

Data are available for the quantity of fertilizer used in the conterminous United States for only 1959, 1954, 1940, and 1930 censuses.

Census year	Tons of fertilizer used		
	Total	Increase over preceding census	
		Tons	Percent
1959	19,603,104	649,744	3.4
1954	18,953,360	11,949,534	170.6
1939	7,003,826	-531,196	-7.0
1929	7,535,022	NA	NA

NA Not available.

There has been a large increase in the proportion of farms using fertilizer. Since 1940, the quantity of fertilizer used has doubled.

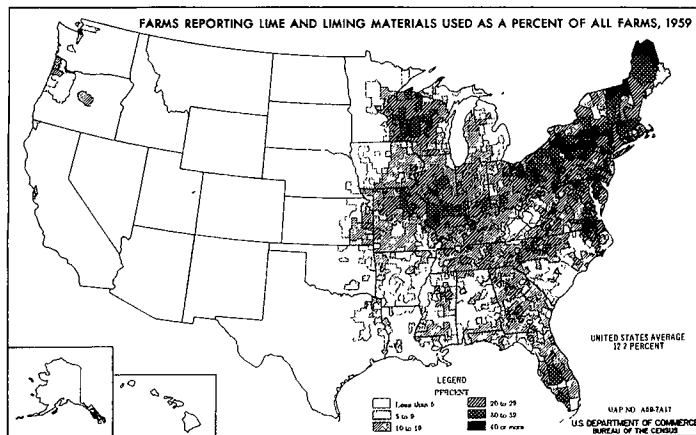
Figures on the number of farms using or purchasing commercial fertilizer and fertilizing materials are available for a long period for the conterminous United States.

Census year	Farms reporting fertilizer used or purchased		
	Total	Increase over preceding census	
		Number of farms	Percent
1959	2,374,015	-542,391	-18.6
1954	2,916,406	356,135	13.0
1944	2,580,271	243,240	10.4
1939	2,337,031	12,941	0.6
1929	2,324,090	140,034	6.4
1924	2,184,056	-87,123	-3.8
1919	2,271,179	448,147	24.6
1909	1,823,032	NA	NA

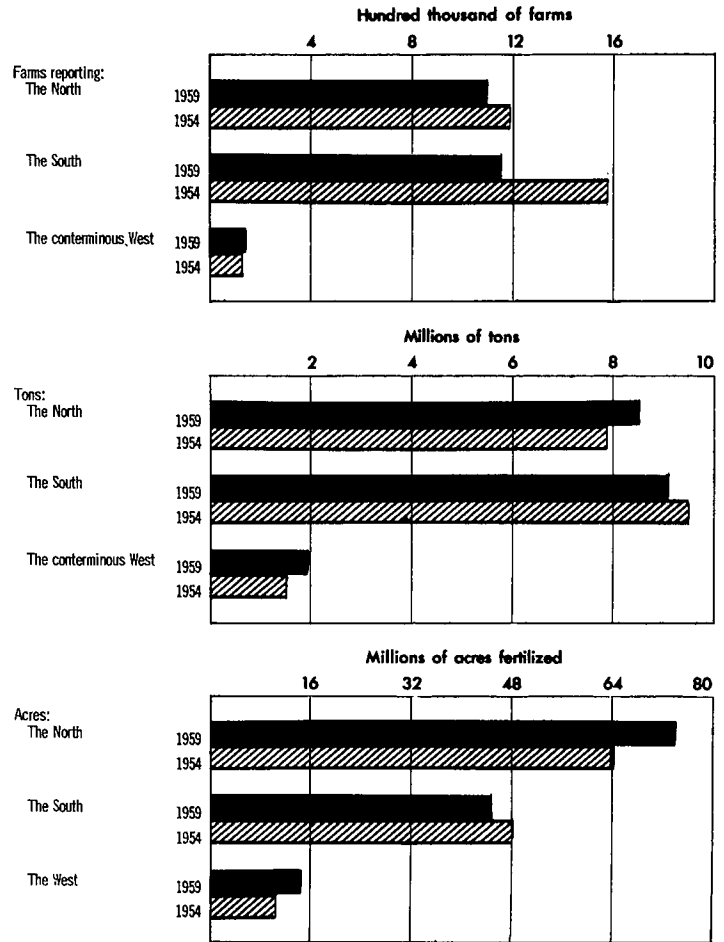
NA Not available.

While the number of farms reporting the use of fertilizer declined from 2,916,000 in 1954, to 2,374,000 in 1959, for the conterminous United States, the proportion of the farms reporting fertilizer increased from 61.0 in 1954, to 64.1 in 1959. Most of the decrease in the number of farms reporting fertilizer occurred in the South where the decline in the number of farms from 1954 to 1959 was relatively large.

**Lime.**—In 1959, about one out of eight farms reported the use of lime and liming materials. The use of lime is concentrated largely in the Northern States and the South Atlantic States. While the number of farms for the conterminous United States reporting the use of lime was fewer in 1959 than in 1954, the proportion of farms reporting the use of lime increased from 10.9 to 12.3 percent for the 48 conterminous States.



COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER: FARMS REPORTING, TONS, AND ACRES FERTILIZED, BY REGIONS: 1959 AND 1954



The tons of lime and liming materials used in 1959 for the conterminous United States were 10.9 percent greater than in 1954, while the acreage limed was 2.9 percent less. The average amount of lime and liming materials used per acre was 3,760 pounds in 1959, or 14.3 percent greater than in 1954 in the conterminous United States. The increase from 1954 to 1959 in the tons of lime and liming materials used was the result largely of increases in the Southern States.

