

## **Update on Detailed Soil Survey Activities in Manitoba**

**Megan Westphal & Ronggui Wu, Manitoba Agriculture**

Detailed soil survey information is a key tool in making appropriate, economical and sustainable land use and land management decisions to aid in improving agricultural production for Manitoba's land and soil resources. These surveys also contain important agronomic information that can aid in soil and nutrient management decisions on farm. This information includes soil texture, salinity, pH, soil organic carbon and more. Manitoba's soil resource information is also more than just maps. Documents such as "The Description of Soil Series in Manitoba" contains even more information on almost all the soil series found in Manitoba. For example, most soil maps will display soil surface texture only. However, in Manitoba our soils tend to be quite variable in some areas and some soils will consist of medium to moderately coarse surface textures such as fine sandy loam over fine textured soil material such as clay within 1 metre from the surface. These texture differences within the soil profile can have a great impact on water movement and nutrient availability through the soil. Consulting both soil resource maps and other soil resource documents is the best way to make agronomically sound and economically viable decisions on your farm.