

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—Franklin County, Florida | | |
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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| 2 | Albany fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 3 | Beaches | Not prime farmland |
| 4 | Dirego and Bayvi soils, tidal | Not prime farmland |
| 5 | Aquents, nearly level | Not prime farmland |
| 6 | Blanton fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 7 | Bohicket and Tisonia soils, tidal | Not prime farmland |
| 8 | Ridgewood sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 9 | Chaires sand | Not prime farmland |
| 10 | Corolla sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 11 | Dorovan-Pamlico complex, depressional | Not prime farmland |
| 12 | Lynchburg loamy fine sand | Prime farmland if drained |
| 13 | Hurricane sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 14 | Harbeson mucky loamy sand, depressional | Not prime farmland |
| 15 | Ortega fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 16 | Bonsai mucky fine sand, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 17 | Kershaw sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 18 | Kershaw sand, 5 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 19 | Kureb fine sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 20 | Lynn Haven sand | Not prime farmland |
| 21 | Leefield sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 22 | Leon sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 23 | Maurepas muck, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 24 | Mandarin fine sand | Not prime farmland |

| Prime and other Important Farmlands--Franklin County, Florida | | |
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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| 25 | Chowan, Brickyard, and Kenner soils, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 26 | Duckston sand, occasionally flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 27 | Pelham fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 28 | Plummer fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 29 | Resota fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 30 | Rutlege loamy fine sand, depressional | Not prime farmland |
| 31 | Rutlege fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 32 | Sapelo fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 33 | Scranton fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 34 | Surrency fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 35 | Stilson fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 36 | Pickney-Pamlico complex, depressional | Not prime farmland |
| 37 | Tooles-Meadowbrook complex, depressional | Not prime farmland |
| 38 | Meadowbrook sand | Not prime farmland |
| 39 | Scranton sand, slough | Not prime farmland |
| 40 | Newhan-Corolla complex, rolling | Not prime farmland |
| 41 | Pamlico-Pickney complex, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 42 | Meadowbrook, Meggett, and Tooles soils, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 43 | Meadowbrook sand, slough | Not prime farmland |
| 44 | Tooles sand | Not prime farmland |
| 45 | Wehadkee-Meggett complex, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 46 | Duckston-Rutlege-Corolla complex | Not prime farmland |
| 47 | Duckston-Bohicket-Corolla complex | Not prime farmland |
| 48 | Udorthents, nearly level | Not prime farmland |
| 99 | Water | Not prime farmland |
| 100 | Waters of the Gulf of Mexico | Not prime farmland |

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Franklin County, Florida
 Survey Area Data: Version 10, Sep 26, 2014