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–St. Johns County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
1	Adamsville fine sand	Not prime farmland
2	Astatula fine sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
3	Myakka-Myakka, wet, fine sands, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
4	Myakka fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
5	St. Johns fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
6	Tavares fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
7	Immokalee fine sand	Not prime farmland
8	Zolfo fine sand	Not prime farmland
9	Pomona fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
11	Smyrna-Smyrna, wet, fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
12	Ona fine sand	Not prime farmland
13	St. Johns fine sand	Not prime farmland
14	Cassia fine sand	Not prime farmland
15	Pomello fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
16	Orsino fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
18	Floridana fine sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
19	Pompano fine sand	Not prime farmland
21	Wabasso fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
22	Manatee fine sandy loam, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
23	Paola fine sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
24	Pellicer silty clay loam, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
25	Parkwood fine sandy loam, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
26	Samsula muck	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–St. Johns County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
27	St. Augustine fine sand	Not prime farmland
28	Beaches	Not prime farmland
29	Satellite fine sand	Not prime farmland
30	Wesconnett fine sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
31	Fripp-Satellite complex	Not prime farmland
32	Palm Beach sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
33	Jonathan fine sand	Not prime farmland
34	Tocoi fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
35	Hontoon muck	Not prime farmland
36	Riviera fine sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
38	Pits	Not prime farmland
40	Pottsburg fine sand	Not prime farmland
41	Tomoka muck	Not prime farmland
42	Bluff sandy clay loam, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
44	Sparr fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
45	St. Augustine fine sand, clayey substratum	Not prime farmland
46	Holopaw fine sand	Not prime farmland
47	Holopaw fine sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
48	Winder fine sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
49	Moultrie fine sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
50	Narcoossee fine sand, shelly substratum	Not prime farmland
51	St. Augustine-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
52	Durbin muck, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
53	Immokalee-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
54	Astatula-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
55	Arents, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
57	Adamsville variant fine sand	Not prime farmland
58	EauGallie fine sand	Not prime farmland
61	Riviera fine sand, depressional	Not prime farmland
62	Floridana fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
63	Placid fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
64	Ellzey fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
65	Riviera fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
66	Terra Ceia muck, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
67	Tisonia mucky peat, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
68	Winder fine sand	Farmland of unique importance
69	Bakersville muck	Not prime farmland
99	Water	

Prime and other Important Farmlands–St. Johns County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
100	Waters of the Atlantic Ocean	

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: St. Johns County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 11, Sep 15, 2014