

In order to use GeoTIFF imagery in ESRI ArcGIS 8.x ArcMap follow the steps below:

1. **Start ArcMap:** In MS Windows this will generally be through either a desktop icon or an entry under the “Start -> Program Files ->ArcGIS” section of the Windows menu. Open “A New Empty Map” when the program initializes.
2. **Load and Display:** ArcGIS has native support for GeoTIFFs. When ArcMap initializes there will be a table of contents on the left and a map window on the right. Click the “+” icon to add data to your data frame. The “Add Data” dialogue box pops up. Navigate to and select a GeoTIFF. Click “Add”. The image should display in the map window. By right clicking the file name in the table of contents, and selecting “Properties”, the user can adjust the stretch, apply color ramps and conduct additional modifications.

A Note on Spatial Reference Data in ArcGIS: ArcGIS will automatically read the spatial reference information in the GeoTIFF tags. It may be necessary to reconcile the projections of the image and any shapefiles/layers with which it will be used.

A Note on RGB Color Composites and ArcGIS: Many users find that it is easier to composite image bands and conduct robust image processing functions prior to importing data into ArcGIS. An example is using ERDAS to do layer stacking and exporting the resultant RGB composite as a GeoTIFF which is then used in ArcGIS.

A Note on MrSID and ArcGIS: A useful feature of ArcGIS is that ArcCatalog is able to export rasters of up to 50MB to MrSID format. This can prove helpful in reducing the size of derived products.