

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

Ecological Site Description

Site name: MOIST MESA
 Site number: R-270ZY028PR
 Major Land Resource Area: 270 Humid Coastal Plains
 Interstate correlation: NONE

Physiographic features: Elevation of this site ranges from sea level to 2000 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: 35 TO 50 INCHES
 Mean annual air temperature: (26°C) 78 to 80°F
 Mean annual soil temperature:
 Monthly moisture and temperature distribution:

	Mean Precipitation (inches)	Percent Precipitation (%)	Mean Temperature (°F)
January	.78	2.5	76
February	.72	2.18	76
March	.86	2.60	77
April	1.92	5.82	78
May	2.92	8.85	80
June	3.13	9.5	81
July	2.91	8.82	82
August	4.45	13.50	82
September	5.26	15.95	81
October	5.63	17	81
November	3.18	9.64	79
December	1.20	3.64	77
Mean annual	32.96		

Other climatic features:

There are three distinct elevation ranges in this area and possess the highest precipitation and lowest temperatures. Surface water from precipitation, perennial streams, and lakes are abundant. Ground water is limited to water that seeps into the soil and is stored in the dense and massive underlying volcanic rock.

Associated water features:

Elevation Aspect: 50 to 1500 ft.

Percent Slope: 2 to 60

Soils: Soils of this site are deep, well drained, fine textured, moderate to rapid permeability, very strongly acid and low in fertility. The soils are on gentle to moderately steep slopes and on mesalike ridgetops in the serpentine hills.

Major Soil Taxonomic Units correlated to this site include:

Delicias, DcD2

Plant communities: This site is dominated by tall bunch type grasses. Forbs, shrubs and trees are few. Trees are scattered and looking like a real savanna.

Major plant species composition: Grasses constitute by 89% of the composition, forbs and shrubs 10% and trees 1%.

GRASSES AND GRASSLIKES

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For Group
ANBI	Foxtail grass	1			
ANGL2	Bushy beardgrass	1			
ANLE	Beardgrass	1			
ANSE8	Barbon grass	1			
ARCO11	Rattail grass	1			
ARPO4	Tree awn	1			
AXCO	Carpet grass	1			
LELA7	Lanilla	1			
PACO14	Horquetilla	1			
PANO2	Bahia	1			
PAPL3	Gamelotillo	1			
PARU	Matojito	1			
PASA	Sword paspalum	1			
URMA4	Guinea	1			

FORBS

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For group
BAPU5	Bejuco de aparejo	2			
BICY	Black manzanilla	2			
BOVE	Boton blanco	2			
BRPI4	Pinguin	2			
CEPU5	Butterfly pea	2			
DILA10	Viuda	2			
ELMO5	Lengua de vaca	2			
MIPU8	Sensitive plant	2			
POHE6	Mata de duna	2			
PTCA3	Felpa	2			

Shrubs and Trees

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For group
BYLU	Palo de doncella	3			
CLHI3	Camasey peludo	3			
CODO	Carrasco	3			
CRR12	Adormidera	3			
GUSC	Cucubano	3			
LAAC3	Cariaquillo espinoso	3			
MILA8	Camasey	3			
ROIN4	Cordoboncillo	3			
TAHE	Roble nativo	4			
VACO5	Vasora prieta	3			
VESE5	Escobilla	3			

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												1	5
Shrubs							1	5					
Grasses and grasslikes									15	80			
Forbs							2	10					
Cryptogams													
Coarse fragments													
Bare ground													
Litter													

Transition Pathways: The native climax species are generally lightly grazed due to the low palatability. If improved species are introduced they respond satisfactorily and provide a high quality forage. However if heavily grazed, invaders will invade the site.

Total annual production: 14000 lbs/acre

Plant Growth Curves:

Growth curve number: PR001

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:

Anolis spp.

Eleutherodactylus spp.

Green mango

Mangose

Plain pigeon

Puertorican tody

Puertorican woodpecker

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

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:

Field Offices: Arecibo, San Sebastián

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:

USDA NRCS Resource Conservationist

Date