

## 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—Mayaguez Area, Puerto Rico Western Part		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AaC2	Aceitunas clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
AbC2	Aceitunas sandy clay loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
AdE2	Aibonito clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
An	Alluvial land	Not prime farmland
AoD	Anones clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
AoE2	Anones clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AoF2	Anones clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Ba	Bajura clay	Farmland of statewide importance
BcB	Bejucos sandy clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BeB	Bejucos sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CbF	Caguabo clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CcB	Camaguey clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
Cd	Catano sand	Not prime farmland
Ce	Catano sandy clay loam	Not prime farmland
CfC2	Cidral clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Ch	Coastal beach	Not prime farmland
CID	Colinas clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
CIE	Colinas clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CIF2	Colinas clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CmD	Colinas cobbly clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CmE	Colinas cobbly clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cn	Coloso silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
CoE	Consumo clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
CoF2	Consumo clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cr	Corcega silty clay loam	Farmland of statewide importance
CtB2	Cotito clay, 0 to 5 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
CuB2	Coto clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
CuC2	Coto clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
CvB	Coto sandy clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CwF	Cuchillas silty clay loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DaD2	Daguey clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
DaE2	Daguey clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
Du	Dique silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
Es	Espinal sand	Not prime farmland
GnC	Guanajibo sandy loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
GoC	Guanajibo loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
GPQ	Gravel, pits and quarries	Not prime farmland
GuB	Guerrero sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HmD	Humatas clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HmE2	Humatas clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
HmF2	Humatas clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HuE	Humatas gravelly clay, 12 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ig	Igualdad clay	Farmland of statewide importance
Jd	Jaucas sand	Not prime farmland
JoB	Jobos sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
JuD2	Juncal clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
LaB2	Lares clay, 0 to 5 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
LaD2	Lares clay, 5 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Lc	Leveled clayey land	Not prime farmland
Le	Leveled clayey land, shallow	Not prime farmland
Lf	Leveled land, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
LFD	Landfill	Not prime farmland
Lm	Leveled sandy land	Not prime farmland
Lo	Limestone outcrop	Not prime farmland
Lr	Limestone rock land	Not prime farmland
LuD	Los Guineos clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
LuF2	Los Guineos clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MaB	Mabi clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MaC2	Mabi clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
McF2	Malaya clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MdB	Maleza fine sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Mh	Mani silty clay loam, overwash	All areas are prime farmland
Mn	Mani clay	All areas are prime farmland
MoD2	Maresua silty clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
MoF2	Maresua silty clay loam, 20 to 60 percent percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MrF2	Maricao clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MsB	Matanzas clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MtB	Matanzas-Limestone rockland complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MuC2	Moca clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
MuD2	Moca clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
MuD3	Moca clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, severely eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
MuE3	Moca clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
MvC	Montegrande clay, 2 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MwE	Morado clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MwF2	Morado clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MxC	Mucara clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
MxD	Mucara clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
MxE	Mucara clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MxF	Mucara clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
NaD	Naranjo clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
NcD2	Nipe clay, 5 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
NOTCOM	No Digital Data Available	
PeD2	Perchas clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
PIE2	Plata clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
PIF2	Plata clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
QuE2	Quebrada silty clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
QuF2	Quebrada silty clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Re	Reilly gravelly loam	Not prime farmland
RIB	Rio Lajas sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
RpC2	Rio Piedras clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
RpD2	Rio Piedras clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
Rr	Riverwash	Not prime farmland
RsD2	Rosario clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RsE2	Rosario clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RsF2	Rosario clay, 40 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SaD	San German gravelly clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SaE	San German gravelly clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ScB	San German cobbly sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SdF2	San Sebastian gravelly clay, 20 to 60 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
SeB	Santa Clara silty clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Sn	Santoni clay	Farmland of statewide importance
So	Serpentinite outcrop	Not prime farmland
SrD	Soller-Limestone rockland complex, 5 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SrE	Soller-Limestone rockland complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SsD2	Soller cobbly clay, 5 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SsE2	Soller cobbly clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
StB	Soller clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
StC	Soller clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
StD	Soller clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
StE	Soller clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ta	Talante loam	Farmland of statewide importance
TcB2	Tanama clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
TcC2	Tanama clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
TcD2	Tanama clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
TcE2	Tanama clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Td	Tidal swamp	Not prime farmland
ToA	Toa silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ts	Toa silty clay	All areas are prime farmland
VoD2	Voladora silty clay, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
VoE2	Voladora silty clay, 20 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
VrC2	Voladora clay, 5 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
W	Water > 40 acres	Not prime farmland

## Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Mayaguez Area, Puerto Rico Western Part

Survey Area Data: Version 11, Sep 29, 2015