

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—Levy County, Florida		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
2	Tavares fine sand, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
3	Orsino fine sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
4	Millhopper fine sand, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
5	Immokalee fine sand	Not prime farmland
6	Candler fine sand, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
7	Candler-Apopka complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
8	Smyrna fine sand	Not prime farmland
9	Pomona fine sand	Not prime farmland
10	Placid fine sand	Not prime farmland
11	Placid and Samsula soils, depressional	Not prime farmland
12	Otela-Candler complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
13	Wekiva fine sand	Not prime farmland
14	Shadeville-Otela complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
15	Holopaw-Pineda complex, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
16	Chobee-Gator complex, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
17	Adamsville fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
18	Wauchula fine sand	Not prime farmland
19	Sparr fine sand	Not prime farmland
21	Pompano fine sand	Not prime farmland
22	Holopaw fine sand	Not prime farmland
23	Zolfo sand	Not prime farmland
24	Terra Ceia muck, depressional	Not prime farmland
25	Pits and Dumps	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Levy County, Florida		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
26	Gator and Terra Ceia soils, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
27	Placid and Popash soils, depressional	Not prime farmland
29	Chobee-Bradenton complex, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
31	Jonesville-Otela-Seaboard complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
32	Otela-Tavares complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
33	Wulfert muck	Not prime farmland
34	Cassia-Pomello complex	Not prime farmland
35	Pineda fine sand, limestone substratum	Not prime farmland
37	Myakka muck, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
38	Myakka sand	Not prime farmland
39	Waccasassa-Demory complex, flooded	Not prime farmland
40	Pineda fine sand	Not prime farmland
41	Demory muck, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
42	Ousley-Albany complex, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
43	Tidewater muck	Not prime farmland
45	Cracker mucky clay	Not prime farmland
46	Chobee muck, limestone substratum, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
48	Lutterloh-Moriah complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
49	Hicoria fine sand	Not prime farmland
50	Hicoria fine sandy loam, depressional	Not prime farmland
51	Ft. Green-Bivans complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
55	Pedro-Jonesville-Shadeville complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
56	Moriah-Bushnell-Mabel, limestone substratum, complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
57	Paola fine sand, gently rolling	Not prime farmland
58	Boca-Holopaw, limestone substratum, complex	Not prime farmland
59	Aripeka-Matmon complex	Not prime farmland
60	EauGallie-Holopaw complex, limestone substratum	Not prime farmland
62	Millhopper-Bonneau complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
65	Sparr-Lochloosa complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
66	Levyville-Shadeville complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
67	Immokalee, limestone substratum-Janney complex	Not prime farmland
68	Myakka, limestone substratum-Immokalee complex	Not prime farmland
69	Broward-Lutterloh, limestone substratum, complex	Not prime farmland
70	Hallandale-Boca-Holopaw complex	Not prime farmland
71	Pender loamy fine sand	Not prime farmland
72	Levyville-Hague complex	All areas are prime farmland
73	Orlando fine sand, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
74	Arents, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
75	Orlando fine sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
76	Astatula fine sand, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
77	Candler fine sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
78	Micanopy loamy fine sand, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
99	Water	
100	Waters of the Gulf of Mexico	

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Levy County, Florida
 Survey Area Data: Version 9, Sep 24, 2014