

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—Ponce Area, Puerto Rico Southern Part		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AaF2	Adjuntas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AgD	Aguilita gravelly clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AgF	Aguilita gravelly clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AhF	Aguilita stony clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AnE2	Alonso clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
AnF2	Alonso clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CbF2	Caguabo gravelly clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CdF	Caguabo-Rock land complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CoD	Callabo silty clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
CoE	Callabo silty clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CoF2	Callabo silty clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes eroded	Not prime farmland
Cr	Cintrona clay	Farmland of statewide importance
Ct	Constancia silty clay	Farmland of statewide importance
CuF2	Consumo clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cx	Cortada silty clay loam	Prime farmland if irrigated
CyB	Cuyon loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DaD	Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EnC	Ensenada gravelly clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
Fe	Fe clay	Not prime farmland
FtB	Fraternidad clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
FtC2	Fraternidad clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
GoF	Guanabano clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GPQ	Gravel pits, quarry	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Ponce Area, Puerto Rico Southern Part		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
HmE2	Humatas clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
HmF2	Humatas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HxF	Humatas complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Hy	Hydraquents	Not prime farmland
HZ	Hydraquents, saline	Not prime farmland
Jg	Jacaguas silty clay loam	Farmland of statewide importance
JnC	Jacana clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
JzD	Juana Diaz clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
JzE	Juana Diaz clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LeC	Lares clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LFD	Landfill	Not prime farmland
LmF2	Lirios clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LnB	Llanos clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
LnC2	Llanos clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Prime farmland if irrigated
LuE	Los Guineos clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
LuF	Los Guineos clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LyFX	Los Guineos-Maricao association, steep	Not prime farmland
Ma	Machuelo clay	Farmland of statewide importance
MeF2	Maraguez silty clay clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MkF2	Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Mr	Meros sand	Not prime farmland
MsC	Montegrande clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MtE	Morado clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MtF2	Morado clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MuD2	Mucara silty clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
MuE2	Mucara silty clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MuF2	Mucara silty clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
NOTCOM	No Digital Data Available	
NOTPUB	Not Public Information	
PaB	Paso Seco clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
PeF2	Pellejas clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
QeD2	Quebrada silty clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
QeE2	Quebrada silty clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
QeF2	Quebrada silty clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Re	Reilly gravelly loam	Not prime farmland
Rw	Riverwash	Not prime farmland
Sa	San Anton clay loam	Prime farmland if irrigated
Se	Serrano sand	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Ponce Area, Puerto Rico Southern Part		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Te	Teresa clay	Not prime farmland
Tf	Tidal flats	Not prime farmland
To	Toa silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
TuF	Tuque stony clay loam, 12 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
W	Water >40 acres	Not prime farmland
YcB	Yauco silty clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
YcC	Yauco silty clay loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Ponce Area, Puerto Rico Southern Part

Survey Area Data: Version 11, Sep 29, 2015