

## 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--Arecibo Area, Puerto Rico Northern Part		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AaC	Aceitunas sandy clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AcC	Aceitunas clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AdF2	Adjuntas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AgC	Algarrobo fine sand, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AIB	Almirante sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AIC	Almirante sandy loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AmB	Almirante sandy clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AmC	Almirante sandy clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AnB	Almirante clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AnC	Almirante clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AoD2	Alonso clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
AoE2	Alonso clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
AoF2	Alonso clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
ArC	Arecibo fine sand, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ba	Bajura clay	Farmland of statewide importance
BcB	Bayamon sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BcC	Bayamon sandy loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BsB	Bayamon sandy clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BsC	Bayamon sandy clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ByB	Bayamon clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ByC	Bayamon clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CaF	Caguabo clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CbF	Caguabo-Rock outcrop complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Arecibo Area, Puerto Rico Northern Part		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
CcD	Caracoles loam, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CcE	Caracoles loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CeC	Carrizales fine sand, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cf	Catano sand	Not prime farmland
Cg	Coastal beaches	Not prime farmland
CID2	Colinas clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
CIE2	Colinas clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CIF2	Colinas clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CmF2	Colinas cobbly clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Cn	Coloso silty clay	Prime farmland if drained
CoE	Consejo clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
CoF	Consejo clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CpE	Consumo clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
CpF	Consumo clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CrC	Corozal clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CsC	Corozo fine sand, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CtB	Coto clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CtC	Coto clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CuF	Cuchillas silty clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CvF	Cuchillas-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DaD2	Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
EaB	Espinosa sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EaC	Espinosa sandy loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EbB	Espinosa sandy clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EbC	Espinosa sandy clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EcB	Espinosa clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EcC	Espinosa clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Es	Estacion silty clay loam	Farmland of statewide importance
Ga	Garrochales muck	Not prime farmland
GeC	Guerrero sand, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HD	Hydraquents, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
HmE	Humatas clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
HmF	Humatas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HS	Hydraquents, saline	Not prime farmland
InD	Ingenio clay loam, 5 to 20 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
InE	Ingenio clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
IsC	Islote sandy clay loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
Ja	Jareales clay	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Arecibo Area, Puerto Rico Northern Part		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
JoC	Jobos sandy loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
JuD2	Juncal clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
JuE2	Juncal clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
LcE2	Lirios clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
LcF2	Lirios clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LDF	Landfill	Not prime farmland
LgD	Los Guineos clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
LgE	Los Guineos clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
LgF	Los Guineos clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LME	Los Guineos-Maricao-Rock outcrop association, steep	Not prime farmland
MaF2	Maraguez silty clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
McF	Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MmF	Matanzas-Rock outcrop complex, 5 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MnB	Matanzas clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MoC2	Moca clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
MoD2	Moca clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
MoE2	Moca clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
MpF2	Morado clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MuE	Mucara clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MuF	Mucara clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
NaD	Naranjo clay, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
NaE	Naranjo clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
NaF	Naranjo clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
NOTCOM	No Digital Data Available	
Pa	Palmar muck	Not prime farmland
PeF	Pellejas clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PhC2	Perchas clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Prime farmland if drained
PhD2	Perchas clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
Ps	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Pt	Pits, sand	Not prime farmland
Re	Reilly gravelly silt loam	Not prime farmland
RIC	Rio Lajas sand, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
Rm	Riverwash	Not prime farmland
Ro	Rock outcrop, limestone	Not prime farmland
Rr	Rock outcrop, sandstone	Not prime farmland
RsF	Rock outcrop-San German complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RtF	Rock outcrop-Tanama complex, 12 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SaB	Sabana Seca clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Arecibo Area, Puerto Rico Northern Part		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
SgD	San German gravelly clay loam, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SgF	San German gravelly clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SmF	San Sebastian gravelly clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SnC	Santa Clara clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SoC	Soller clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
SoD	Soller clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SoF	Soller clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SpD	Soller cobbly clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SpF	Soller cobbly clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SrF	Soller-Rock outcrop complex, 5 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TaB	Tanama clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TaC2	Tanama clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
TaD2	Tanama clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Tb	Tiburones muck	Not prime farmland
To	Toa silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
TP	Tropopsamments	Not prime farmland
Ur	Urban land	Not prime farmland
VaB	Vega Alta sandy clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
VaC2	Vega Alta sandy clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
VcB	Vega Alta clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
VcC2	Vega Alta clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
VeB	Vega Baja clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Vg	Vigia muck	Not prime farmland
Vm	Vivi loam	All areas are prime farmland
VoC2	Voladora clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
VoD2	Voladora clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
VoE2	Voladora clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland

## Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Arecibo Area, Puerto Rico Northern Part

Survey Area Data: Version 11, Sep 29, 2015