

Land Classification Interpretations
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Prime and Important Farmland

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses (the land could be cropland, pastureland, forest land, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water). It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farming methods.

In general, prime farmlands have an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, acceptable salt content, and few or no rocks. They are permeable to water and air. Prime farmlands are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time, and they either do not flood frequently or are protected from flooding.

This section includes lists of soil survey map units that meet the soil requirements for prime farmland in the county and state. Soils that have limitations, such as a high water table or flooding, may qualify as prime farmland if these limitations are overcome by such measures as drainage or flood control. State important soils are also noted.

This subsection includes:

- **(a) County Prime Farmland List**
- **(b) Missouri's Soil Survey Mapping Units Denoting Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance**

(Only the soils considered prime farmland are listed. Urban or built-up areas of the soils listed are not considered prime farmland. If a soil is prime farmland only under certain conditions, the conditions are specified in parentheses after the soil name.)

Map symbol	Soil name
BaB	Barco loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
Bk	Blackoar silt loam, occasionally flooded (Prime farmland if drained)
Br	Bremer silty clay loam, rarely flooded (Prime farmland if drained)
DpB	Deepwater silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
Dt	Dockery silty clay loam, frequently flooded (Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season)
Fs	Freeburg silt loam, rarely flooded
Hg	Haig silt loam (Prime farmland if drained)
HtA	Hartwell silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
HtB2	Hartwell silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes, eroded
Lg	Lightning silt loam, occasionally flooded (Prime farmland if drained)
MaB	Macksburg silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes
MdB	Mandeville silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
Nd	Nodaway silt loam, occasionally flooded
PoB	Polo silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
SaB	Sampsel silty clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes (Prime farmland if drained)
ShB	Sharpsburg silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
Wa	Wabash silty clay, frequently flooded (Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season)
WdB	Weller silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
WfB	Winfield silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
Zk	Zook silty clay loam, frequently flooded (Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season)

