

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—Hillsborough County, Florida | | |
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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| 2 | Adamsville fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 3 | Archbold fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 4 | Arents, nearly level | Not prime farmland |
| 5 | Basinger, Holopaw, and Samsula soils, depressional | Not prime farmland |
| 6 | Broward-Urban land complex | Not prime farmland |
| 7 | Candler fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Farmland of unique importance |
| 8 | Candler fine sand, 5 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 9 | Candler-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 10 | Chobee loamy fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 11 | Chobee muck, depressional | Not prime farmland |
| 12 | Chobee sandy loam, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 13 | Eaton fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 14 | Eaton mucky sand, depressional | Not prime farmland |
| 15 | Felda fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 16 | Felda fine sand, occasionally flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 17 | Floridana fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 18 | Fort Meade loamy fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Farmland of unique importance |
| 19 | Gainesville loamy fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 20 | Gypsum land | Not prime farmland |
| 21 | Immokalee fine sand | Farmland of unique importance |
| 22 | Immokalee-Urban land complex | Not prime farmland |
| 23 | Kendrick fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 24 | Kesson muck, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |

| Prime and other Important Farmlands--Hillsborough County, Florida | | |
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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| 25 | Lake fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Farmland of unique importance |
| 26 | Lochloosa-Micanopy fine sands, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 27 | Malabar fine sand | Farmland of unique importance |
| 28 | Millhopper-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 29 | Myakka fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Farmland of unique importance |
| 30 | Myakka fine sand, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 32 | Myakka-Urban land complex | Not prime farmland |
| 33 | Ona fine sand | Farmland of unique importance |
| 34 | Ona-Urban land complex | Not prime farmland |
| 35 | Orlando fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 36 | Orsino fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 37 | Paisley fine sand, depressional | Not prime farmland |
| 38 | Pinellas fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 39 | Arents, very steep | Not prime farmland |
| 41 | Pomello fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Farmland of unique importance |
| 42 | Pomello-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 43 | Quartzipsamments, nearly level | Not prime farmland |
| 44 | St. Augustine fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 45 | St. Augustine-Urban land complex | Not prime farmland |
| 46 | St. Johns fine sand | Farmland of unique importance |
| 47 | Seffner fine sand | Farmland of unique importance |
| 50 | Slickens | Not prime farmland |
| 51 | Haplaquents, clayey | Not prime farmland |
| 52 | Smyrna fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 53 | Tavares-Millhopper fine sands, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 54 | Tavares-Millhopper fine sands, 5 to 8 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 55 | Tavares-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 56 | Urban land | Not prime farmland |
| 57 | Wabasso fine sand | Farmland of unique importance |
| 58 | Wabasso-Urban land complex | Not prime farmland |
| 59 | Winder fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 60 | Winder fine sand, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 61 | Zolfo fine sand | Farmland of unique importance |
| 99 | Water | |
| 100 | Waters of the Gulf of Mexico | |

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Hillsborough County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 12, Sep 23, 2014