

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—Virgin Islands of the United States		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AcD	Annaberg-Cramer complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
AcE	Annaberg-Cramer complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
AcF	Annaberg-Cramer complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
AcG	Annaberg-Cramer complex, 60 to 90 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
AmD	Annaberg-Maho Bay complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
AmE	Annaberg-Maho Bay complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
AmF	Annaberg-Maho Bay complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
AmG	Annaberg-Maho Bay complex, 60 to 90 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
AqA	Aquents, 0 to 2 percent slopes, ponded	Not prime farmland
ArB	Arawak gravelly loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
ArC	Arawak gravelly loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
ArD	Arawak gravelly loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
ArE	Arawak gravelly loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
ArF	Arawak gravelly loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
BrB	Beaches, rock outcrop	Not prime farmland
BsB	Beaches, sandy	Not prime farmland
BtB	Beaches, stony	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Virgin Islands of the United States		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
CaA	Carib clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
CbB	Cinnamon Bay loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if irrigated
CgC	Cinnamon Bay gravelly loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if irrigated
CvC	Cramer-Victory complex, 2 to 12 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
CvD	Cramer-Victory complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
CvE	Cramer-Victory complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
CvF	Cramer-Victory complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
DoE	Dorothea-Susannaberg complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
DoF	Dorothea-Susannaberg complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
DoG	Dorothea-Susannaberg complex, 60 to 90 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
FsD	Fredriksdal-Susannaberg complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
FsE	Fredriksdal-Susannaberg complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
FsF	Fredriksdal-Susannaberg complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
FsG	Fredriksdal-Susannaberg complex, 60 to 90 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
GyA	Glynn gravelly loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
GyB	Glynn gravelly loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
GyC	Glynn gravelly loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
HeA	Hesselberg clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HeB	Hesselberg clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HeC	Hesselberg clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HgA	Hogensborg clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HgB	Hogensborg clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HgC	Hogensborg clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
JaB	Jaucas sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
JsD	Jealousy-Southgate complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
JsE	Jealousy-Southgate complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
JsF	Jealousy-Southgate complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LmC	Lameshur gravelly sandy loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes, rubbly	Not prime farmland
M-W	Miscellaneous water	Not prime farmland
PaB	Parasol clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
PaC	Parasol clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
Pt	Pits, quarries	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Virgin Islands of the United States		
Map Symbol		
RdB	Redhook extremely stony sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes, rubbly	Not prime farmland
SaA	Salt flats, ponded	Not prime farmland
SBA	Sandy Point and Sugar Beach soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
SiA	Sion clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
SiB	Sion clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
SoA	Solitude gravelly fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
SrD	Southgate-Rock outcrop complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SrE	Southgate-Rock outcrop complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SrF	Southgate-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SrG	Southgate-Rock outcrop complex, 60 to 90 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UbD	Urban land	Not prime farmland
UcC	Urban land-Cinnamon Bay complex, 0 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UgC	Urban land-Glynn complex, 0 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Us	Ustorthents	Not prime farmland
VsC	Victory-Southgate complex, 2 to 12 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
VsD	Victory-Southgate complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
VsE	Victory-Southgate complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
VsF	Victory-Southgate complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Virgin Islands of the United States

Survey Area Data: Version 8, Sep 26, 2014