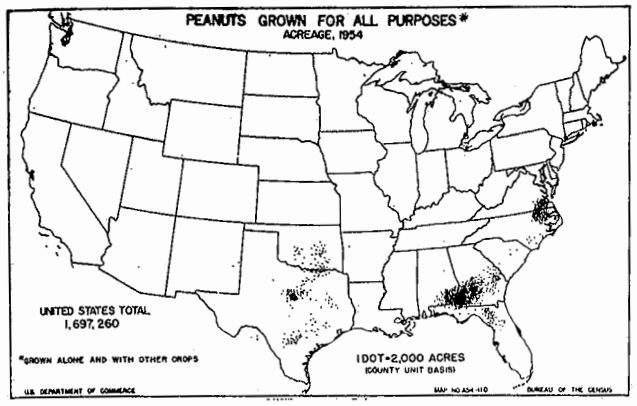

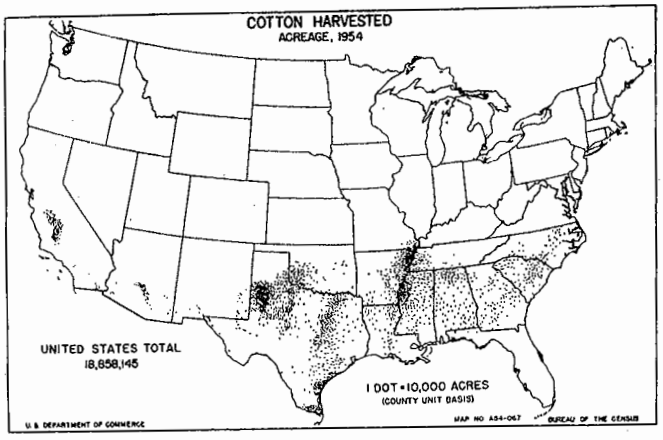

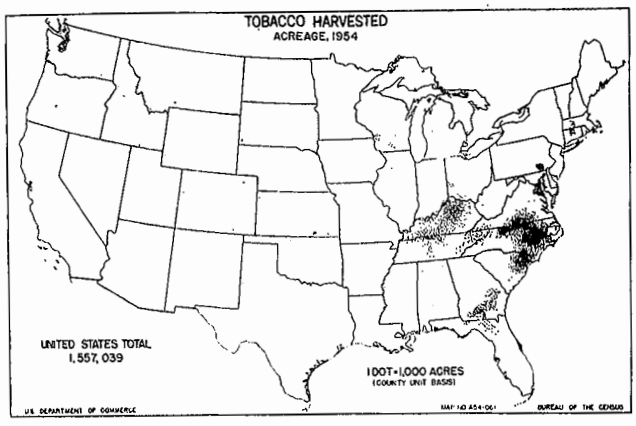

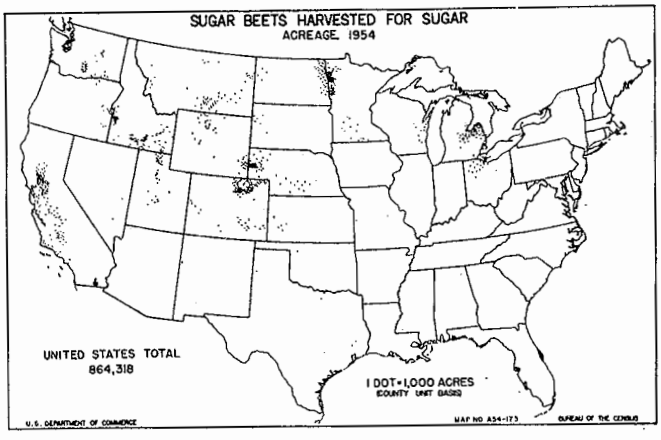

coastal plain—one in northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia and the other in southwestern Georgia, southeastern Alabama, and northern Florida. In Texas and Oklahoma, the Cross Timbers area has the largest acreage used for peanuts.

Peanuts need summers that are long and warm. The best seasonal distribution of precipitation provides a good moisture supply when nuts are developing, followed by drier weather and plenty of sunshine during the harvest period. Both nuts and hay are subject to considerable damage if wet weather coincides with harvesting. Fine sandy loam soils are preferred for the growing of peanuts. Dark colored soils are avoided where peanuts are grown for roasting in the shell, as discoloration of the shell reduces the market value.

Cotton.—The acreage from which cotton was harvested dropped sharply in 1954 and 1955 from the high acreages reported harvested from 1951 to 1953 by the United States Department of Agriculture. The existence of an acreage-allotment program during the last 2 years is mainly responsible for this decline.

In 1954, cotton was grown across the entire southern part of the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Nearly all cotton is grown south of latitude 37° N. The two most northern extensions of cotton production are in southeastern Missouri and the southern tip of Illinois and in Merced County, Calif., in the central part of the San Joaquin Valley.

In 1909, practically no cotton was grown west of the 101st meridian which passes through the west-central part of Texas. Today, there are major concentrations of cotton production in the High Plains of western Texas, the Phoenix area of Arizona, and the San Joaquin Valley of California. Much of the cotton grown west of the 100th meridian in Texas is now irrigated, while practically all of that grown in New Mexico, Arizona, and California is irrigated.

The westward shift of cotton production has been one of the important regional shifts in American agriculture during the last 50 years. In 1909, nearly two-fifths of the acreage of cotton was found in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama; but in 1954 these four States accounted for less than a fifth of the cotton acreage.

Tobacco.—The four leading States growing tobacco in 1954 were North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, and South Carolina. During the last 15 years, the acreage of tobacco has changed very little mainly because of the acreage-allotment program which is attempting to keep supply in line with demand for different types of tobacco. Some regional shifting of production occurred between 1949 and 1954, when the acreage of tobacco grown in Kentucky declined by about 14 percent while that in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina increased by about 11 percent. This shift in acreage reflects some of the continuing changes in demand for different types of tobacco. In 1909, Kentucky had twice as much acreage in tobacco as North Carolina, but in 1954 the North Carolina acreage was more than twice that of Kentucky.

The two major tobacco-producing areas are in southern Virginia, North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina, central and western Kentucky, and adjacent northern Tennessee. Other smaller concentrations of tobacco are also found in southern Georgia and Northern Florida; southern Maryland; Lancaster County, Pa.; Connecticut Valley of Connecticut and Massachusetts; eastern Tennessee; and southwestern Wisconsin.

Sugar beets.—Sugar beets are grown almost entirely in the Western and North Central States. Most of the acreage is irrigated, although some of the eastern areas continue to grow beets without irrigating. Sugarcane is the other principal crop from which domestic sugar is refined in the United States. Practically all of the sugarcane grown for sugar is located in southeastern Louisiana and just south of Lake Okeechobee in Florida.