)
- Climate
- Living Organisms
- Position on the landscape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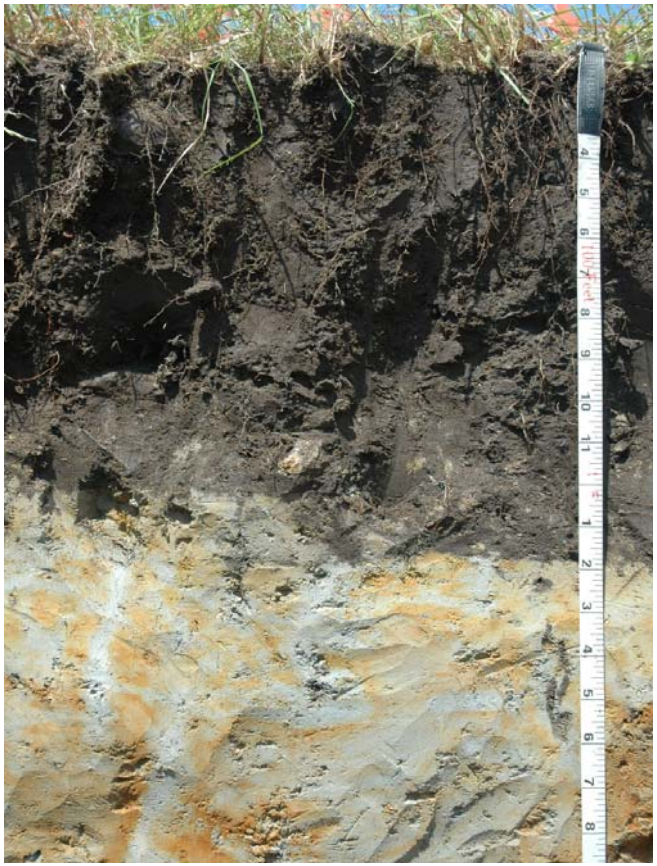
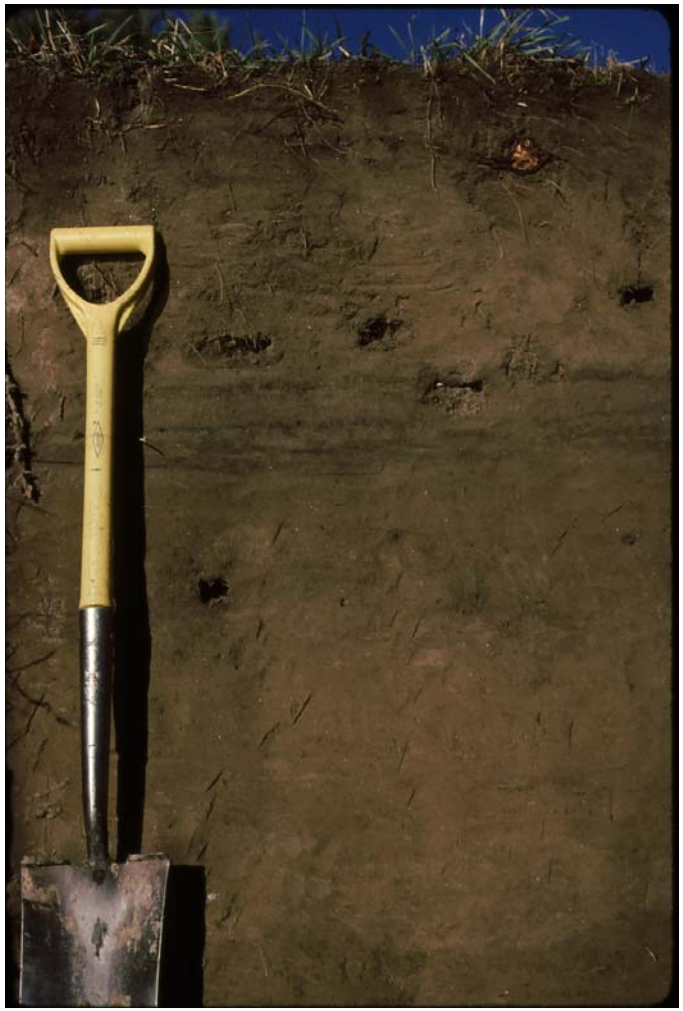




USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soil Map

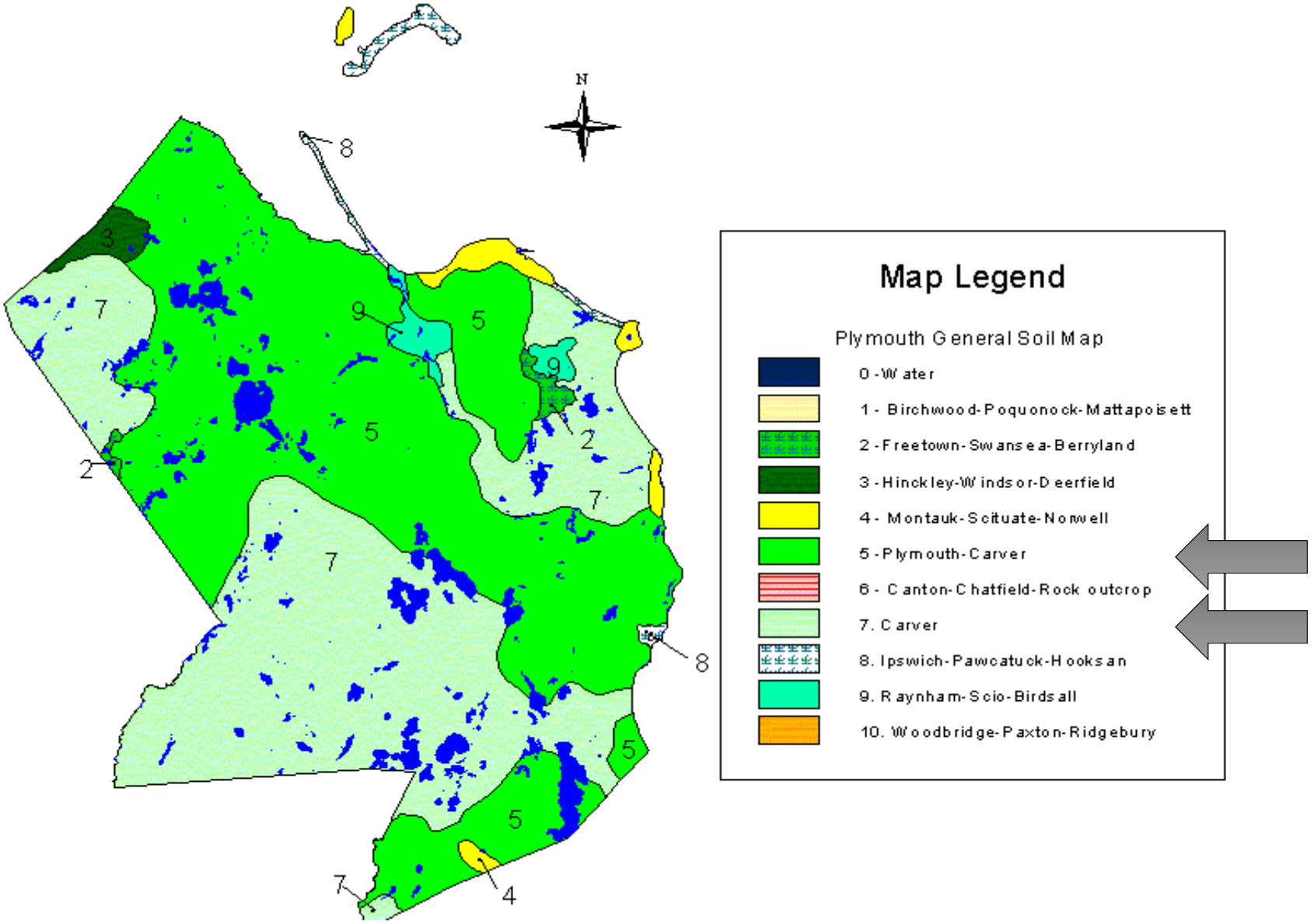
Carver Soil

Stratified Sands

Glacial Meltwater Stream

Carver Soil

Stratified Sands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Map Legend
Plymouth General Soil Map
0 - Water
1 - Birchwood-Poquonock-Mattapoisett
2 - Freetown-Swansea-Berryland
3 - Hinckley-Windsor-Deerfield
4 - Montauk-Scituate-Norwell
5 - Plymouth-Carver
6 - Canton-Chatfield-Rock outcrop
7. Carver
8. Ipswich-Pawcatuck-Hooksan
9. Raynham-Scio-Birdsall
10. Woodbridge-Paxton-Ridgebury

Soil Properties

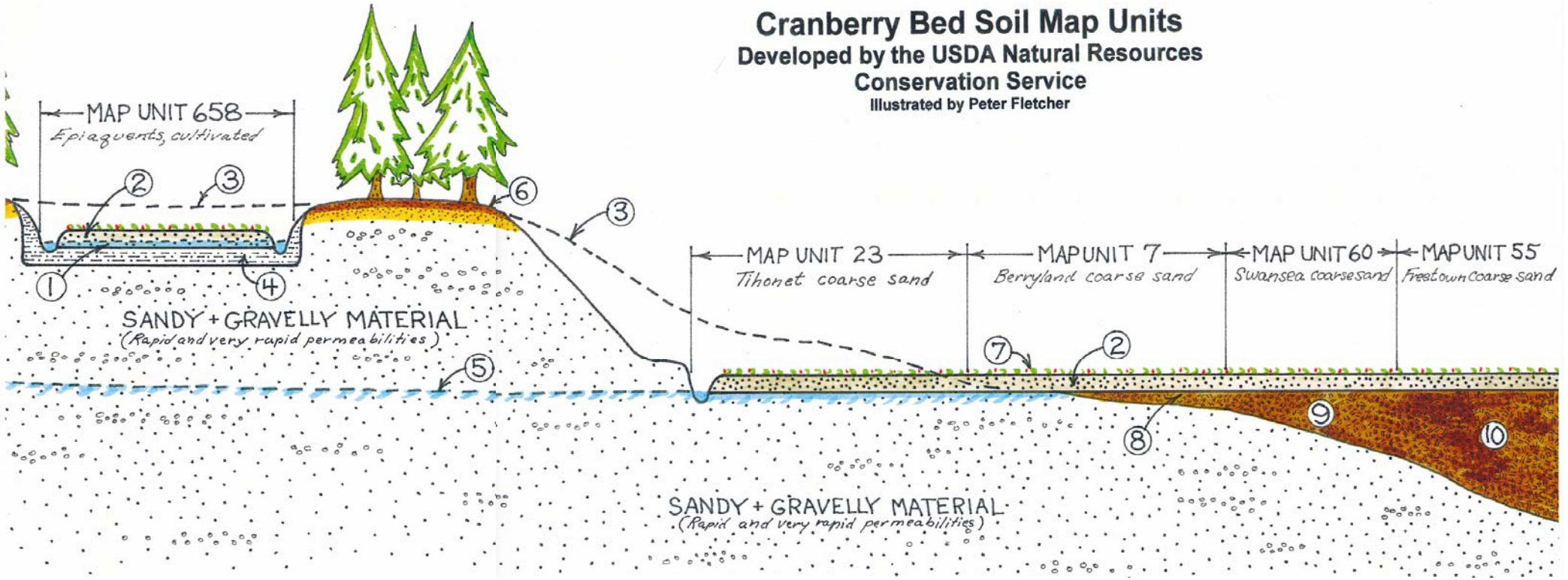
Land Use

Soil Survey Update
Plymouth County, Massachusetts

Cranberry Bed Soil Map Units

Developed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Illustrated by Peter Fletcher



Stratified Sands and Gravel