

Common Landsat Band Combinations

Here are some common RGB band combinations (color composites):

	<p>3,2,1 RGB</p> <p>This color composite is as close to true color that we can get with a Landsat ETM image. It is also useful for studying aquatic habitats. The downside of this set of bands is that they tend to produce a hazy image.</p>
	<p>4,3,2, RGB</p> <p>This has similar qualities to the image with bands 3,2,1 however, since this includes the near infrared channel (band 4) land/water boundaries are clearer and different types of vegetation are more apparent. This was a popular band combination for Landsat MSS data since that did not have a mid-infrared band.</p>
	<p>4,5,3 RGB</p> <p>This is crisper than the previous two images because the two shortest wavelength bands (bands 1 and 2) are not included. Different vegetation types can be more clearly defined and the land/water interface is very clear. Variations in moisture content are evident with this set of bands. This is probably the most common band combination for Landsat imagery.</p>
	<p>7,4,2 RGB</p> <p>This has similar properties to the 4,5,3 band combination with the biggest difference being that vegetation is green. This is the band combination that was selected for the global Landsat mosaic created for NASA.</p>