

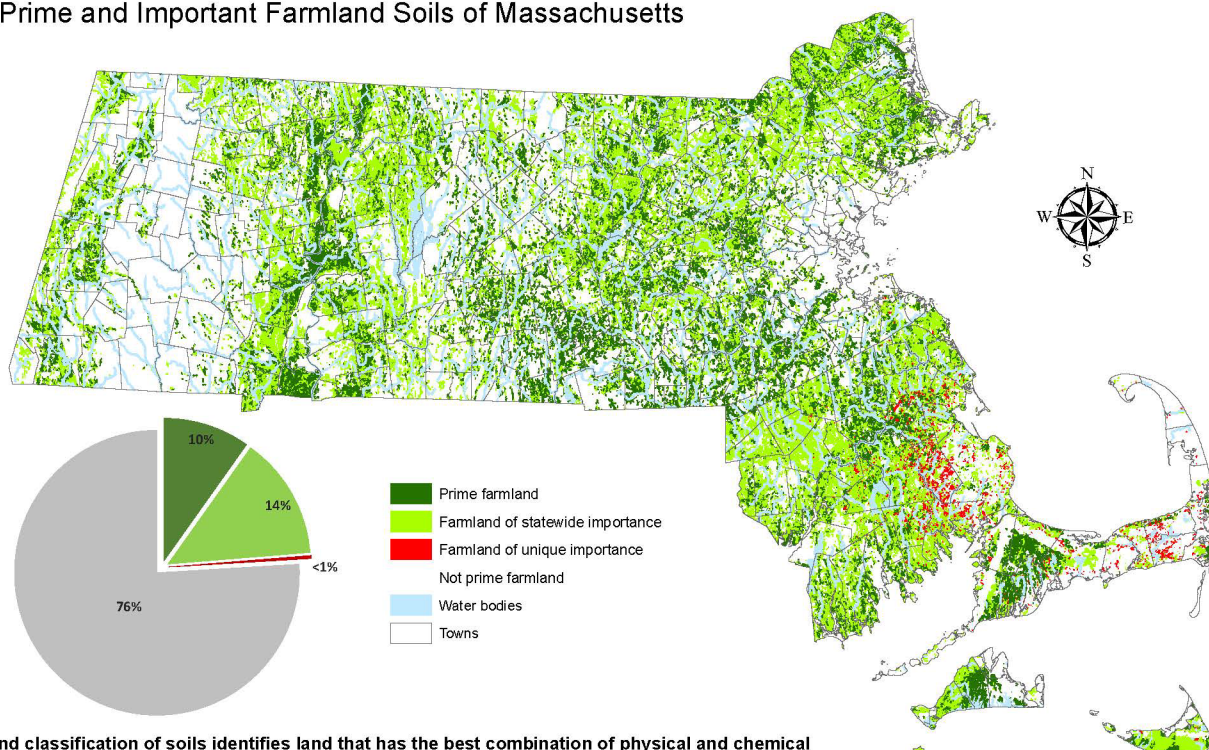
Farmland classification of soils identifies land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops and is available for such use.

For FY2020, Massachusetts has revisited and revised the farmland criteria for soils in the state. These changes will result in the following changes to the Farmland Class Ratings:

- 3,200 acres changed from 'farmland of statewide importance' to 'meets no important farmland class'
- 6,100 acres changed from 'prime farmland' to 'farmland of statewide importance'
- 800 acres changed from 'farmland of statewide importance' to 'prime farmland'
- 125,500 acres changed from 'meets no important farmland class' to 'farmland of statewide importance'
- 254,000 acres changed from 'farmland of unique importance' to 'meets no important farmland class'

The most significant changes include the removal of organic wetland soils that are not used in cranberry agriculture from the farmland of unique importance category and the addition of map units on 8 to 15% slopes with stony and very stony surface phases to the farmland of statewide importance category.

USDA Prime and Important Farmland Soils of Massachusetts



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Maps and further information can be found at <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov> and <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ma/soils/>