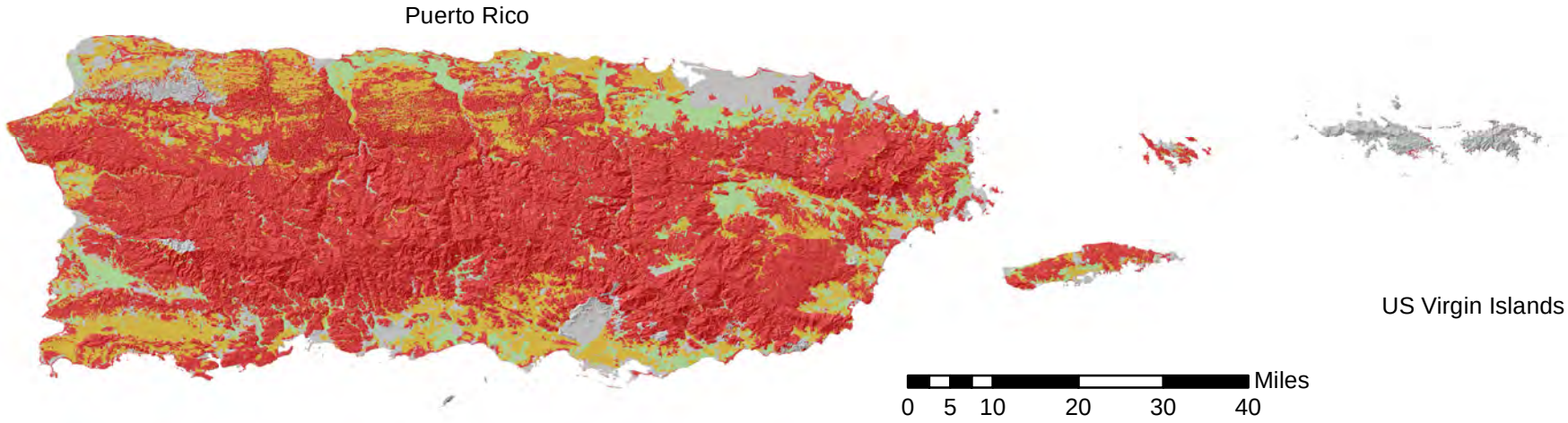
USDA United States Department of Agriculture

National Commodity Crop Productivity Index
USDA-NRCS Caribbean Area



Summary

National Commodity Crop Productivity Index is a method of arraying the soils of the United States for non-irrigated commodity crop production based on their inherent soil properties. This version features a separate index for soybeans. In the past, soybeans and corn were considered together. The rating a soil is assigned is the highest one of four basic crop group indices, which are based on the climate where the crop is typically grown. Cooler climates are represented by winter wheat, moderate climates are represented by corn and soybeans, and warmer climates are represented by cotton. (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_050734.pdf).

Ratings are based on properties and qualities to the depth normally observed during soil mapping (approximately 6 feet). Soil, site, and climate properties that influence the growth of crops are major considerations. Soil productivity is influenced by many soil properties. An ideal soil will store adequate amounts of water to nurture the crop between rains. This soil will have a near-neutral pH, will store nutrients, and lack toxic materials. The soil will have no barriers, either physical or chemical, to root growth. Water and gas transmission through the soil will be sufficient to maintain both water and oxygen at sufficient levels in the root zone. The soil will not be saturated with water during the growing season to the point that root growth is inhibited. The soil will not be subject to excessive flooding or ponding during the growing season. Slope is an important consideration because it affects erosion by water, runoff, and the operation of equipment. The climate must provide adequate water and heat to allow the desired crop to mature. A soil that differs from the ideal in any of these features will have lower inherent productivity for a particular crop. The further a soil differs from ideality in any one or all of the factors that determine inherent productivity, the lower its inherent productivity will be.

For the Caribbean Area soil surveys were made at a scale of 1:20,000, with a minimum polygon size of 4 acres. Soils that were markedly different in use and management: but too small to be delineated at the scale of mapping were described as inclusions in map units or denoted by a spot symbol on the maps.

Legend

Rating

- Low inherent productivity
- Moderately low inherent productivity
- Moderate inherent productivity
- Moderately high inherent productivity
- High inherent productivity
- Not rated or not available

Soil Survey Geographic Database 2020, 1:20,000