

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—San German Area, Southwestern Puerto Rico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AbF	Agueybana clay, 12 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AgD	Aguilita silty clay loam, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AgF	Aguilita silty clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AkA	Aguirre clay, occasionally ponded	Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
AIF	Aljibe-Guama-Indiera complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AtD	Altamira gravelly clay, 2 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AtF	Altamira gravelly clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BaB	Bahia fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhB	Bahia Salinas sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes, rarely flooded	Not prime farmland
BjA	Bajura clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Farmland of statewide importance
BkB	Beaches, sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BmC	Bermeja-Cerro Mariquita complex, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BmD	Bermeja-Cerro Mariquita complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BmF	Bermeja-Cerro Mariquita complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BrF	Bermeja-Rock outcrop complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes, extremely cobbly	Not prime farmland
CaC	Cabo Rojo clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CbD	Caguabo clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CbF	Caguabo clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CeA	Cartagena clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
CgD	Casabe clay, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CgF	Casabe clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--San German Area, Southwestern Puerto Rico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
ChA	Catano sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CjD	Cerro Gordo mucky peat, 2 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CkD	Cerro Mariquita gravelly clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CkF	Cerro Mariquita gravelly clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CmB	Coamo clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
CoA	Coloso clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
CsE	Consumo clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
CsF	Consumo clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CtA	Cortada silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if irrigated
CuD	Costa-Pitahaya complex, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CuF	Costa-Pitahaya complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CvF	Cuchillas silty clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CvG	Cuchillas silty clay loam, 60 to 90 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DeD	Delicias clay, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DqA	Dique loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	All areas are prime farmland
DsC	Descalabrado clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DsD	Descalabrado clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DsF	Descalabrado clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EcD	El Cacique-La Taina complex, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EcF	El Cacique-La Taina complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EcG	El Cacique-La Taina complex, 60 to 90 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EdD	El Descanso-Hoconuco complex, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EdF	El Descanso-Hoconuco complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EdG	El Descanso-Hoconuco complex, 60 to 90 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EpC	El Papayo gravelly clay loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EpD	El Papayo gravelly clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EpF	El Papayo gravelly clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FeA	Fe clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FrA	Fraternidad clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
FrB	Fraternidad clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
GbF	Guanabano clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GhC	Guanajibo gravelly sandy clay loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
GnA	Guanica clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
GuB	Guayabo fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GyB	Guayacan clay, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
GyC	Guayacan clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated
GyD	Guayacan clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--San German Area, Southwestern Puerto Rico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
HmD	Humatas clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	All areas are 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
JaB	Jacana clay, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
JaC	Jacana clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
JBA	Joyuda, Atolladero, and Bajura soils, very frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
LcE	La Covana-Limestone outcrop-Seboruco complex, 12 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LdA	La Luna silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if irrigated
LeF	La Tea-Limestone outcrop complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LfC	Landfill, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LkB	Lares clay, 0 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LnA	Llanos Costa loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
LnB	Llanos Costa loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
LnC	Llanos Costa loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
LpG	Los Penones-Limestone outcrop complex, 60 to 90 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MaB	Mabi clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
MbA	Maguayo very gravelly sandy clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
MbC	Maguayo very gravelly sandy clay loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
McF	Malaya clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MDA	Manglillo, Boqueron and Serrano soils, very frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
MeA	Mani clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
MfF	Maresua gravelly clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MgF	Maresua-Serpentinite outcrop complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MiD	Mariana gravelly clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
MiE	Mariana gravelly clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
MkF	Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MkG	Maricao clay, 60 to 90 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MnA	Melones clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
MnC	Melones clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
MoB	Montalva clay, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
MoC	Montalva clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
MqC	Montegrande clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MrD	Morado clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MrE	Morado clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MrF	Morado clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MuC	Mucara loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
MuD	Mucara loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance

Prime and other Important Farmlands--San German Area, Southwestern Puerto Rico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
MuE	Mucara loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MuF	Mucara loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
NpD	Nipe clay, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
OrA	Olivares muck, ponded	Prime farmland if drained
PaA	Palmarejo loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
PaB	Palmarejo loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
PaC	Palmarejo loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
PgA	Parguera clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
PgB	Parguera clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
PsF	Pitahaya-Limestone outcrop-Seboruco complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PsG	Pitahaya-Limestone outcrop-Seboruco complex, 60 to 90 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Pt	Pits and Quarries	Not prime farmland
PzB	Pozo Blanco clay, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
PzC	Pozo Blanco clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
PzD	Pozo Blanco clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
QbD	Quebrada clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
QbE	Quebrada clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
QbF	Quebrada clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ReA	Reilly sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
RoD	Rosario silty clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RoE	Rosario silty clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RoF	Rosario silty clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RuF	Rubias-Chiquito complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RuG	Rubias-Chiquito complex, 60 to 90 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Sa	Salt flats, ponded	Not prime farmland
Sb	Salt pits	Not prime farmland
ScA	San Anton clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if irrigated
SdD	San German cobbly clay loam, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SdF	San German cobbly clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SgD	San German-Duey complex, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SgF	San German-Duey complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SiA	Santa Isabel clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
SmE	Santa Marta gravelly clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SoC	Seboruco silty clay loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SsB	Sosa sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SsC	Sosa sandy loam, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TeA	Teresa clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--San German Area, Southwestern Puerto Rico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
TfA	Teresa clay, ponded	Not prime farmland
ToA	Toa clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ua	Urban land	Not prime farmland
UbB	Urban land-Bahia complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UgB	Urban land-Guayabo complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UsC	Urban land-Sosa complex, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
VaA	Vayas silty clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
VoC	Voladora clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
VoD	Voladora clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
W	Water	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: San German Area, Southwestern Puerto Rico
 Survey Area Data: Version 7, Sep 29, 2015