

GENERAL REPORT

The distribution of fertilizer use by crops or groups of crops for 1959 was as follows:

Table 13.—USE OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER AND FERTILIZING MATERIAL ON CROPS AND PASTURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959

Crops and pasture fertilized	Farms reporting use of fertilizer			Tons used		Acres fertilized			Pounds per acre	Percent distribution of—	
	Total	Percent of all farms in the United States	Percent of all farms using fertilizer	Total	Average per farm reporting	Total	Average per farm reporting	Percent of acreage fertilized ¹		Tons used	Acres fertilized
United States, total.....	2,378,454	64.1	100.0	19,802,175	8.3	2133,258,950	56.0	15.8	297	100.0	100.0
Hay and cropland pastured.....	490,330	13.2	20.6	2,195,396	4.5	13,399,909	27.3	10.4	328	11.1	10.1
Other pasture (not cropland).....	154,727	4.2	6.5	745,547	4.8	4,456,949	28.8	1.0	335	3.8	3.3
Corn.....	1,568,714	42.3	66.0	6,759,814	4.3	51,000,884	32.5	64.6	265	34.1	38.3
Sorghums.....	31,236	0.8	1.3	155,049	5.0	2,358,804	75.5	18.4	131	0.8	1.8
Wheat.....	494,095	13.3	20.8	1,406,386	2.8	17,486,168	35.4	42.1	161	7.1	13.1
Soybeans.....	79,467	2.1	3.3	279,717	3.5	2,731,113	34.4	14.0	205	1.4	2.0
Cotton.....	381,919	10.3	16.1	1,636,264	4.3	8,545,771	22.4	62.5	383	8.3	6.4
Tobacco.....	312,654	8.4	13.1	655,244	2.1	817,853	2.6	98.0	1,602	3.3	0.6
Irish potatoes.....	29,140	0.8	1.2	449,284	15.4	869,503	29.8	75.4	1,033	2.3	0.7
Sugar beets.....	17,552	0.5	0.7	143,346	8.2	637,696	36.3	95.3	450	0.7	0.5
Oats.....	8,322	0.2	0.3	17,005	2.0	188,467	22.6	14.2	180	0.1	0.1
Barley.....	13,304	0.4	0.6	52,435	3.9	985,644	74.1	30.5	106	0.3	0.7
Sugarcane.....	966	(2)	(2)	156,044	161.5	209,903	217.3	95.4	1,487	0.8	0.2
Pineapples.....	111	(2)	(2)	28,275	254.7	57,183	515.2	90.6	989	0.1	(2)
Coffee.....	1,215	(2)	0.1	4,174	3.4	7,716	6.4	99.5	1,082	(2)	(2)
Oats and other grains.....	134	(2)	(2)	870	6.5	7,032	52.5	79.7	247	(2)	(2)
Vegetables.....	74	(2)	(2)	132	1.8	285	3.9	125.6	926	(2)	(2)
Unspecified other crops.....	964,137	26.0	40.5	5,117,193	5.3	29,561,329	30.7	39.9	346	25.8	22.2

² Less than 0.05 percent.

¹ Percentages for crops or pasture fertilized represent the ratio of the acreage fertilized to the total acres of crops that are harvested in the United States. The percentage for total acres fertilized is based on all cropland harvested plus the acres of pasture, other than woodland; in the case of pasture to the total acreage of pasture (excluding woodland pasture).

² Area of land on which fertilizer was applied. In some cases, two or more crops were fertilized and harvested from the same land.

The following summary indicates the data covering fertilizer and fertilizing materials obtained for 1959 and prior censuses.

Census of—	Kind of data obtained
1959.....	Commercial fertilizer and fertilizing materials in 1959—tons (separately for dry and liquid) and acres on which used. Inquiries were obtained separately for hay and cropland pasture, other pasture (not cropland), 3 important crops (which varied by States), and for all other crops.
1954 ¹	Commercial fertilizer and fertilizing materials in 1954—tons, acres on which used, and cost. Inquiries were obtained separately for hay and cropland pasture; other pasture; 2 important crops (which varied by States); fruits, vegetables, and potatoes; and for all other crops.
1945 ¹	Commercial fertilizer in 1944—cost only.
1940 ¹	Quantity and cost of commercial fertilizer bought in 1939.
1930 ¹	Quantity of commercial fertilizer bought in 1929. Amount expended was for commercial fertilizer, manure, marl, lime, and limestone. (No separate expenditure data were obtained for fertilizer alone.)
1925 ¹	Amount expended in 1924 for manure and fertilizer, including lime and ground limestone. (No separate data were obtained for fertilizer alone.)
1920.....	Amount expended in 1919 for manure and fertilizer.
1910.....	Amount expended in 1909 for manure and other fertilizer.
1900 ¹	Amount expended for fertilizers in 1899.
1890 ¹	Amount expended for fertilizers in 1889.
1880 ¹	Amount expended for fertilizers in 1879.

¹ Alaska and Hawaii not included.

Data for fertilizer use for corn, sorghums, wheat, soybeans, cotton, tobacco, Irish potatoes, sugar beets, oats, barley, sugarcane, pineapples, coffee, vegetables, and oats and other grains were not obtained for all States, hence, the data given for each of these crops understate the use of fertilizer on these crops. In the States in which data were not obtained separately in 1959 for these crops, the data on fertilizer used for such crops were included with all other crops.

The following data provide a measure for the coverage of the inquiries on fertilizer use for the various crops.

Crop	States with separate inquiry for fertilizer use for the crop	Acreage of crop for all States	Acreage of crop in States with separate inquiry on fertilizer use for the crop	
			Total	Percent of acreage for crop for all States
Hay and cropland pasture.....	50	129,065,155	129,065,155	100.0
Other pasture (not cropland).....	50	466,224,802	466,224,802	100.0
Corn.....	39	79,616,031	78,920,502	99.1
Sorghums.....	4	17,927,257	12,807,900	71.4
Wheat.....	26	49,566,924	41,563,205	83.9
Soybeans.....	14	23,070,264	19,877,312	86.2
Cotton.....	12	14,649,284	13,683,667	93.4
Tobacco.....	6	1,108,274	834,312	75.3
Irish potatoes.....	23	1,200,431	953,375	79.4
Sugar beets.....	9	911,796	668,932	73.4
Oats.....	5	26,572,824	1,346,780	5.0
Barley.....	7	14,199,311	3,229,100	22.7
Sugarcane.....	1	553,837	220,048	39.7
Pineapples.....	1	63,134	63,134	100.0
Coffee.....	1	7,757	7,757	100.0
Oats and other grains (Alaska only).....	1	7,303	7,303	100.0
Vegetables for sale.....	1	3,490,763	227	(¹)

¹ Less than 0.05 percent.

More fertilizer is used on corn than on any other crop. In 1959 more than one-third of all fertilizer was used for corn. Corn accounted for approximately two-fifths of the acreage fertilized in 1959. Nearly 2 out of every 3 acres of corn harvested in 1959 were fertilized. In 4 out of the 10 States having 2 million or more acres of corn harvested in 1959, 80 percent or more of the corn harvested in 1959 was fertilized.

Wheat ranked second among crops in terms of the acreage fertilized. In the 26 States for which data were obtained for wheat, the acreage fertilized totaled 17.5 million acres. However, the quantity of fertilizer used on wheat was less than that used on hay and cropland pasture and on cotton.