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–Orange County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
1	Arents, nearly level	Not prime farmland
2	Archbold fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
3	Basinger fine sand, depressional, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
4	Candler fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
5	Candler fine sand, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
6	Candler-Apopka fine sands, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
7	Candler-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
8	Candler-Urban land complex, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
9	Canova muck	Not prime farmland
10	Chobee fine sandy loam, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
11	Floridana and Chobee soils, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
12	Emeralda and Holopaw fine sands, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
13	Felda fine sand	Not prime farmland
14	Felda fine sand, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
15	Felda fine sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
16	Floridana fine sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
17	Floridana mucky fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
18	Gator muck	Not prime farmland
19	Hontoon muck	Not prime farmland
20	Immokalee fine sand	Not prime farmland
21	Lake fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
22	Lochloosa fine sand	Not prime farmland
23	Malabar fine sand	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Orange County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
24	Millhopper-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
25	Okeelanta muck	Not prime farmland
26	Ona fine sand	Not prime farmland
27	Ona-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
28	Florahome fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
29	Florahome-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
30	Pineda fine sand	Not prime farmland
31	Pineda fine sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
32	Pinellas fine sand	Not prime farmland
33	Pits	Not prime farmland
34	Pomello fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
35	Pomello-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
36	Pompano fine sand	Not prime farmland
37	St. Johns fine sand	Not prime farmland
38	St. Lucie fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
39	St. Lucie-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
40	Samsula muck	Not prime farmland
41	Samsula-Hontoon-Basinger association, depressional	Not prime farmland
42	Sanibel muck	Not prime farmland
43	Seffner fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
44	Smyrna-Smyrna, wet, fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
45	Smyrna-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
46	Tavares fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
47	Tavares-Millhopper fine sands, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
48	Tavares-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
49	Terra Ceia muck	Not prime farmland
50	Urban land	Not prime farmland
51	Wabasso fine sand	Not prime farmland
52	Wabasso-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
53	Wauberg fine sand	Not prime farmland
54	Zolfo fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
55	Zolfo-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
99	Water	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Orange County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 10, Sep 21, 2014