

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—Escambia County, Florida		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
2	Duckston sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
3	Corolla-Duckston sands, gently undulating, flooded	Not prime farmland
4	Pickney sand	Not prime farmland
5	Croatan and Pickney soils, depressional	Not prime farmland
6	Dirego muck, tidal	Not prime farmland
7	Kureb sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
8	Newhan-Corolla complex, rolling, rarely flooded	Not prime farmland
9	Leon sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
10	Beaches	Not prime farmland
11	Hurricane sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
12	Croatan muck, depressional	Not prime farmland
13	Lakeland sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
14	Allanton-Pottsburg complex	Not prime farmland
15	Resota sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
16	Arents-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
17	Kureb sand, 8 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
18	Pits	Not prime farmland
19	Foxworth sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
20	Lakeland sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
21	Lakeland sand, 8 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
22	Urban land	Not prime farmland
24	Poarch sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
25	Poarch sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
26	Poarch sandy loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
27	Escambia fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
28	Grady loam	Not prime farmland
29	Perdido sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
30	Perdido sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
31	Perdido sandy loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
32	Troup sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
33	Troup sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
34	Troup sand, 8 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
35	Lucy loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
36	Lucy loamy sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
38	Bonifay loamy sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
39	Bonifay loamy sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
40	Eunola fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
41	Malbis sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
42	Malbis sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
43	Albany sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
44	Corolla-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes, rarely flooded	Not prime farmland
45	Troup and Perdido soils, 8 to 35 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
46	Garcon-Bigbee-Yemassee complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
47	Hurricane and Albany soils, 0 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
48	Pelham-Yemassee complex, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
49	Dorovan muck and Fluvaquents, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
50	Bigbee-Garcon-Fluvaquents complex, flooded	Not prime farmland
51	Pelham loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
52	Robertsdale sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
54	Troup-Poarch complex, 8 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
55	Troup-Poarch complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
56	Troup-Poarch complex, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
57	Cowarts-Troup complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
58	Eunola fine sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
59	Notcher fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
60	Notcher fine sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
61	Notcher fine sandy loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
62	Bama fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
63	Bama fine sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
64	Red Bay fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
65	Red Bay fine sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
66	Red Bay fine sandy loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
67	Notcher-Maubila complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
68	Notcher-Maubila complex, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
69	Notcher-Maubila complex, 8 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
70	Izagora fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
71	Iuka fine sandy loam, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
72	Yemassee fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
73	Grady loam, drained	Farmland of local importance
74	Lucy loamy sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
75	Weston fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
76	Mantachie-Fluvaquents-Bigbee complex, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
77	Arents-Water complex, undulating	Not prime farmland
78	Emory fine sandy loam, ponded	All areas are prime farmland
99	Water	Not prime farmland
100	Waters of the Gulf of Mexico	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Escambia County, Florida
 Survey Area Data: Version 11, Sep 26, 2014