

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—Lake County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Ad	Adrian muck	Not prime farmland
As	Allis silt loam	Not prime farmland
Bs	Beaches	Not prime farmland
Cg	Carlisle muck	Not prime farmland
CoB	Colonie loamy fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
CoD	Colonie loamy fine sand, 6 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CoF	Colonie loamy fine sand, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CtA	Conneaut silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CtB	Conneaut silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CwA	Conneaut silt loam, shale substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CxA	Conotton loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CyB	Conotton gravelly loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
CyC	Conotton gravelly loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DaA	Darien silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DaB	Darien silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DaC	Darien silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Dc	Dumps, covered	Not prime farmland
DhB	Darien-Hornell silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Du	Dumps, chemical waste	Not prime farmland
EIB	Ellsworth silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EIC	Ellsworth silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EID	Ellsworth silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EIF	Ellsworth silt loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Lake County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
EmC	Ellsworth silt loam, shale substratum, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EmD	Ellsworth silt loam, shale substratum, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EnB	Elnora loamy fine sand, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
EuA	Euclid silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FcA	Fitchville silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
GfA	Glenford silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GfB	Glenford silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GoF	Gosport silty clay loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Gr	Granby sandy loam	Farmland of unique importance
HaA	Harbor fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ho	Holly silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
HrA	Hornell silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HrB	Hornell silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Kf	Kingsville fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
Lb	Lobdell silt loam	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
LrB	Lordstown channery silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LrC	Lordstown channery silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LxF	Lordstown-Rock outcrop complex, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MgA	Mahoning silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MgB	Mahoning silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MhB	Mahoning silt loam, shale substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Mk	Otego silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Mm	Mill silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Mo	Minoa fine sandy loam	Prime farmland if drained
MtA	Mitiwanga silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Or	Orrville silt loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
OsA	Oshtemo sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OsB	Oshtemo sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OtB	Otisville gravelly loamy sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
Pa	Painesville fine sandy loam	Prime farmland if drained
PeB	Pierpont silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
PeB2	Pierpont silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland
PeC2	Pierpont silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Farmland of local importance
PeD2	Pierpont silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Lake County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Po	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
PsA	Platea silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
PsB	Platea silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
PtB	Platea-Darien silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RhA	Red Hook sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RkB	Red Hook silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Rv	Riverwash	Not prime farmland
St	Stafford loamy fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
Sw	Swanton fine sandy loam	Prime farmland if drained
Tg	Tioga loam	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Th	Tioga Variant silt loam	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
ToD	Towerville silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TyB	Tyner loamy sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TyC	Tyner loamy sand, 6 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TzA	Tyner Variant sandy loam	All areas are prime farmland
UdB	Udorthents, gently sloping	Not prime farmland
UdD	Udorthents, moderately steep	Not prime farmland
Ur	Urban land	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Lake County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 12, Sep 19, 2014