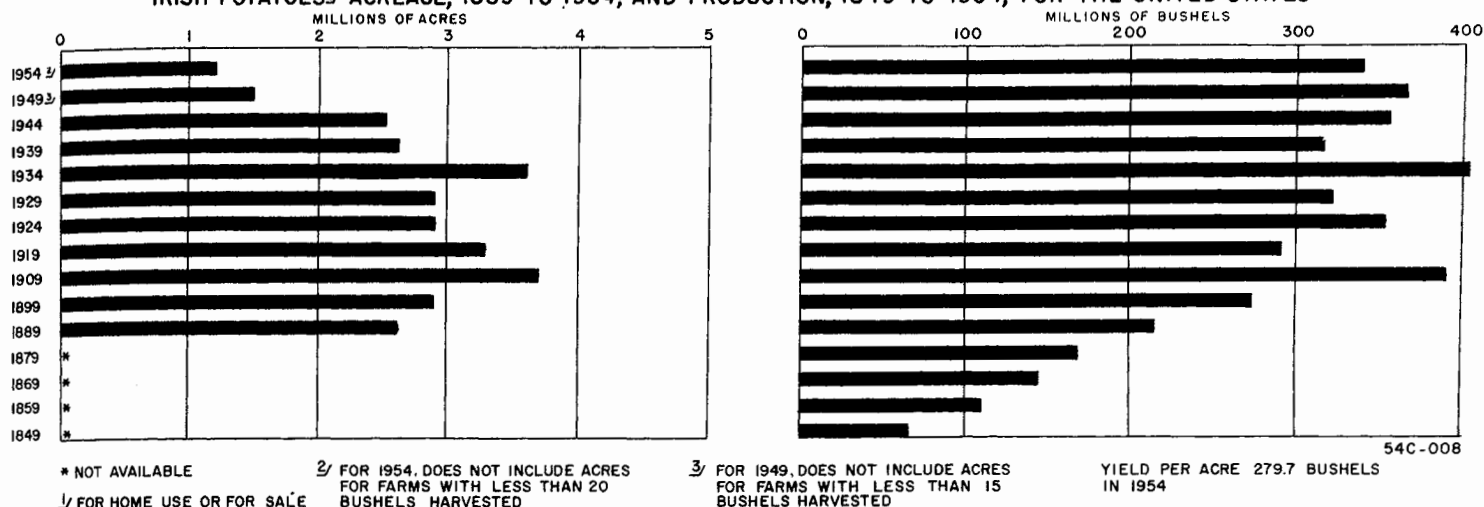


IRISH POTATOES—ACREAGE, 1889 TO 1954; AND PRODUCTION, 1849 TO 1954; FOR THE UNITED STATES



The 1954 acreage of Irish potatoes harvested, 1,211 million acres, is the lowest for any Census. This figure does not include an acreage for potatoes harvested from plots where total production amounted to less than 20 bushels or less than 10 bags. Production, slightly over 340 million bushels, was about 7 percent below the harvest for 1949. The yield per acre of Irish potatoes, based on farms that reported both acreage and production, averaged 273 bushels per acre. This was the highest yield ever reported by any Census.

Sweetpotatoes.—There was a separate inquiry for sweetpotatoes on the questionnaire for 25 States where they were an important crop. In the remaining States, they were reported in the space provided in the questionnaire for writing in information for other crops harvested. The question called for the acreage harvested and the production in bushels. The questionnaire provided for the reporting of acres in tenths of acres. If less than 20 bushels of sweetpotatoes were harvested, the acreage was not to be reported. The instructions to the enumerator provided that the reports for sweetpotatoes and yams should include those used as livestock feed.

The unit of measure for reporting quantity harvested was bushels in all States. The quantity of sweetpotatoes sold and the value of sweetpotatoes sold were computed using a procedure like that used for Irish potatoes.

Sugarcane and sorghum.—A separate inquiry on the acreage and production of sugarcane and sorghum for sirup appeared on the questionnaire for 10 States, and for 30 counties in Southeast Missouri. The question asked for the combined acreage of both sugarcane and sorghum harvested for sirup. The questionnaire provided for the reporting of the acreage in tenths of acres.

Two additional inquiries relating to sugarcane were carried in Louisiana. One referred to "Sugarcane cut for sugar or for sale to mills" and the other to "Sugarcane cut for seed." Although there was no separate inquiry for sugarcane harvested for sugar for other States, separate data were tabulated for Florida and are shown in Table 125.

Sugar beets for sugar.—An inquiry covering the acreage and production of sugar beets for sugar appeared on the questionnaire for 15 States. In all other States, sugar beets were reported in the space on the questionnaire for reporting other crops. Sugar beets harvested for seed were not included as sugar beets for sugar. Separate data for sugar beets harvested for seed appear in Table 125.

Popcorn.—A separate inquiry on popcorn was on the questionnaire for only six States—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and all counties in Missouri except the 30 Southeastern ones. For all other States, the information reported for popcorn was written in the space on the questionnaire provided for writing in information for other crops. The questionnaire provided for reporting whole acres and production in pounds of ears. The instructions to

enumerators required that the quantity harvested should be reported in pounds of ear corn. However, totals in this chapter are given in units of thousands of pounds of ear corn. In some areas, small quantities of popcorn were reported as harvested for use on the farm. On many farms, only a fraction of an acre of popcorn was harvested. The quantity of popcorn harvested on these farms has been totaled and included in the data. Because acres harvested were not secured when less than an acre, the yield per acre in the States where popcorn is produced principally for use on the farm may be too high.

Minor and miscellaneous crops.—The Agriculture Questionnaire provided two methods for reporting minor and miscellaneous crops. In the case of small grains and hay crops, the sections of the questionnaire containing inquiries regarding these crops usually contained a separate inquiry for "Other grain" or "Other hay."

For field seeds, for vegetables, and for miscellaneous crops for which a separate inquiry did not appear on the questionnaire, space was provided in the sections of the questionnaire containing inquiries for each of these groups of crops, for writing in the name of the crop and reporting the acres, quantity harvested (except for vegetables), and value. During the office processing, these miscellaneous crops were coded and the data were tabulated for each crop. This information is given in this chapter for the United States in Tables 2 and 3, and by States in other applicable tables. The data for each crop with a total of 50 acres or more harvested are presented in State Table 16 of Volume I.

Vegetables harvested for sale.—The Agriculture Questionnaire for all States contained a separate section for reporting vegetables harvested for sale. The first question in this section asked (a) if any vegetables were harvested for home use, and (b) if any vegetables were harvested for sale for fresh market or to canners, freezers, or other processors.

The acres harvested were to be reported separately for each vegetable crop. Separate inquiries were listed for the important vegetable crops in each State and space was provided on each questionnaire for writing in the names and acreages of other vegetables for which there was no separate inquiry. The questionnaire provided for reporting acreage in tenths of acres for the vegetable crops that were harvested for sale.

Questionnaire notes and specific instructions to enumerators and farmers provided that if two or more plantings of the same crop were made, either on the same land or on different land, the total acreage harvested from the several plantings was to be reported. Vegetables harvested from land from which other crops had been harvested were also to be reported.

The value of vegetables sold was obtained only as a total for all vegetables harvested for sale on the farm, and not for each vegetable crop harvested.