

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—Scioto County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AfD	Alford silt loam, 10 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BeC	Berks channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhD	Bethesda very shaly clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BkD	Bethesda channery silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BrF	Brownsville-Rock outcrop association, very steep	Not prime farmland
CaF	Casco loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CkC	Clymer silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CoB	Coolville silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CpC	Coolville-Rarden silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cu	Cuba silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Dol1A1	Doles silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Dp	Dumps	Not prime farmland
EhB	Elkinsville silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EkB	Elkinsville silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EkE	Elkinsville silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EmB	Elkinsville-Urban land complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ErD	Ernest silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FcA	Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FoB	Fox loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ge	Genesee silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
GIL1D1	Gilpin-Latham silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ha	Haymond silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Hu	Huntington silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Scioto County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
La	Landes fine sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
LaG1D1	Latham-Gilpin silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LaGZD1	Latham-Gilpin association, hilly	Not prime farmland
Lah1C1	Latham silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Lah1D1	Latham silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LaSXD1	Latham-Steinsburg complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LaSZD1	Latham-Steinsburg association, hilly	Not prime farmland
LbD2	Latham silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LBSZE1	Latham-Brownsville-Shelocta association, steep	Not prime farmland
LhW1D1	Latham-Wharton silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MoB	Monongahela silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MoC2	Monongahela silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
No	Nolin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
OcB	Ockley loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Omu1B1	Omulga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Omu1C1	Omulga silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
OpB	Omulga-Urban land complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
OpC	Omulga-Urban land complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
OsB	Omulga silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OsC2	Omulga silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Pe	Peoga silt loam, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Po	Piopolis silt loam, ponded	Not prime farmland
Ps	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Pt	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
RbC	Rarden silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ro	Rosburg silty clay loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
RrG1C1	Rarden-Gilpin silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SaB	Sardinia silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SacB	Sciotoville silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SbB	Shelocta silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SbC	Shelocta silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SbD	Shelocta silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ScE	Shelocta-Brownsville association, steep	Not prime farmland
ScF	Shelocta-Brownsville association, very steep	Not prime farmland
SeF	Shelocta-Steinsburg association, very steep	Not prime farmland
Sk	Skidmore silt loam, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
SmE	Shelocta-Muse-Colyer association, steep	Not prime farmland
SsF	Steinsburg-Shelocta association, very steep	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Scioto County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
St	Stendal silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SWLZE1	Shelocta-Wharton-Latham association, steep	Not prime farmland
TcB	Tilsit-Coolville association, undulating	Not prime farmland
To	Tioga loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ud	Udorthents	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WdA	Weinbach silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WeA	Weinbach silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
WfC	Wharton silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WfD	Wharton silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WkD	Wharton-Urban land complex, 8 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WmB	Wheeling silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WnB	Wheeling silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WpB	Wheeling-Urban land complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Wya1B1	Wyatt silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Wya3C2	Wyatt silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

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