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–Washington County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
2	Rutlege, Pickney and Pamlico soils, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
4	Gritney loamy sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
7	Bladen-Dunbar complex, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
9	Albany, Chipley, Leon complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
11	Dothan loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
12	Dothan loamy sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
14	Dothan loamy sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
18	Fuquay-Dothan complex, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
22	Nankin-Cowarts complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
23	Nankin-Cowarts complex, 5 to 8 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
29	Dunbar loamy sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
35	Lucy-Troup complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
36	Troup-Lucy complex, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
39	Bonifay-Fuquay complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
40	Bonifay loamy sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
41	Lucy sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
52	Grady loam, ponded	Not prime farmland
54	Albany-Ocilla complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
55	Chipley-Albany-Hurricane complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
56	Albany-Ocilla complex, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
57	Ocilla-Leefield complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Washington County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
61	Lakeland sand, 8 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
62	Lakeland sand, 12 to 45 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
63	Lakeland sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
64	Lakeland sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
67	Nankin-Cowarts-Lakeland complex, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
68	Nankin-Cowarts-Lakeland complex, 12 to 45 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
71	Lynchburg loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
72	Lynchburg loamy fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
85	Searcy-Oktibbeha complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
86	Hannon-Oktibbeha complex, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
87	Clara and Plummer soils, occasionally ponded	Not prime farmland
90	Rains and Bayboro soils, depressional	Not prime farmland
91	Orangeburg loamy sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
96	Orangeburg loamy sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
98	Rutlege loamy fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
99	Water	Not prime farmland
100	Leon-Chipley complex	Not prime farmland
106	Pantego and Clara soils, ponded	Not prime farmland
110	Arents, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
112	Pottsburg sand, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
113	Pits-Udorthents complex, reclaimed, 0 to 90 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
116	Blanton-Lakeland complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
117	Blanton-Lakeland complex, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
119	Blanton-Lakeland complex, 8 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
121	Goldsboro loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
122	Goldsboro loamy sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
123	Blanton-Lakeland complex, 12 to 45 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
127	Goldsboro loamy sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
128	Blanton-Bonneau complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
129	Blanton-Bonneau complex, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Washington County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 9, Dec 27, 2013