

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--Martin County, Florida		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
2	Lawnwood and Myakka fine sands	Farmland of unique importance
4	Waveland and Immokalee fine sands	Farmland of unique importance
5	Waveland and Lawnwood fine sands, depressional	Not prime farmland
6	Paola and St. Lucie sands, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
8	Palm Beach-Beaches complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
9	Pomello sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
13	Placid and Basinger fine sands, depressional	Farmland of unique importance
14	Archbold sand	Not prime farmland
16	Oldsmar fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
17	Wabasso sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
19	Winder sand, depressional	Farmland of unique importance
21	Pineda and Riviera fine sands	Farmland of unique importance
22	Okeelanta muck, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
23	Urban land	Not prime farmland
27	Arents, organic substratum, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
28	Canaveral sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
30	Bessie muck	Not prime farmland
34	St. Lucie-Paola-Urban land complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
35	Salerno sand	Not prime farmland
36	Arents, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
38	Floridana fine sand, depressional	Farmland of unique importance
40	Sanibel muck	Not prime farmland
41	Jonathan sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
42	Hallandale sand	Farmland of unique importance
44	Boca fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
47	Pinellas fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
48	Jupiter sand	Farmland of unique importance
49	Riviera fine sand, depressional	Farmland of unique importance
50	Wulfert and Durbin mucks, tidal	Not prime farmland
52	Malabar fine sand, high, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
53	Udorhents, 0 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
55	Basinger fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
56	Wabasso and Oldsmar fine sands, depressional	Not prime farmland
57	Chobee loamy sand, depressional	Farmland of unique importance
58	Gator and Tequesta mucks	Farmland of unique importance
61	Hobe fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
63	Nettles sand	Farmland of unique importance
66	Holopaw fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
67	Kesson sand, tidal	Not prime farmland
69	Hontoon muck	Not prime farmland
70	Canova muck, moderately deep, drained	Farmland of unique importance
73	Samsula muck, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
77	Paola and St. Lucie sands, 8 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
78	Duette fine sand	Not prime farmland
99	Water	
100	Waters of the Atlantic Ocean	

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Martin County, Florida
 Survey Area Data: Version 12, Sep 9, 2014