

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—Windham County, Vermont		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
1A	Unadilla silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
1B	Unadilla silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1C	Unadilla silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
1D	Unadilla silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
1E	Udorthents, steep	Not prime farmland
2A	Belgrade silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
3B	Quonset and Warwick soils, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
3C	Quonset and Warwick soils, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
3D	Quonset and Warwick soils, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
3E	Quonset and Warwick soils, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
5B	Windsor loamy sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
5C	Windsor loamy sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
5D	Windsor loamy sand, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
5E	Windsor loamy sand, 25 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
9B	Deerfield fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
10A	Agawam fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
10B	Agawam fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
11B	Berkshire and Monadnock fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
11C	Berkshire and Monadnock fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
11D	Berkshire and Monadnock fine sandy loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
12C	Stratton-Glebe complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
12D	Stratton-Glebe complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
12E	Stratton-Glebe complex, 25 to 50 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
16B	Adams loamy fine sand, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
16C	Adams loamy fine sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
16D	Adams loamy fine sand, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
16E	Adams loamy fine sand, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
17B	Worden loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
17C	Worden loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
18B	Worden loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very bouldery	Not prime farmland
18C	Worden loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very bouldery	Not prime farmland
18D	Worden loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very bouldery	Not prime farmland
20B	Tunbridge-Lyman complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
20C	Tunbridge-Lyman complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
20D	Tunbridge-Lyman complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
20E	Tunbridge-Lyman complex, 25 to 60 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
21B	Marlow fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
21C	Marlow fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
21D	Marlow fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
22B	Marlow fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
22C	Marlow fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
22D	Marlow fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
22E	Marlow fine sandy loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
23	Ondawa fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
24	Podunk fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
25B	Westbury fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
25C	Westbury fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
26B	Westbury fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
26C	Westbury fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
26D	Westbury fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
29	Walpole sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
31B	Wilmington sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
33	Rumney fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Farmland of statewide importance, if drained
34C	Lyman-Rock outcrop complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
34D	Lyman-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
34E	Lyman-Rock outcrop complex, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
37	Hadley silt loam	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Windham County, Vermont		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
39	Winooski silt loam	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
40	Limerick silt loam	Farmland of statewide importance, if drained
41D	Londonderry-Stratton silt loams, 8 to 25 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
41E	Londonderry-Stratton silt loams, 25 to 70 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
43B	Mundal fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
43C	Mundal fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
43D	Mundal fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
44B	Mundal fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
44C	Mundal fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
44D	Mundal fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
44E	Mundal fine sandy loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
46B	Berkshire and Monadnock fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
46C	Berkshire and Monadnock fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
46D	Berkshire and Monadnock fine sandy loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
46E	Berkshire and Monadnock fine sandy loams, 25 to 50 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
47	Lupton mucky peat	Not prime farmland
48B	Rawsonville-Hogback fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes rocky	Not prime farmland
48C	Rawsonville-Hogback fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, rocky	Not prime farmland
48D	Rawsonville-Hogback fine sandy loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, rocky	Not prime farmland
48E	Rawsonville-Hogback fine sandy loams, 25 to 50 percent slopes, rocky	Not prime farmland
49B	Houghtonville-Rawsonville fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very bouldery	Not prime farmland
49C	Houghtonville-Rawsonville fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very bouldery	Not prime farmland
49D	Houghtonville-Rawsonville fine sandy loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very bouldery	Not prime farmland
49E	Houghtonville-Rawsonville fine sandy loams, 25 to 50 percent slopes, very bouldery	Not prime farmland
50B	Colton loamy fine sand, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
50C	Colton loamy fine sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
50D	Colton loamy fine sand, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
50E	Colton loamy fine sand, 25 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
52A	Sheepscot fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
52B	Sheepscot fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
56B	Monadnock fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
56C	Monadnock fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
56D	Monadnock fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
56E	Monadnock fine sandy loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
60B	Houghtonville fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
60C	Houghtonville fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
60D	Houghtonville fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
61B	Houghtonville fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
61C	Houghtonville fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
61D	Houghtonville fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
61E	Houghtonville fine sandy loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
62	Markey muck	Not prime farmland
63C	Berkshire-Tunbridge fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
63D	Berkshire-Tunbridge fine sandy loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
63E	Berkshire-Tunbridge fine sandy loams, 25 to 50 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
64	Udifuvents, loamy	Not prime farmland
65C	Hogback-Rawsonville fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
65D	Hogback-Rawsonville fine sandy loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
65E	Hogback-Rawsonville fine sandy loams, 25 to 50 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
66B	Houghtonville-Rawsonville fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes, rocky	Farmland of statewide importance
66C	Houghtonville-Rawsonville fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, rocky	Farmland of statewide importance
67B	Berkshire-Tunbridge fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes, rocky	All areas are prime farmland
67C	Berkshire-Tunbridge fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, rocky	Farmland of statewide importance
68D	Taconic-Hubbardton-Rock outcrop complex, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
68E	Taconic-Hubbardton-Rock outcrop complex, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
69C	Macomber-Taconic complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
69D	Macomber-Taconic complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
69E	Macomber-Taconic complex, 25 to 70 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
70C	Dummerston-Macomber complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
70D	Dummerston-Macomber complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
70E	Dummerston-Macomber complex, 25 to 70 percent slopes very stony	Not prime farmland
71B	Dummerston silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
71C	Dummerston silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
71D	Dummerston silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
72C	Dummerston silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
72D	Dummerston silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
72E	Dummerston silt loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
73B	Fullam silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
73C	Fullam silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
73D	Fullam silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
74B	Fullam silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
74C	Fullam silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
74D	Fullam silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
74E	Fullam silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
75B	Brayton silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
76B	Dummerston-Macomber complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes, rocky	All areas are prime farmland
76C	Dummerston-Macomber complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, rocky	Farmland of statewide importance
W	Water	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Windham County, Vermont
 Survey Area Data: Version 19, Sep 25, 2015