

Importing Mr. SID files for Backgrounds in Farm Site and Site Pro

Mr. SID files are becoming more popular for use as background images. Reasons for their increasing use are: they are in color, they are higher in resolution than previous files, and they are very current. The main problem with these files is they are very large, and therefore too much data for most GIS software's to handle. The following directions will help you download the files that you need as well as the process to import them into Farm Site or Site Pro.

Caution: Downloading a .sid file is very large and will take some time. It will require a high speed internet connection. Depending on your connection it will take from 10 to 30 minutes. A dial-up connection probably will not allow enough time to download these type files. This process will also require you to download a Viewer software explained below.

The following will walk you through the steps to download and process a Mr. SID file and successfully import images into Site or Pro.

1. Start on the Farm Works web site (www.farmworks.com), and click on "Links" on the left side of the page. Then scroll down under Resources for Farm Site users to USDA NRCS Soil Survey Geographic Database.
2. Now double click on the Geospatial Data Gateway.
3. Click on "Get Data".
4. At this point, if you see the follow page, you will need to follow these directions to update your Java software. If you see the map of the USA, you can skip down to step # 5.
To update your Java version, start by clicking "Here" and following the update directions.
5. Continuing with the download process, click on "Quick County".
6. Select your State and County and click on the continue button
7. Now you can scroll down to the "ortho imagery" section. Here is where you will order the .SID files that you want. In this example below, I have red checked the 2007 .SID file to order. You can see that 2006, 2005, and 2003 are also available. Under the "soils" section, you can see that I have red checked the soil survey. This will be the soil types for the county. You may or may not want to order this data at the same time. Each item that you order here will come later as a separate link for downloading purposes. After checking the files that you want, click the "continue to step 3" button.
8. Use the default values in step 3 and click the "continue to step 4" button.
9. In step 4, fill in the correct information. You can save this information for future ordering by clicking the "save values" on the left side of the page. Click on the "Continue to page 5" button.
10. Page 5 is confirming your order. Note the estimated time that it will take to process your order. Click on "Place Order" and your order will be processed and you will receive an email with the proper links to download the ordered files.

11. While waiting to receive the email, download the following viewer from http://www.lizardtech.com/download/dl_download.php?detail=geo_expressview_plugin&platform=win
First select “Microsoft IE format for Microsoft Internet Explorer users.”
Then select the automatic installation option for “Internet Explorer only”
This will install the “**Express View Browser Plug-in for Windows**”.
This program will allow you to open and view the Mr. Sid files.

12. When you receive the emailed order from NRCS, it should look like the following. In this example, if you remember I ordered the 2007 Mr. SID file, and the Soil Types for Stueben County, Indiana.

13. Clicking on the first link will allow you to download the .sid file.
Tip: Here I would suggest you create a new folder in your C: drive labeled “NRCS”. If you deal with more than one county, you should create county subfolders. Then download this file to the appropriate folder.

- 14 Unzipping the file will create an Image folder.
Again, unzip these files.
Your files should then look similar to the following screen. You will note that the LizardTech will automatically be installed as a type and is ready to open and view. Double click on this file to open it.

15. You may receive the following message for security.

If this message appears, click on the options. Select “Allow Blocked Content” and then Click “Yes”

- 16 . When the file is opened the following window allow you to view the .sid file.

17. Tool bar options at the top include zoom in by rubber banding, zoom out, pan, and measuring tool. Next is a scroll bar for zooming in and out, then fit the frame, and image properties.

Use the zoom in and pan to view an area background that you would like to import into Site or Pro. I was using a 2 mile north and south by about 4 mile east and west zoomed in area. This 8 Area Section size will import well. Caution here: If you want greater detail in your Farm Works displayed maps, you will have to zoom into smaller areas here. See examples at the end.

18. When you have the image sized as you want, Right Click and choose “Save As”. Save in the same Images folder or create a new one. Give the image a name such as “Township-Section #”, “Home Farm Background 1”, or just “Image 1 or A”. Next it is important to “save as type” in the **GeoTIFF** type. Click Save and you are ready to import this file as a background into Site or Pro.

19. Next you will go into your project in Farm Site or Site Pro. Right Click on Project Name, Client, Farm, or Field (depending on where you want the background image to be stored) and choose “import background”. Find the GeoTIFF file that you saved, highlight it, and click open.

20. You can now display the background image in the Map tab by double clicking on it in the tree view on the left side of your screen.

21. Below are two examples of imported images showing the Farm Works home office. The first image was sized as an 8 Section area. The second image was sized as a smaller size, about 2 Sections. You can see that when zooming in on the larger sized area that was imported into Site or Pro, you will lose details. If your goal is to have greater details in a smaller zoomed in area, then you will need to save many smaller images.