



Land in orchards.—The total acreage reported in bearing and nonbearing fruit orchards, groves, vineyards, and planted nut trees in 1954 was 4 million acres compared with 4.7 million acres reported in 1950. Part of this decline may be attributed to the fact that the 1950 data include acreage for farms reporting half of an acre or more in this use, whereas in 1954 the acreage is reported only for farms having 20 or more trees or grapevines.

California is the leading fruit-growing State, from the standpoint of both total acreage and variety of fruit produced. A third of the total acreage in fruit orchards, groves, vineyards, and planted nut trees is in California. Other major concentrations are found in central Florida; in the Yakima, Wenatchee, and Okanogan Valleys of Washington; in the Willamette and Hood River Valleys of Oregon; the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas; southwestern Mississippi; the eastern shore of Lake Michigan; the southern shores of Lake Erie and Ontario; and the ridge and valley section of the Appalachians in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and south central Pennsylvania. Many lesser concentrations are also indicated on the accompanying map.

Climate plays an important role in accounting for the distribution of fruits, nuts, and grapes in the United States. Sometimes striking local differences in temperature and frost hazard associated with topography and nearness to the influence of water account for concentrations of fruit production. The growing of citrus fruits is limited chiefly to the warmer subtropics in areas where topography and soils are also favorable. Deciduous fruits generally have both a northern limit beyond which the winters become too severe and the hazard of frost too great and a southern limit where the period of dormancy becomes too short.

Vegetables.—Vegetables were harvested for sale from about 3.7 million acres in 1954. An undetermined part of this acreage grew more than one crop of vegetables during the year. The vegetable crop harvested for sale is appropriately divided into two categories—that harvested for processing and that harvested

for the fresh market. In recent years, slightly more than half of the acreage has been harvested for the fresh market.

The accompanying map showing the distribution of the acreage of vegetables harvested for sale reveals several major concentrations and many widely scattered secondary areas in which vegetables are grown for sale. The leading States are California, Texas, Florida, Wisconsin, New York, Georgia, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Illinois. The combined acreage of vegetables harvested for sale in these nine States accounts for more than three-fifths of the total United States acreage. The five leading vegetables in terms of acreage harvested were sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelons, green peas, and green snap beans.

Irish potatoes.—The commercial crop of Irish potatoes is produced mainly in the Northern States, although several early potato areas in the South and in California account for the wide climatic range of this crop in the United States. Potatoes are best adapted to a fairly humid and cool climate.

Five relatively small but especially heavy concentrations of Irish potato acreage are found in Aroostook County, Maine; Long Island, N. Y.; the Eastern Shore of Virginia; the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota; and the Snake River Valley of eastern Idaho. These five areas account for about two-fifths of the total commercial acreage shown by the accompanying map which does not include acreage on farms with less than 20 bushels harvested. In 1954, Idaho had the largest acreage of potatoes followed by Maine, North Dakota, California, New York, and Minnesota.

Dry beans.—Dry beans are produced in both eastern and western areas. Central Michigan and western New York are the major eastern areas and together these two areas account for about a third of the total acreage. In the Western States, dry field beans are produced both with and without irrigation. Most of the dry beans are produced where the mean August temperature does not exceed 70° F.