



Identification of Important Farmland

I. Prime Farmland

A. General

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses. The land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forestland, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water. Prime farmland has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed according to modern farming methods.

In general, prime farmlands have an adequate and dependable moisture supply, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. They are permeable to water and air. Prime farmlands are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time. Typically they do not flood during the growing season or they are protected from flooding.

Examples of soils that qualify as prime farmland are Canton and Charlton soils, 3 to 8 percent slopes; Agawam fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes; and Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes.

B. Specific Criteria

Prime farmlands meet the following criteria. Terms used in this section are defined in USDA publications: Soil Taxonomy, Agriculture Handbook 436; Soil Survey Manual, Agriculture Handbook 18; Predicting Rainfall and Erosion Losses: A Guide to Conservation, Agriculture Handbook 537; and Saline and Alkali Soils, Agriculture Handbook 60.

1. The soils have:

- a) Aquic, udic, ustic, or xeric moisture regimes and sufficient available water capacity within a depth of 40 inches (1 meter), or in the root zone if the root zone is less than 40 inches deep to produce the commonly grown crops in 7 or more years out of 10; or,
- b) Xeric or ustic moisture regimes in which the available water capacity is limited, but the area has a developed irrigation water supply that is dependable (a dependable water supply is one in which enough water is available for irrigation in 8 out of 10 years for the crops commonly grown) and of adequate quality; or,

- c) Aridic or torric moisture regimes and the area has a developed irrigation water supply that is dependable and of adequate quality; and,
2. The soils have a temperature regime that is frigid, mesic, thermic, or hyperthermic (pergelic and cryic regimes are excluded). These are soils that, at a depth of 20 inches (50 cm), have a mean annual temperature higher than 32°F (0°C). In addition, the mean summer temperature at this depth in soils with a 0 horizon is higher than 47°F (8°C); in soils that have no 0 horizon, the mean summer temperature is higher than 59°F (15°C); and,
3. The soils have a pH between 4.5 and 8.4 in all horizons within a depth of 40 inches (1 meter) or in the root zone if the root zone is less than 40 inches deep; and,
4. The soils either have no water table or have a water table that is maintained at a sufficient depth during the cropping season to allow cultivated crops common to the area to be grown; and,
5. The soils can be managed so that, in all horizons within a depth of 40 inches (1 meter) or in the root zone if the root zone is less than 40 inches deep, during part of each year the conductivity of the saturation extract is less than 4 mmhos/cm and the exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP) is less than 15; and,
6. The soils are not flooded frequently during the growing season (less often than once in 2 years); and,
7. The product of K (erodibility factor) x percent slope is less than 2.0, and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climatic factor) does not exceed 60; and,
8. The soils have a permeability rate of at least 0.06 inch (0.15 cm) per hour in the upper 20 inches (50 cm) and the mean annual soil temperature at a depth of 20 inches (50 cm) is less than 59°F (15°C); the permeability rate is not a limiting factor if the mean annual soil temperature is 59°F (15°C) or higher; and,
9. Less than 10 percent of the surface layer (upper 6 inches) in these soils consists of rock fragments coarser than 3 inches (7.6 cm).

C. Additional Farmland of Statewide Importance

This is land, in addition to prime and unique farmlands, that is of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops. Criteria for defining and delineating this land are to be determined by the appropriate state

agency or agencies. Generally, additional farmlands of statewide importance include those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some may produce as high a yield as prime farmlands if conditions are favorable. In some states, additional farmlands of statewide importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by state laws.

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Prime and other Important Farmlands

State of Connecticut

Map symbol	Map unit name	Farmland classification
20A	Ellington silt loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
21A	Ninigret and Tisbury soils, 0 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
22A	Hero gravelly loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
22B	Hero gravelly loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
23A	Sudbury sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
26A	Berlin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
27A	Belgrade silt loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
28A	Elmridge fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
28B	Elmridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
29A	Agawam fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
29B	Agawam fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
30A	Branford silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
30B	Branford silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
31A	Copake fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
31B	Copake fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
32A	Haven and Enfield soils, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
32B	Haven and Enfield soils, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
33A	Hartford sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
33B	Hartford sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
34A	Merrimac sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
34B	Merrimac sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
40A	Ludlow silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
40B	Ludlow silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
43A	Rainbow silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
43B	Rainbow silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
45A	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
45B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
48B	Georgia and Amenia silt loams, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
50A	Sutton fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
50B	Sutton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
53A	Wapping very fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
53B	Wapping very fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
55A	Watchaug fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
55B	Watchaug fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
57B	Gloucester gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
60B	Canton and Charlton soils, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
63B	Cheshire fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
66B	Narragansett silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
69B	Yalesville fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
80B	Bernardston silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
82B	Broadbrook silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
84B	Paxton and Montauk fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
87B	Wethersfield loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
90B	Stockbridge loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
92B	Nellis fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
101	Occum fine sandy loam	All areas are prime farmland
102	Pootatuck fine sandy loam	All areas are prime farmland
105	Hadley silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
106	Winooski silt loam	All areas are prime farmland

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Map symbol	Map unit name	Farmland classification
412B	Bice fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
420A	Schroon fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
421A	Ninigret fine sandy loam, cold, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
423A	Sudbury sandy loam, cold, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
429A	Agawam fine sandy loam, cold, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
429B	Agawam fine sandy loam, cold, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
434A	Merrimac sandy loam, cold, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
434B	Merrimac sandy loam, cold, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
448B	Hogansburg loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
450B	Pyrities loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
501	Ondawa fine sandy loam	All areas are prime farmland
2	Ridgebury fine sandy loam	Farmland of statewide importance
4	Leicester fine sandy loam	Farmland of statewide importance
5	Wilbraham silt loam	Farmland of statewide importance
7	Mudgepond silt loam	Farmland of statewide importance
9	Scitico, Shaker, and Maybid soils	Farmland of statewide importance
10	Raynham silt loam	Farmland of statewide importance
12	Raypol silt loam	Farmland of statewide importance
13	Walpole sandy loam	Farmland of statewide importance
14	Fredon silt loam	Farmland of statewide importance
24A	Deerfield loamy fine sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
25A	Brancroft silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
25B	Brancroft silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
25C	Brancroft silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
26B	Berlin silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
29C	Agawam fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
30C	Branford silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
31C	Copake gravelly loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
32C	Haven and Enfield soils, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
34C	Merrimac sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
35A	Penwood loamy sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
35B	Penwood loamy sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
36A	Windsor loamy sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
36B	Windsor loamy sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
36C	Windsor loamy sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
37A	Manchester gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
37C	Manchester gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
38A	Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
38C	Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
39A	Groton gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
39C	Groton gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
45C	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
48C	Georgia and Amenia silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
57C	Gloucester gravelly sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
60C	Canton and Charlton soils, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
63C	Cheshire fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
66C	Narragansett silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
69C	Yalesville fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
80C	Bernardston silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance

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Map symbol	Map unit name	Farmland classification
82C	Broadbrook silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
84C	Paxton and Montauk fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
87C	Wethersfield loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
90C	Stockbridge loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
92C	Nellis fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
100	Suncook loamy fine sand	Farmland of statewide importance
103	Rippowam fine sandy loam	Farmland of statewide importance
104	Bash silt loam	Farmland of statewide importance
107	Limerick and Lim soils	Farmland of statewide importance
412C	Bice fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
414	Fredon silt loam, cold	Farmland of statewide importance
420B	Schroon fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
429C	Agawam fine sandy loam, cold, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
433	Moosilauke sandy loam	Farmland of statewide importance
434C	Merrimac sandy loam, cold, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
440A	Boscawen gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
440C	Boscawen gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
450C	Pyrities loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
457	Mudgepond silt loam, cold	Farmland of statewide importance
503	Rumney fine sandy loam	Farmland of statewide importance