

in 1959 were sweet corn, tomatoes, green peas, snap beans, watermelons, lettuce and romaine, asparagus, cantaloups and muskmelons, cabbage, and blackeyes and other green cowpeas.

Vegetables for sale are largely grown in specialized areas and on specialized farms. The number of farms growing vegetables has been declining. The number of farms growing vegetables in 1959 was only a third of the number in 1944, and 35 percent less than the number in 1954. The acreage of vegetables harvested for sale grown on irrigated land in the 17 Western States and Louisiana, comprised 32 percent of the acreage of vegetables harvested for sale in 1959 in the United States.

BERRIES AND OTHER SMALL FRUITS

Berries and other small fruits.—Berries and small fruits accounted for less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the value of all crops and of all farm products sold in 1959.

The acreage of berries and small fruits in 1959 was about the same as in 1954, 12 percent less than in 1949, and 40 percent less than in 1939.

The average yields per acre for all berry and small fruit crops with 10,000 or more acres harvested were considerably greater in 1959 than for prior censuses. The yield per acre for 1959 exceeded that for 1954 by 28 percent for strawberries, 35 percent for blackberries and dewberries, 9 percent for raspberries, 6 percent for blueberries, and 30 percent for cranberries.

The value of berries and small fruits in 1959 was 12 percent greater than in 1954, 41 percent greater than in 1949, and more than 136 percent greater than the value in 1939. The increase in value of sales was the result of increased yield per acre as the value per unit of sales varied from 7 to 28 percent lower in 1959 than in the 1954 for strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, and cranberries. The three Western States of California, Oregon, and Washington produced approximately one-half of the value of the berries and small fruits harvested in the United States.

Strawberries were the most important berry and small fruit crop. They accounted for 44 percent of the acreage harvested and 67 percent of the value of all berry and small fruit crops in 1959. The number of farms reporting and the acreage harvested were 16 percent and 6 percent, respectively, greater in 1959 than in 1954. The quantity of strawberries sold in 1959 was 35 percent larger than in 1954 and 66 percent greater than in 1949. More than half of the strawberry crop is produced in California and Oregon. Four States—California, Oregon, Washington, and Michigan—produced 71 percent of the crop in 1959.

Blueberries were the second most important berry and small fruit crop, accounting for 10 percent of the value of all berries and small fruits sold in 1959. Four States—Maine, New Jersey, Michigan, and North Carolina—accounted for more than 88 percent of the 1959 production.

Cranberries were the third most important berry and small fruit crop in 1959, accounting for slightly less than 10 percent of the value of all berry and small fruit crops sold. The 1959 acreage harvested was only 5 percent greater than that of 1899. Cranberry production has been increasing because of the increase in yield per acre. The yield per acre in 1959 exceeded 1954 by 30 percent and 1949 by 75 percent. The 1959 yield per acre was 250 percent higher than in 1899. The production of cranberries is highly localized. Five counties—Plymouth, Barnstable, and Bristol counties, Massachusetts; Burlington County, New Jersey; and Coos County, Oregon—produced more than 50 percent of the cranberries harvested in 1959.

TREE FRUITS, NUTS, GRAPES, AND COFFEE

Tree fruits, nuts, grapes, and coffee.—Tree fruits, nuts, grapes, and coffee were reported for 319,461, or 8.6 percent, of all farms in 1959. The total acreage reported in bearing and nonbearing fruit orchards, groves, vineyards, and planted nut trees in 1959 for the conterminous United States was 4.1 million acres compared with 4.0 million acres reported in 1954 for a net increase of 3.0 percent. Farms reporting land in fruit trees, nut trees, grapes, and coffee were 25 percent less in 1959 than in 1954.

