

## Prime and Important Farmlands (VT)

Rutland County, Vermont

[This information is intended to be used in making Important Farmlands and Vermont Act 250 Primary Agricultural Soils evaluations. These ratings are based on the USDA-NRCS report "Farmland Classification Systems for Vermont Soils", revised June, 2006]

Map symbol	Soil map unit name	Vermont Important Farmland Rating (with footnote)	Vermont Agricultural Value Group (with footnote)
1B	Marlow fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
1C	Marlow fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	7
1D	Marlow fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	8
2C	Marlow fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
2D	Marlow fine sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
2E	Marlow fine sandy loam, 35 to 60 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
3B	Peru gravelly fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
3C	Peru gravelly fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	7
4B	Peru gravelly fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
4C	Peru gravelly fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
4D	Peru gravelly fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
6A	Cabot gravelly fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
7C	Brayton loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
9	Pits-Dumps complex	NPSL	11
11C	Taconic-Hubbardton complex, 8 to 25 percent slopes, very rocky	NPSL	10
12F	Taconic-Hubbardton-Macomber complex, 25 to 80 percent slopes, very rocky	NPSL	11
13B	Hinckley gravelly loamy fine sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Statewide	6
13C	Hinckley gravelly loamy fine sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Local	8
13D	Hinckley gravelly loamy fine sand, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	10
13E	Hinckley gravelly loamy fine sand, 25 to 40 percent slopes	NPSL	11
14A	Sudbury fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime	3
14B	Sudbury fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
15A	Walpole fine sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Prime (b)	3d
18B	Windsor loamy sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Statewide	6
18C	Windsor loamy sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Local	8
18D	Windsor loamy sand, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	8
18E	Windsor loamy sand, 25 to 60 percent slopes	NPSL	11
21	Rippowam fine sandy loam	Statewide (b)	4d
22	Saco mucky silt loam	NPSL	8d
23	Adrian muck	NPSL	11
24	Pinnebog muck	NPSL	11
25A	Belgrade silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime	1
25B	Belgrade silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Statewide	2
25C	Belgrade silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	7
26A	Raynham silt loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Prime (b)	3d
28	Udifluvents and Fluvaquents, nearly level	NPSL	11
29	Histosols and Aquents, ponded	NPSL	11
30B	Paxton fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	1
30C	Paxton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	5
30D	Paxton fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	8
31B	Paxton fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
31C	Paxton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
31D	Paxton fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
31E	Paxton fine sandy loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11

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38A	Tisbury silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime	3
39B	Galway-Nellis-Farmington complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
40C	Galway-Nellis-Farmington complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, rocky	Statewide	5
40D	Galway-Nellis-Farmington complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes, rocky	NPSL	10
41C	Farmington-Galway-Galoo complex, 5 to 25 percent slopes, very rocky	NPSL	9
41E	Farmington-Galway-Galoo complex, 25 to 50 percent slopes, very rocky	NPSL	11
42C	Macomber-Taconic complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, rocky	NPSL	10
42D	Macomber-Taconic complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes, rocky	NPSL	10
42F	Macomber-Taconic complex, 25 to 80 percent slopes, rocky	NPSL	11
43C	Taconic-Macomber complex, 8 to 25 percent slopes, very rocky	NPSL	10
44B	Dutchess silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
44C	Dutchess silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	5
44D	Dutchess silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	8
47B	Dutchess silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
47C	Dutchess silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
47D	Dutchess silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
47E	Dutchess silt loam, 25 to 60 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
50A	Massena silt loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Prime (b)	3d
52B	Macomber-Dutchess complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
53	Elvers silt loam	NPSL	10
54A	Ninigret fine sandy loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Prime	3
56B	Colton-Duxbury complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
56C	Colton-Duxbury complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
56D	Colton-Duxbury complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
56E	Colton-Duxbury complex, 25 to 50 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
57B	Duxbury-Colton complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
58C	Colton-Duxbury complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	NPSL	7
58D	Colton-Duxbury complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	10
59A	Deerfield loamy sand, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Statewide	6
61A	Eldridge fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime	3
61B	Eldridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
62	Enosburg loamy fine sand	Prime (b)	3d
64B	Stockbridge gravelly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	1
64C	Stockbridge gravelly silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	5
64D	Stockbridge gravelly silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	8
65B	Stockbridge gravelly silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
65C	Stockbridge gravelly silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
65D	Stockbridge gravelly silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
65E	Stockbridge gravelly silt loam, 25 to 45 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
66B	Georgia and Amenia soils, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
66C	Georgia and Amenia soils, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	7
67B	Georgia and Amenia soils, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
67C	Georgia and Amenia soils, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
67D	Georgia and Amenia soils, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
68A	Massena silt loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
71A	Castile gravelly fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime	3

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72A	Fredon gravelly loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime (b)	3d
73	Scarboro muck	NPSL	10
80A	Kingsbury silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Statewide	6d
80B	Kingsbury silty clay loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Statewide	6d
81	Livingston silty clay loam	NPSL	10
82B	Vergennes clay, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Statewide	6
82C	Vergennes clay, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	7
82D	Vergennes clay, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	8
82E	Vergennes clay, 25 to 50 percent slopes	NPSL	11
86	Linwood muck	NPSL	11
88	Birdsall muck	NPSL	10
90B	Hartland silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Statewide	2
90C	Hartland silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	5
90D	Hartland silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	8
95	Udorthents loamy	NPSL	11
96	Udipsamments, nearly level	NPSL	11
97A	Warwick-Quonset complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime	3
97B	Warwick-Quonset complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
97C	Warwick-Quonset complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	7
97D	Warwick-Quonset complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	8
98E	Quonset-Warwick complex, 25 to 45 percent slopes	NPSL	11
99B	Copake gravelly fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	1
104B	Groton gravelly loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Statewide	4
105	Tioga fine sandy loam	Prime	1
106	Middlebury loam	Prime	1
108	Hamlin silt loam	Prime	1
109	Teel silt loam, sandy substratum	Prime	1
110	Limerick silt loam	Statewide (b)	4d
111	Livingston silty clay loam, frequently flooded	NPSL	10
118C	Adams loamy fine sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Local	8
122B	Lyme fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
122C	Lyme fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
123B	Sheepscot fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Statewide	6
123C	Sheepscot fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	7
124B	Sunapee fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
124C	Sunapee fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
124D	Sunapee fine sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
124E	Sunapee fine sandy loam, 35 to 50 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
125B	Berkshire gravelly fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	9
125C	Berkshire gravelly fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
125D	Berkshire gravelly fine sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
125E	Berkshire gravelly fine sandy loam, 35 to 50 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
127C	Houghtonville gravelly fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
127D	Houghtonville gravelly fine sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
127E	Houghtonville gravelly fine sandy loam, 35 to 60 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
128C	Rawsonville-Houghtonville complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, rocky	NPSL	10

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128D	Rawsonville-Houghtonville complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes, rocky	NPSL	10
128E	Rawsonville-Houghtonville complex, 35 to 60 percent slopes, rocky	NPSL	11
129D	Killington-Rawsonville complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes, very rocky	NPSL	10
129F	Killington-Rawsonville complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes, very rocky	NPSL	11
130B	Tunbridge-Berkshire complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes, rocky	NPSL	9
130C	Tunbridge-Berkshire complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, rocky	NPSL	9
130D	Tunbridge-Berkshire complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes, rocky	NPSL	10
130E	Tunbridge-Berkshire complex, 35 to 60 percent slopes, rocky	NPSL	11
131D	Lyman-Tunbridge-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
131E	Lyman-Tunbridge-Rock outcrop complex, 35 to 60 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
132C	Glebe-Stratton complex, 8 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
132E	Glebe-Stratton complex, 25 to 60 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
134F	Stratton-Londonderry-Ricker complex, 15 to 80 percent slopes, very rocky	NPSL	11
135D	Mundal loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
135E	Mundal loam, 35 to 60 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
138C	Berkshire gravelly fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	7
139B	Sunapee fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
139C	Sunapee fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	7
140C	Benson very channery loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes	NPSL	8
140D	Benson very channery loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	10
140E	Benson very channery loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes	NPSL	11
148B	Bomoseen and Pittstown soils, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
148C	Bomoseen and Pittstown soils, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Statewide	7
148D	Bomoseen and Pittstown soils, 15 to 25 percent slopes	NPSL	8
149B	Bomoseen and Pittstown soils, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
149C	Bomoseen and Pittstown soils, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
149D	Bomoseen and Pittstown soils, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	10
149E	Bomoseen and Pittstown soils, 25 to 40 percent slopes, very stony	NPSL	11
150A	Peacham muck, 0 to 8 percent slopes	NPSL	10
152	Lyons silt loam	NPSL	9
161A	Elmridge sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime	3
161B	Elmridge sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime	3
163	Canandaigua silt loam	Prime (b)	3d
175	Wappinger silt loam	Prime	1
177	Pawling silt loam	Prime	3
202E	Rawsonville-Killington association, very hilly, very rocky	NPSL	11
203D	Peru-Marlow association, hilly, very stony	NPSL	10
205D	Tunbridge-Berkshire-Marlow association, hilly, rocky	NPSL	11
213E	Glebe-Stratton association, very hilly, very rocky	NPSL	11
221F	Tunbridge-Berkshire association, very steep, very stony	NPSL	11
402D	Tunbridge-Lyman association, hilly, rocky	NPSL	10
403C	Brayton-Cabot-Pinnebog association, rolling, very stony	NPSL	10
405D	Tunbridge-Berkshire association, hilly, very rocky	NPSL	10
505D	Berkshire-Colton association, hilly, stony	NPSL	10
702F	Killington-Ricker-Rock outcrop association, very steep, very stony	NPSL	11
703D	Mundal-Cabot association, hilly, very stony	NPSL	10

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Map symbol	Soil map unit name	Vermont Important Farmland Rating (with footnote)	Vermont Agricultural Value Group (with footnote)
705D	Rawsonville-Houghtonville association, hilly, rocky	NPSL	10
W	Water	NPSL	11

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This table lists the prime and important farmlands category for the map units in the survey area and gives the Vermont Agricultural Value Group to which each map unit is assigned.

As defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, important farmlands consist of prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide and local importance. These farmlands are important because they are the best lands for production of the Nation's crops. For the purpose of this table, only the categories of prime farmland, additional farmland of statewide importance, and additional farmland of local importance are used. A designation of "NPSL" indicates that the map unit is not prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, or farmland of local importance.

**Prime Farmland.**--This category is indicated by a designation of "Prime" in the table. 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, woodland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil qualities, 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, and few or no rocks. It 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.

Location, tract size, and accessibility to markets and support industries are not considered when prime farmland determinations are made.

In Vermont, map units qualify for prime farmland if the dominant soils meet all of the following conditions:

- The soil temperature and the growing season are favorable.
- Soil moisture is adequate to sustain the commonly grown crops throughout the growing season in at least 7 years out of 10.
- Water moves readily through the soils, and the soils have no root-restricting layers within 20 inches of the surface.
- Less than 10 percent of the surface layer consists of rock fragments larger than 3 inches in diameter.
- The soils are neither too acid nor too alkaline for the commonly grown crops, or the soils respond readily to additions of lime.
- The soils are not frequently flooded (flooding occurs less often than once in 2 years) and do not have a seasonal high water table, or the water table can be maintained at a sufficient depth during the growing season for growth of the commonly grown crops.
- The slope is favorable (generally less than 8 percent), and the soils are not subject to severe erosion.
- Typically, the soils are deep (more than 40 inches to bedrock); but if the available water capacity is adequate, moderately deep soils (20 to 40 inches to bedrock) may qualify.

**Additional Farmland of Statewide Importance.**--This category is indicated by a designation of "Statewide" in the table. Some areas other than prime farmland are of statewide importance in the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. In Vermont, the criteria used in defining and delineating these areas have been determined by the appropriate State agencies in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Generally, additional farmland of statewide importance includes areas that nearly meet the criteria for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed by acceptable farming methods. Some areas can produce as high a yield as areas of prime farmland if conditions are favorable.

In Vermont, the dominant soils in map units that are designated as additional farmland of statewide importance have limitations resulting from one or more of the following:

- Excessive slope and hazard of erosion
- Excessive wetness or restricted permeability
- A hazard of flooding
- Shallow (less than 20 inches) depth to bedrock or other layers that limit the root zone and the available water capacity
- Moderately low to very low available water capacity

**Additional Farmland of Local Importance.**--This category is indicated by a designation of "Local" in the table. This land consists of areas that are of local importance in the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops and are not identified as having national or statewide importance. Where appropriate, this land is identified by local agencies. It may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance. In Vermont, a few map units have been identified as additional farmland of local importance. These designations were made cooperatively by the local Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

In some areas map units that have slopes of less than 15 percent, are somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained, and have stones covering 0.1 to 3.0 percent of the surface could be identified as additional farmland of local importance if the wetness and the surface stoniness could be overcome. In many of these areas, however, the surface stones have not been cleared because the wetness was too difficult to overcome.

In most cases, determinations of important farmland apply to an entire map unit rather than to individual components of a map unit. On some soils,

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measures that overcome a hazard or limitation are needed. Onsite evaluation is needed to determine whether or not the hazard or limitation has been overcome by corrective measures.

In the "Vermont Important Farmland Rating" column, some of the designations are followed by a lowercase letter in parentheses. These letters indicate certain conditions relative to the important farmland designation. The conditions represented by each lowercase letter are described in the following paragraphs.

(a) If the upper slope class limit for the map unit is between 9 and 15 percent, the areas that have slopes of more than 8 percent do not qualify as prime or important farmland. If the upper slope class limit for the map unit is more than 15 percent, the areas that have slopes of more than 15 percent do not qualify as prime or important farmland.

(b) The soils are limited by wetness, which may be difficult or unfeasible to overcome. The map unit qualifies as prime or important farmland only in areas where artificial drainage is feasible.

(c) Bedrock outcrops commonly cover more than 2 percent of the surface. The map unit qualifies as prime or important farmland only in areas where the bedrock outcrops are not extensive enough to prohibit efficient farming.

"Agricultural Value Groups" are intended to provide information about the relative value of individual map units for agricultural production. The groups can be useful in administering national, State, and local land use programs and regulations.

The groups consist of map units that have similar characteristics, limitations, management requirements, and potential for crop production. Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 1 have the most potential for crop production, and map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 11 have the least potential. Map units in Agricultural Value Group 12 have not been evaluated for potential agricultural use. The groupings are based in part on the system of land capability classification used by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 210, 1961). Each group is assigned a relative value, which is an index number ranging from 100 for Group 1 to 0 for Group 11. General descriptions of the Agricultural Value Groups are as follows:

- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 1 are considered to be prime farmland. They are mostly in land capability class 1 or 2. The relative value of this group is 100.
- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 2 are considered to be farmland of statewide importance. They are mostly in land capability class 2. The relative value of this group is 97.
- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 3 are considered to be prime farmland. They are mostly in land capability class 2 or 3. The relative value of this group is 84.
- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 4 are considered to be farmland of statewide importance. They are mostly in land capability class 2, 3, or 4. The relative value of this group is 82.
- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 5 are considered to be farmland of statewide importance. They are mostly in land capability class 3. The relative value of this group is 69.
- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 6 are considered to be farmland of statewide importance. They are mostly in land capability class 2, 3, or 4. The relative value of this group is 63.
- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 7 are considered to be farmland of statewide importance. They are mostly in land capability class 3. The relative value of this group is 57.
- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 8 have limitations for crop production, but the limitations generally can be overcome. The map units are mostly in land capability class 4 or 6. The major limitations are a limited available water capacity and a hazard of erosion. A few map units in this group are considered to be farmland of local importance. The relative value of this group is 52.
- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 9 are generally considered to be unsuitable for crop production. The limitations in areas of these soils are difficult to overcome. They include slope, wetness, surface stones, and bedrock outcrops. Onsite investigation is required to determine the feasibility of corrective measures and of using these soils for crop production. Map units are assigned to this group rather than to Agricultural Value Group 11 only if corrective measures are determined to be feasible. Normally, the cost of overcoming the limitations and the laws governing the installation of corrective measures are not considered when this determination is made. The map units in this group are mostly in land capability class 5, 6, or 7. The relative value of this group is 43.
- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 10 are generally considered to be unsuitable for crop production. The limitations in areas of these soils are very difficult to overcome. They include slope, wetness, surface stones, and bedrock outcrops. The map units in this group can be used as cropland only if intensive and expensive corrective measures are applied. Onsite investigation is required to determine the feasibility of corrective measures and of using these soils for crop production. Map units are assigned to this group rather than to Agricultural Value Group 11 only if corrective measures are determined to be feasible. Normally, the cost of overcoming the limitations and the laws governing the installation of corrective measures are not considered when this determination is made. The map units in this group are mostly in land capability class 5, 6, or 7. The relative value of this group is 22.
- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 11 have very limited potential for crop production. They are mostly in land capability class 7 or 8. They can be converted to agricultural uses in only rare cases and generally only if very expensive corrective measures are applied. The relative value of this group is 0.
- Map units assigned to Agricultural Value Group 12 have generally not been evaluated because they are in areas where access was restricted.

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Onsite investigation is needed to determine whether these map units could be used for agricultural production. No relative value is assigned to this group.

In the "Vermont Agricultural Value Group" column, some of the numerical designations are followed by a lowercase letter. These letters indicate certain conditions relative to the agricultural value group designation. The conditions represented by each lowercase letter are described as follows:

(d) The soils are limited by wetness, which may be difficult to overcome. The map unit qualifies for placement in the designated group only in areas where artificial drainage is feasible.

(e) Bedrock outcrops cover more than 2 percent of the surface. The map unit qualifies for placement in the designated group only in areas where the bedrock outcrops are not extensive enough to prohibit efficient farming.

The Agricultural Value Group designations can be used for many State and local programs, including:

- Design and implementation of Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) systems;
- Implementation of Public Law 97-98, the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA);
- Rating of agricultural soils for appraisal under Vermont's Use Value Program of Agricultural and Forest Land;
- Rating of agricultural soils for appraisal under Town Tax Stabilization Programs;
- Assessment of agricultural soils by land trusts, landowners, bankers, and real estate agents; and
- Broad resource planning by State agencies and regional planning commissions.