

The best soil for growing truck crops is Scranton fine sand (Table 1). This soil is dark gray to almost black in color and retains moisture well. However, it is rarely found in large tracts and usually there are less productive soils at lower or higher elevations with graduations in between of the good and poor soils. Rutlege fine sand is commonly used for truck crops but it is less productive than Scranton in years of adverse weather conditions. Leon soils are used primarily for pasture and woodlands.

TABLE 1.—TYPES, CHARACTERISTICS AND COMPARATIVE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION RATINGS OF SOME HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SOILS.*

Soil Type	Natural Drainage	Color of Surface Soil	Comparative Ratings for Commercial Production of		
			Truck Crop	Citrus	Improved Pastures
Scranton fine sand	poor	dark gray to black	good	fair-good	fair
Rutlege fine sand	poor	dark gray to black	fair	poor	fair-good
Orlando fine sand	good	dark gray to almost black	fair-good	good	poor-fair
Leon fine sand	poor	gray	poor	poor	fair

* Source: Preliminary Report, Land Use Planning, Hillsborough County, Florida, p. 7, 1941.

The topography of the area is flat to undulating. Natural surface drainage is usually poor and drainage ditches and canals have been constructed to facilitate removal of surface water. Small acreages of higher, better drained land intersperse the low areas. A great many farms include some of the higher, better drained land along with the more prevalent low lands. The more intensive truck crops—such as strawberries, peppers and tomatoes—are planted on beds in the less well drained lands; while the higher, better drained areas on individual farms are used for producing citrus and less intensive truck crops, such as field peas and market corn.

Climate.—The climate of the area is sub-tropical. The annual mean temperature at Plant City is 71.5° F. (Table 2). Killing frosts are rare although the temperature occasionally drops below freezing during the winter months. The annual mean