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Visualizing Soil Landscapes on Mobile Devices

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The Integrating Spatial Educational Experiences (Isee) project utilizes the most detailed US soil survey data to create thematic maps of soil properties that are then combined with a highly optimized hillshade basemap for display. The Isee app, currently available for the iPad platform from the Apple App Store, allows the cached maps to be zoomed and panned quickly to any location down to a scale of 1:18,000. Maps currently available for the states of Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin include, Dominant Soil Parent Materials, Natural Soil Drainage Classes, Limiting Layers, Surface Soil Colors, and Acid Subsoils. Other thematic maps will be added in the future. The ability to zoom, pan, and change maps quickly allows the user to see and understand soil landscape relationships that are not often apparent using static maps, while the ability to access the maps conveniently in the field allows the user to see how soil landscape features on the maps appear in the field.