Chipley Series

The Chipley series consists of moderately well drained, nearly level and gently sloping soils on uplands and stream terraces. These soils formed in the coastal plain and alluvial sediment. A seasonal high water table is within about 2 ½ feet of the surface. White mottles are within the zone affected by the high water table.

In a typical profile, the surface layer is dark grayish-brown sand about 9 inches thick. To a depth of about 42 inches, the underlying layers are light yellowish-brown and very pale-brown, loose fine sand and sand mottled with white and brownish yellow. The next layers, to a depth of about 66 inches, are white and light brownish-gray, loose sand and coarse sand mottled with yellowish brown. Below these layers, to a depth of about of about 86 inches, is mottled white and yellowish-brown coarse sand.

Natural fertility, the content of organic matter, and available water capacity are all very low. Permeability is rapid, and shrink-swell potential is low. In areas that have not received lime, reaction is strongly acid or very strongly acid.

The Chipley soils in Pitt County are of only minor importance for farming. About half of the acreage is cultivated or in pasture, and the rest is chiefly in forest or in housing developments or other nonfarm uses. Very low natural fertility, the seasonal high water table, and infrequent flooding for brief periods are major limitations to the use of these soils. Where crops are grown, response is fairly good to recommended applications of lime and fertilizer.

Representative profile of Chipley sand 2 miles east of Belvoir, 300 yards south of State Road No. 1001, and 150 feet south of a field ditch:

Ap-0 to 9 inches, dark grayish-brown (10YR 4/2) sand; weak, fine, granular structure; very friable; many small roots; slightly acid abrupt, smooth boundary.

C1-9 to 14 inches, light yellowish-brown (10YR 6/4) sand; single grain; loose; few small and medium roots; strongly acid; clear, wavy boundary.

C2-14 to 33 inches, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fine sand; few, medium, distinct, white (10YR 8/1) mottles; single grain; loose; few medium roots; uncoated white sand grains; strongly acid; gradual, wavy boundary.

C3-33 to 42 inches, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) sand; common, medium, distinct, white (10YR 8/1) mottles and few, medium, distinct, brownish-yellow (10YR 6/8) mottles; single grain; loose uncoated white sand grains; strongly acid; gradual, wavy boundary.

C4-42 to 52 inches, white (10YR 8/2) sand; single grain; loose; strongly acid, wavy boundary.

C5-52 to 66 inches, light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) coarse sand; few coarse, distinct, yellowish-brown (10YR 5/8) mottles; single grain; loose; many uncoated sand grains; very strongly acid; gradual, wavy boundary.

C6-66 to 86 inches, mottled, white (10YR 8/1) and yellowish-brown (10YR 5/8) coarse sand; single grain; loose; yellowish-brown, coated sand grains; very strongly acid.

Combined thickness of the sandy horizon is more than 80 inches. The Ap or A1 horizon is dark gray to dark grayish brown and is 5 to 10 inches thick. The upper part of the C horizon ranges from light yellowish brown to very pale brown and from fine sand to coarse sand. Gray or white mottles are at a depth within 10 to 40 inches of the surface. The lower part of the C horizon is commonly white to light brownish-gray sand or coarse sand.

Chipley sand (Ch) – This is a moderately well drained soil on broad flats and on smooth side slopes of uplands and stream terraces. It occurs in areas of irregular shape that are 4 to 20 acres in size. Slopes range from 0 to 4 percent. The surface layer is dark grayish-brown sand about 9 inches thick. To a depth of about 42 inches, the underlying layers are light yellowish-brown and very pale brown, loose fine sand and sand mottled with white and brownish yellow. The next layers, to a depth of about 66 inches, are white and light brownish-gray, loose sand and coarse sand mottled with yellowish brown.

Included with this soil in mapping were a few areas of soils that have a similar profile but that have a surface layer of fine sand. Also included were small areas of Lakeland, Alaga, Pactolus, Osier, and Wagram soils.

Infiltration is rapid. Runoff is slow.

This soil is fairly easy to keep in good tilth and can be satisfactorily worked throughout a wide range of moisture content. It is fairly well suited to most of the locally grown crops, but natural fertility is very low. Also, infrequent flooding occurs for brief periods, and wetness is a severe limitation. About half of the acreage is cultivated or in pasture. The rest is chiefly in forest and in housing developments or other nonfarm uses. Some artificial drainage is needed in places for optimum returns from most crops. Capability unit IIIw-1; woodland suitability group 2w2.