

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, soil is a living, dynamic resource that supports plant and animal life—it is made up of different size mineral particles, organic matter, and numerous species of living organisms; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi is dedicated to the conservation and wise use of our soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources so that Mississippians may always have and enjoy these natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Professional Soil Classifiers Association of Mississippi, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and the Vocational Agriculture Students of Mississippi worked cooperatively to select one soil to represent the soil resources of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, Mississippi lawmakers designated an official state soil, Natchez Silt Loam—this is a rich soil that is present on the Mississippi River Valley Silty Uplands, which is adjacent to the Mississippi River Valley Alluvium and exists on 171,559 acres of landscape in Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, Natchez Silt Loam is of great value to the forestry industry of Mississippi, which contributes to the economy and enhances the beauty and aesthetic quality of our environment:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim

**NATCHEZ SILT LOAM**

as Mississippi's Official State Soil.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, May 21, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR