

Prime and other Important Farmlands

This table lists the map units in the survey area that are considered important farmlands. Important farmlands consist of prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide or local importance. This list does not constitute a recommendation for a particular land use.

In an effort to identify the extent and location of important farmlands, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with other interested Federal, State, and local government organizations, has inventoried land that can be used for the production of the Nation's food supply.

Prime farmland is of major importance in meeting the Nation's short- and long-range needs for food and fiber. Because the supply of high-quality farmland is limited, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that responsible levels of government, as well as individuals, should encourage and facilitate the wise use of our Nation's prime farmland.

Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Prime farmland is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent. More detailed information about the criteria for prime farmland is available at the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For some of the soils identified in the table as prime farmland, measures that overcome a hazard or limitation, such as flooding, wetness, and droughtiness, are needed. Onsite evaluation is needed to determine whether or not the hazard or limitation has been overcome by corrective measures.

A recent trend in land use in some areas has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, and other fruits and vegetables. It has the special combination of soil quality, growing season, moisture supply, temperature, humidity, air drainage, elevation, and aspect needed for the soil to economically produce sustainable high yields of these crops when properly managed. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Nearness to markets is an additional consideration. Unique farmland is not based on national criteria. It commonly is in areas where there is a special microclimate, such as the wine country in California.

In some areas, land that does not meet the criteria for prime or unique farmland is considered to be *farmland of statewide importance* for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. The criteria for defining and delineating farmland of statewide importance are determined by the appropriate State agencies.

Generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some areas may produce as high a yield as prime farmland if conditions are favorable. Farmland of statewide importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by State law.

In some areas that are not identified as having national or statewide importance, land is considered to be *farmland of local importance* for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. This farmland is identified by the appropriate local agencies. Farmland of local importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance.

Report—Prime and other Important Farmlands

Prime and other Important Farmlands--San Juan Area, Puerto Rico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AaB	Aceitunas clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AaC	Aceitunas clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AbD	Aibonito clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
AbE	Aibonito clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
AmB	Almirante clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AmC	Almirante clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ba	Bajura clay	Farmland of statewide importance
BmB	Bayamon clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CaE	Caguabo clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CaF	Caguabo clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CbF	Caguabo-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ce	Candelerio loam	Prime farmland if drained
CIC	Catalina clay, 4 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Cn	Catano loamy sand	Not prime farmland
Co	Cayagua sandy loam	Farmland of statewide importance
CrD2	Colinas clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
CrE2	Colinas clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CrF2	Colinas clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Cs	Coloso silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
CuE	Consumo clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
CuF	Consumo clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CzC	Corozal clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
DaC	Daguey clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--San Juan Area, Puerto Rico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
DaD	Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
DeF	Descalabrado clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DgF	Descalabrado-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Dm	Dique loam	All areas are prime farmland
Dr	Durados sandy loam	Not prime farmland
Es	Estacion silty clay loam	Farmland of statewide importance
GPQ	Canteras and Graveros	Not prime farmland
GuF	Guayama clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Hm	Humacao loam	All areas are prime farmland
HtE	Humatas clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
HtF	Humatas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HuF	Humatas-Rock outcrop complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Hy	Hydraquents, saline	Not prime farmland
JaE2	Jagueyes loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
JnD2	Juncal clay, 5 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
JuC	Juncos clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
JuD	Juncos clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LaB	Lares clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LaC2	Lares clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
LmE	Limonas clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
LmF	Limonas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LoF2	Lirios silty clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LsE	Los Guineos clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
LsF	Los Guineos clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MaA	Mabi clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MaB	Mabi clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MaC	Mabi clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
Md	Made land	Not prime farmland
MIF	Malaya clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MoF	Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Mp	Martin Pena muck	Not prime farmland
MsB	Matanzas clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MtB	Montegrande clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MtC	Montegrande clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MuF2	Morado clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MxD	Mucara clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
MxE	Mucara clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MxF	Mucara clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--San Juan Area, Puerto Rico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
NaD2	Naranjito silty clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
NaE	Naranjito silty clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
NaF	Naranjito silty clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
NOTCOM	No Digital Data Available	
PaD	Pandura sandy loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PaE	Pandura sandy loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PaF	Pandura sandy loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PeF	Pellejas clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Re	Reilly sandy loam	Not prime farmland
RoB	Rio Arriba clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RoC2	Rio Arriba clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
RpD2	Rio Piedras clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
RpE2	Rio Piedras clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RpF2	Rio Piedras clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SaF	Sabana silty clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ScB	Sabana Seca clay, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
Sm	Saladar muck	Not prime farmland
SoE	Soller clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SoF	Soller clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TaF	Tanama-Rock outcrop complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
To	Toa silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
TrB	Torres loamy sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ts	Tropopsammments	Not prime farmland
Ud	Urban land-Durados complex	Not prime farmland
Um	Urban land-Mucara complex	Not prime farmland
Us	Urban land-Sabana Seca complex	Not prime farmland
Uv	Urban land-Vega Alta complex	Not prime farmland
VaB	Vega Alta clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
VaC2	Vega Alta clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Vg	Vega Baja silty clay	Prime farmland if drained
VkC2	Via clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Vv	Vivi loam	All areas are prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
YeE	Yunes silty clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
YeF	Yunes silty clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: San Juan Area, Puerto Rico
Survey Area Data: Version 9, Sep 29, 2015