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–St. Lucie County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
1	Anclote sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
2	Ankona and Farmton sands	Not prime farmland
3	Ankona-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
4	Arents, 0-5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
5	Arents, 45 to 65 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
6	Arents, organic substratum	Not prime farmland
7	Astatula sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
8	Basinger sand	Farmland of unique importance
9	Beaches	Not prime farmland
10	Canaveral fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
11	Chobee loamy sand, depressional	Farmland of unique importance
12	Electra fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
13	Floridana sand, depressional	Farmland of unique importance
14	Fluvaquents, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
15	Hallandale sand	Farmland of unique importance
16	Hilolo loamy sand	Farmland of unique importance
17	Hobe sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
18	Hontoon muck, depressional	Not prime farmland
19	Jonathan sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
20	Kaliga muck, depressional	Not prime farmland
21	Lawnwood and Myakka sands	Farmland of unique importance
22	Lawnwood-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
23	Malabar fine sand	Farmland of unique importance

Prime and other Important Farmlands–St. Lucie County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
24	Myakka fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
25	Nettles and Oldsmar sands	Farmland of unique importance
26	Oldsmar sand, depressional	Farmland of unique importance
27	Palm Beach fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
28	Paola sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
29	Pendarvis and Pomello sands, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
30	Pendarvis-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
31	Pepper and EauGallie sands	Farmland of unique importance
32	Pineda sand	Farmland of unique importance
33	Pits	Not prime farmland
34	Pompano sand	Not prime farmland
35	Kesson-Terra Ceia complex, tidal	Not prime farmland
36	Pople sand	Farmland of unique importance
37	Riviera sand, depressional	Farmland of unique importance
38	Riviera fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
39	Salerno and Punta sands	Not prime farmland
40	Samsula muck, depressional	Not prime farmland
41	Satellite sand	Not prime farmland
42	St. Lucie sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
43	Susanna and Wauchula sands	Not prime farmland
44	Tantile and Pomona sands	Not prime farmland
45	Terra Ceia muck, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
46	Mckee sandy clay loam, tidal	Not prime farmland
47	Urban land	Not prime farmland
48	Wabasso sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
49	Wabasso fine sand, gravelly substratum	Farmland of unique importance
50	Waveland and Immokalee fine sands	Not prime farmland
51	Waveland-Lawnwood complex, depressional	Not prime farmland
52	Waveland-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
54	Winder sand, depressional	Farmland of unique importance
55	Winder loamy sand	Farmland of unique importance
56	Winder sand, shell substratum	Farmland of unique importance
57	Oldsmar fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
58	EauGallie fine sand	Not prime farmland
59	Kesson muck	Not prime farmland
60	Quartzipsamments, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
61	Archbold sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
62	Jupiter fine sand	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–St. Lucie County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
99	Water	
100	Waters of the Atlantic Ocean	

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: St. Lucie County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 5, Dec 16, 2013