LOCATION IN CHATHAM COUNTY

The Georgeville soil series, first established in 1910, was adopted as the official soil series of Chatham County in February 2020 by the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Supervisors. In Chatham County, Georgeville soils predominantly occur east to west along Hwy 64 from the west bank of Jordan Lake to approximately five miles southwest of Siler City. Smaller areas of Georgeville soils can also be found throughout the county.

96,344.80 acres (21%) of land in Chatham County are made up of Georgeville soils

SOIL PROPERTIES

Georgeville soils are derived from weathered, fine-grained, metavolcanic rocks of the Carolina Slate Belt and occur on gentle to moderately-steep Piedmont slopes. They are deep, well-drained, friable, and tend to be sub-angular blocky in structure. When the organic topsoil layer is present, the soil is brownish-yellow in color before transitioning (at approximately 12 inches deep) to the red-colored clayey soils common the Pediment. Georgeville soils are acidic, but liming raises pH and improves production. These properties make lands covered by Georgeville soils suited for a wide variety of agricultural uses including cropland, pasture, and woodland.

PRIME FARMLAND AND FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE

Most Georgeville soils in Chatham County are classed as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, making them one of the most agriculturally significant soils in the county. Prime Farmland is land considered to have the best soil quality (i.e., alkalinity, mineral content, air and water permeability, etc.), temperature, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce high yields of crops for sustainable cropland, pastureland, rangeland, and forest land, using acceptable water management and farming methods. Additionally, Prime Farmland soils are not excessively erodible or subject to frequent flooding. Farmland of Statewide Importance includes nearly prime farmlands that may produce as high a yield as Prime Farmlands under favorable conditions.

Chatham County is 24% Prime Farmland, 35% of which is made up of Georgeville soils

Sources: USDA Web Soil Survey, Soil Survey of Chatham County, and 7CFR§657.2018
Visit Chatham SWCD online at www.chathamnc.org/SWCD