



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil Health - Available Water Capacity USDA-NRCS Caribbean Area

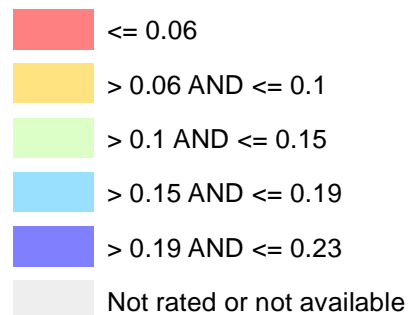
Puerto Rico

US Virgin Islands

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

Legend

Surface Layer [cm/cm]



Summary

Available water capacity (AWC) refers to the quantity of water that the soil is capable of storing for use by plants. It is expressed in centimeters of water per centimeter of soil for each soil layer. Available water capacity is an indicator of a soils ability to retain water and make it sufficiently available for plant use. In areas where daily rainfall is insufficient to meet plant needs, the capacity of soil to store water is very important (USDA-NRCS, 2008).

