

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Ecological Site Description

Site name: FLOODED LOWLAND  
Site number: R-272ZY023PR  
Major Land Resource Area: 272 Humid Coastal Plains  
Interstate correlation: NONE

**Physiographic features:** Elevation of this site ranges from sea level to 2100 ft rising gradually from the beaches on the Atlantic Ocean to the hilly karst area to the south. The area is divided in two distinct zones; the flat alluvial plains and terraces along the coast and the irregular features of the karst limestone inland.

**Climatic features**

Frost-free period: 365 DAYS  
Freeze-free period: 365 DAYS  
Mean annual precipitation: 54 INCHES  
Mean annual air temperature: 78°F  
Mean annual soil temperature:  
Monthly moisture and temperature distribution:

	<b>Mean Precipitation (inches)</b>	<b>Percent Precipitation (%)</b>	<b>Mean Temperature (°F)</b>
January	4.42	8.18	75
February	2.69	4.98	74
March	2.46	4.55	75
April	4.45	8.24	77
May	5.10	9.44	79
June	4.29	7.94	80
July	3.75	6.94	80
August	4.10	7.59	81
September	4.85	8.98	80
October	5.03	9.31	80
November	6.13	11.35	78
December	6.80	12.59	76
<b>Mean annual</b>	<b>54</b>		<b>78°F</b>

**Other climatic features:** A rainy season prevails from July to November and a pronounced dry season occurs during the remainder of the year. Hurricanes are most

likely to occur August through November, and are characterized by strong winds and torrential rains.

**Associated water features:** Surface and ground water are plentiful. Surface water consists of runoff from rainfall in the humid uplands.

**Elevation Aspects:** 0 to 300 ft.

**Percent Slope:** 0 to 2

**Soils:** Soils of this site are deep, moderately well drained to poorly drain, formed in residuum of volcanic sediments in the humid coastal plains. The soils are nearly level to gently sloping in the coastal low lands, low terraces, small valleys, and in depression areas. Permeability is moderate to slow, moderate to high available water capacity and high natural fertility level.

Major Soil Taxonomic Units correlated to this site include:

Bajura, Ba  
Corcega, Cr  
Dique, Dm  
Dique, Du  
Estacion, Es  
Fortuna, Fo  
Guanajibo, GoC, GnC  
Jareales, Ja  
Mani, Mh, Mn  
Maunabo, Me  
Reilly, Re  
Riverswash, Rw, Rm  
Sababa Seca, SaB, ScB, Us  
Santoni, Sn  
Talante, Ta  
Vega Baja, Vg, VgA  
Via, VIC  
Vivi, Vm, Vw  
Wet alluvial lands, Wa

**Plant communities:**

This site consists primarily of stoloniferous grasses in nearly pure stands. The site exists on the flood plains that are subject to periodic flooding along the coastal plains.

**Major plant species composition**

Grasses constitute approximately 98% of the vegetative composition and forbs make up the remaining 2%. Some introduced grass species are adapted to this site. These highly

palatable species include stargrass, pangola grass and guinea grass. They exist in varying levels of dominance due to past or existing grazing pressure.

### GRASSES AND GRASSLIKES

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For Group
AXCO	Tropical carpet grass	1			
BRMU	Para grass	1			
CYBR11	Cortadora	1			
CYLI	Junco de agua	1			
CYRO	Nutgrass	1			
DISA	Pendejuelo	1			
ECCO2	Jungle rice	1			
ERPO3	Carib grass	1			
ERPU4	Louisiana cupgrass	1			
LEHE	Clubhead cutgrass	1			
PACO14	Creeping wheatgrass	1			
PADI6	Knotgrass	1			
PAFA	Venezolana	1			
PAGE5	Watergrass	1			
PALA8	Woodland grass	1			
PAMI3	Cutgrass	1			
PAVI6	Matojo blanco	1			
RHRE	Natal	1			
SAST	Streambank millet	1			
SCHI3	Nutrush	1			
SEGE	Knotgrass bristlegrass	1			

### FORBS

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For group
ACAC4	Camasey de charco	2			
AESE2	Yerba de cienaga	2			
CLSP5	Volantines preciosos	2			

CLTE3	Conchitas	2			
COCAC3	Horseweed	2			
COEL4	Blue frenchweed	2			
LINO2	Yerba de sapo	2			
PHLA6	Habichela parada	2			
POOL	Purslane	2			
SICA17	Wireweed	2			
SIRH	Escoba colorada	2			
URLO	Bur bush	2			
VESE2	Long shot	2			

**Shrubs and Trees**

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For group

**Ground Cover and Structure**

	Height Above the Ground											
	Not applicable		6 to 12 inches		12 to 24 inches		24 to 60 inches		60 to 80 inches		180 to 240 inches	
	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover
Trees												
Shrubs												
Grasses and grasslikes							20	80				
Forbs			1	10								
Cryptogams												
Coarse fragments												
Bare ground												
Litter												

**Transition Pathways:**

This site is very critical for wildlife habitat. The native and naturalized climax species are: clubhead cut grass, yerba de pantano, yerba de agua and knotgrass. These grasses generally dominate the site. When the site is subject to grazing para grass will co-dominate providing medium levels of forage production. However, if the site is severely overgrazed, introduced invasive species such as yerba venezolana will dominate.

**Total annual production:** 9000 lbs/acre

**Plant Growth Curves:**

**Growth curve number:**

**Growth curve name:** PR PLANT GROWTH CURVE

**Growth curve description:** Native and naturalized grasslands.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	5	4	7	12	10	9	10	11	10	9	7

**Animal Community:**

This site is important for several wildlife species. Major species using the site include:

Adelaides warbler  
American redstart  
Antillian mango  
Bananaquit  
Black rail  
Blackfaced grassquit  
Cattle egret  
Eleutherodactylus spp.  
Grasshoper sparrow  
Greater antillian grackle  
Grey kingbird  
Key West quail dove  
Killdeer  
Lesser antillian pewee  
Lesser golder plover  
Loggerhead kingbird  
Northern bobwhite  
Northern parula  
Pearly eyed thrasher  
Puertorican bullfinch  
Puertorican flycatcher  
Puertorican lizard cuckoo  
Puertorican vitreo  
Puertorican woodpecker  
Red jungle fowl  
Smooth billed ani  
West india whistling duck  
White rumped sandpiper  
Yellow faced grassquit  
Zenaida dove

**Associated sites:**

**Similar sites**

Plant communities, production, and vigor of this site is not similar enough to other sites in the region to cause a problem or concern.

**Site documentation**

**Author:** M. Montes, E. Más, C. Santiago

**Revised:** 05/2002, E. Más, J. Lugo, S. Ríos

**Supporting data for site development:** Supporting data include clipping studies, and historical writing of the area. More documentation and study are needed to fully understand this site and the transitions that occur.

**Sampling techniques**

SCS-Range 417

**Type locality:** West to the Sugar Mill at Aguada, PR; West to Elite Valley (SAMS CLUB) Sabanetas Ward, Mayagüez, PR

**Field Offices:** Arecibo, Bayamón, Corozal, Mayagüez, San Sebastián, Loíza

**References:**

USDA, NRCS. 1997. National Range and Pasture Handbook.

USDA, SCS. Soil Survey's

**Site Approval:**

This site has been reviewed and approved for use:

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USDA NRCS Resource Conservationist

Date