

## 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—Duval County, Florida		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
2	Albany fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
2t2v2	Cassia fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
6	Aquic Quartzipsamments, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
7	Arents, nearly level	Not prime farmland
9	Arents, sanitary landfill	Not prime farmland
10	Beaches, very frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
12	Blanton fine sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
14	Boulogne fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
18	Corolla fine sand, gently undulating to rolling, rarely flooded	Not prime farmland
19	Cornelia fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
22	Evergreen-Wesconnett complex, depressional, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
23	Fripp-Corolla, rarely flooded, complex, gently undulating to hilly	Not prime farmland
24	Hurricane and Ridgewood soils, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
25	Kershaw fine sand, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
26	Kershaw fine sand, smoothed, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
29	Kureb fine sand, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
31	Kureb fine sand, rolling, 8 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
32	Leon fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
33	Leon fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes, very frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
35	Lynn Haven fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
36	Mandarin fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
38	Mascotte fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Duval County, Florida		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
40	Maurepas muck, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
42	Newhan-Corolla, rarely flooded, complex, gently undulating to hilly, 2 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
44	Mascotte-Pelham complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
46	Ortega fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
49	Pamlico muck, depressionnal, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
50	Pamlico muck, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
51	Pelham fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
53	Penney fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
55	Pits	Not prime farmland
56	Pottsburg fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
58	Pottsburg fine sand, high, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
62	Rutlege mucky fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
63	Sapelo fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
66	Surrency loamy fine sand, depressionnal, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
67	Surrency loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
68	Tisonia mucky peat, 0 to 1 percent slopes, very frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
69	Urban land	Not prime farmland
71	Urban land-Leon-Boulogne complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
72	Urban land-Ortega-Kershaw complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
73	Urban land-Mascotte-Sapelo complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
74	Pelham-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
75	Urban land-Hurricane-Albany complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
78	Yonges fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
79	Yulee clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
80	Goldhead, Wet, and Lynn Haven soils, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
81	Stockade fine sandy loam, depressionnal, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
82	Pelham fine sand, ponded, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
86	Yulee clay, depressionnal, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
87	Dorovan muck, depressionnal, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
88	Lynchburg fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
99	Water	Not prime farmland
100	Waters of the Atlantic Ocean	Not prime farmland

## Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Duval County, Florida  
 Survey Area Data: Version 9, Sep 22, 2014