

## 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—Indian River County, Florida |   |                               |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Map Symbol   | Map Unit Name   | Farmland Classification       |
| 1  | Canaveral fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes            | Not prime farmland            |
| 2  | Chobee loamy fine sand                                | Farmland of unique importance |
| 3  | EauGallie fine sand                                   | Farmland of unique importance |
| 4  | Immokalee fine sand                                   | Not prime farmland            |
| 5  | Myakka-Myakka, wet, fine sands, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Not prime farmland            |
| 6  | Oldsmar fine sand                                     | Farmland of unique importance |
| 7  | Palm Beach sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes                | Not prime farmland            |
| 8  | Paola sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes                     | Not prime farmland            |
| 9  | Pepper sand   | Not prime farmland            |
| 10   | Riviera fine sand                                     | Farmland of unique importance |
| 11   | St. Lucie sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes                 | Not prime farmland            |
| 12   | Archbold sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes                  | Not prime farmland            |
| 13   | Wabasso fine sand                                     | Farmland of unique importance |
| 14   | Winder fine sand                                      | Farmland of unique importance |
| 15   | Manatee loamy fine sand                               | Farmland of unique importance |
| 16   | Pineda fine sand                                      | Farmland of unique importance |
| 17   | Quartzipsamments, 0 to 5 percent slopes               | Not prime farmland            |
| 18   | Captiva fine sand                                     | Not prime farmland            |
| 20   | Beaches   | Not prime farmland            |
| 21   | Pomello sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes                   | Not prime farmland            |
| 22   | Urban land  | Not prime farmland            |
| 23   | Arents, 0 to 5 percent slopes                         | Not prime farmland            |
| 24   | Floridana sand  | Farmland of unique importance |

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|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Map Symbol  | Map Unit Name                               | Farmland Classification       |
| 25  | St. Augustine sand                          | Not prime farmland            |
| 26  | St. Augustine fine sand, organic substratum | Not prime farmland            |
| 27  | Boca-Urban land complex                     | Not prime farmland            |
| 28  | EauGallie-Urban land complex                | Not prime farmland            |
| 29  | Immokalee-Urban land complex                | Not prime farmland            |
| 31  | Jupiter fine sand                           | Not prime farmland            |
| 32  | Jonathan sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes        | Not prime farmland            |
| 33  | Astatula sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes        | Not prime farmland            |
| 34  | Satellite fine sand                         | Not prime farmland            |
| 35  | Mckee mucky clay loam                       | Not prime farmland            |
| 36  | Boca fine sand                              | Not prime farmland            |
| 39  | Malabar fine sand                           | Not prime farmland            |
| 40  | Gator muck                                  | Not prime farmland            |
| 41  | Canova muck                                 | Not prime farmland            |
| 42  | Terra Ceia muck                             | Farmland of unique importance |
| 44  | Perrine variant fine sandy loam             | Not prime farmland            |
| 45  | Myakka fine sand, depressional              | Not prime farmland            |
| 46  | Orsino fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes     | Not prime farmland            |
| 47  | Holopaw fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes    | Not prime farmland            |
| 48  | Electra sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes         | Not prime farmland            |
| 49  | Pompano fine sand                           | Not prime farmland            |
| 50  | Pits  | Not prime farmland            |
| 51  | Riviera fine sand, depressional             | Farmland of unique importance |
| 52  | Oldsmar fine sand, depressional             | Not prime farmland            |
| 53  | Manatee mucky loamy fine sand, depressional | Not prime farmland            |
| 54  | Riomar clay loam                            | Not prime farmland            |
| 55  | Floridana mucky fine sand, depressional     | Not prime farmland            |
| 56  | Pineda fine sand, depressional              | Not prime farmland            |
| 57  | Holopaw fine sand, depressional             | Not prime farmland            |
| 58  | Samsula muck                                | Not prime farmland            |
| 59  | Lokosee fine sand                           | Not prime farmland            |
| 60  | Pompano fine sand, depressional             | Not prime farmland            |
| 61  | Delray muck                                 | Not prime farmland            |
| 62  | Chobee mucky loamy fine sand, depressional  | Not prime farmland            |
| 63  | Kesson muck                                 | Not prime farmland            |
| 99  | Water                                       | Not prime farmland            |
| 100   | Waters of the Atlantic Ocean                | Not prime farmland            |

## Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Indian River County, Florida  
Survey Area Data: Version 12, Sep 10, 2014