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–Polk County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
2	Apopka fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
3	Candler sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
4	Candler sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
5	EauGallie fine sand	Not prime farmland
6	Eaton mucky fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
7	Pomona fine sand	Not prime farmland
8	Hydraquents, clayey	Not prime farmland
9	Lynne sand	Not prime farmland
10	Malabar fine sand	Not prime farmland
11	Arents-Water complex	Not prime farmland
12	Neilhurst sand, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
13	Samsula muck	Not prime farmland
14	Sparr sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
15	Tavares fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
16	Urban land	Not prime farmland
17	Smyrna and Myakka fine sands	Not prime farmland
19	Floridana mucky fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
20	Fort Meade sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
21	Immokalee sand	Not prime farmland
22	Pomello fine sand	Not prime farmland
23	Ona fine sand	Not prime farmland
24	Nittaw sandy clay loam, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
25	Placid and Myakka fine sands, depressional	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Polk County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
26	Lochloosa fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
27	Kendrick fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
29	St. Lucie fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
30	Pompano fine sand	Not prime farmland
31	Adamsville fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
32	Kaliga muck	Not prime farmland
33	Holopaw fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
34	Anclote mucky fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
35	Hontoon muck	Not prime farmland
36	Basinger mucky fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
37	Placid fine sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
38	Electra fine sand	Not prime farmland
39	Arents, clayey substratum	Not prime farmland
40	Wauchula fine sand	Not prime farmland
41	St. Johns sand	Not prime farmland
42	Felda fine sand	Not prime farmland
43	Oldsmar fine sand	Not prime farmland
44	Paisley fine sand	Not prime farmland
46	Astatula sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
47	Zolfo fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
48	Chobee fine sandy loam, depressional, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
49	Adamsville-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
50	Candler-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
51	Pomona-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
53	Myakka-Immokolee-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
54	Pomello-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
55	Sparr-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
57	Haplaquents clayey	Not prime farmland
58	Udorthents, excavated	Not prime farmland
59	Arents-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
60	Arents, sandy	Not prime farmland
61	Arents, organic substratum-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
62	Wabasso fine sand	Not prime farmland
63	Tavares-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
64	Neilhurst-Urban land complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
66	Fort Meade-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
67	Bradenton fine sand	Not prime farmland
68	Arents, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
70	Duette fine sand	Not prime farmland
72	Bradenton-Felda-Chobee association, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
73	Gypsum land	Not prime farmland
74	Narcoossee sand	Not prime farmland
75	Valkaria sand	Not prime farmland
76	Millhopper fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
77	Satellite sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
78	Paisley fine sand, stony subsurface	Not prime farmland
80	Chobee fine sandy loam, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
81	St. Augustine sand	Not prime farmland
82	Felda fine sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
83	Archbold sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
85	Winder fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
86	Felda fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
87	Basinger fine sand	Not prime farmland
88	Astatula sand, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
89	Astatula sand, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
99	Water	

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Polk County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 10, Sep 22, 2014