

Volume 5

Special Reports

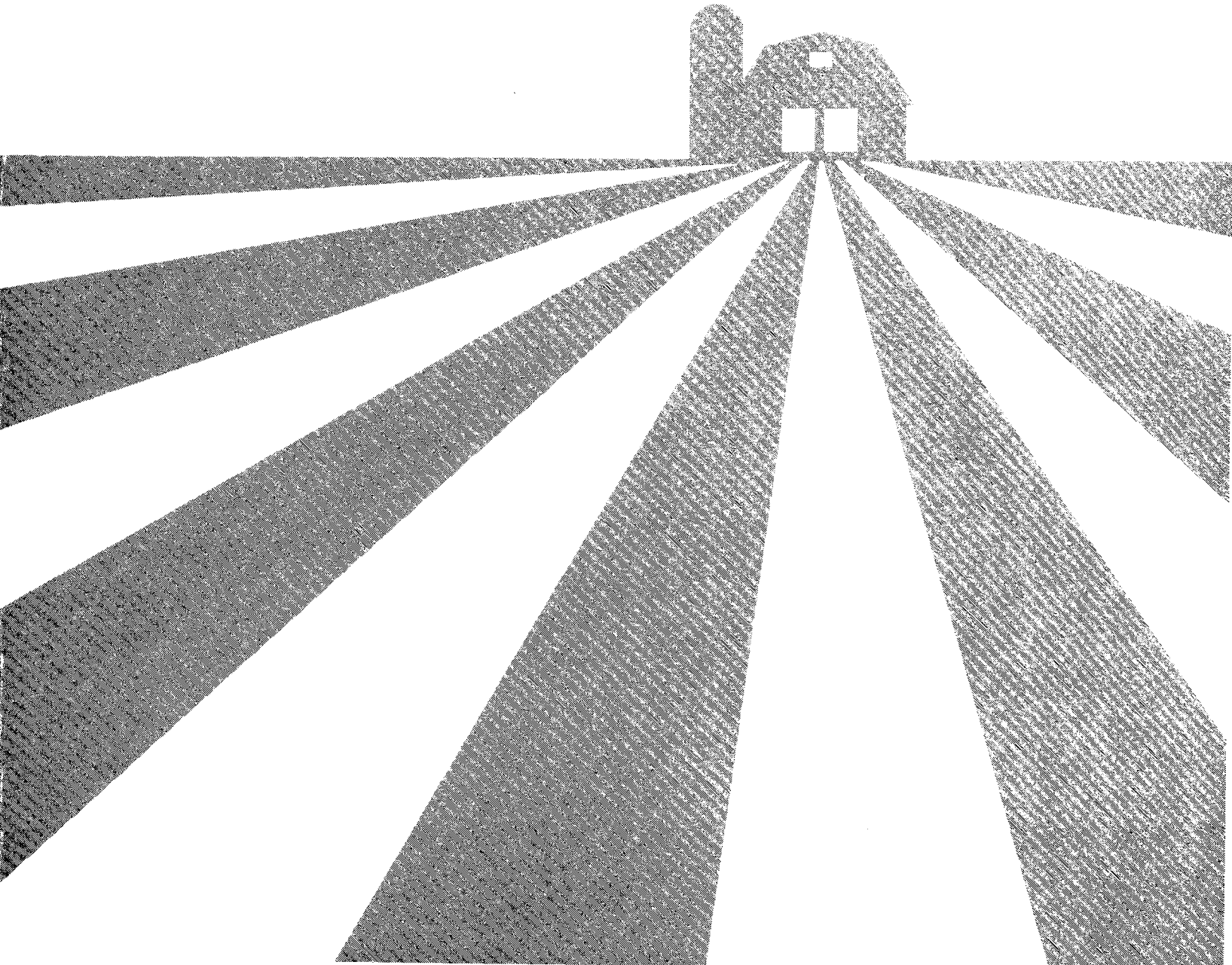
Part 7

**1979 Census of
Horticultural
Specialties**

AC78-SR-7

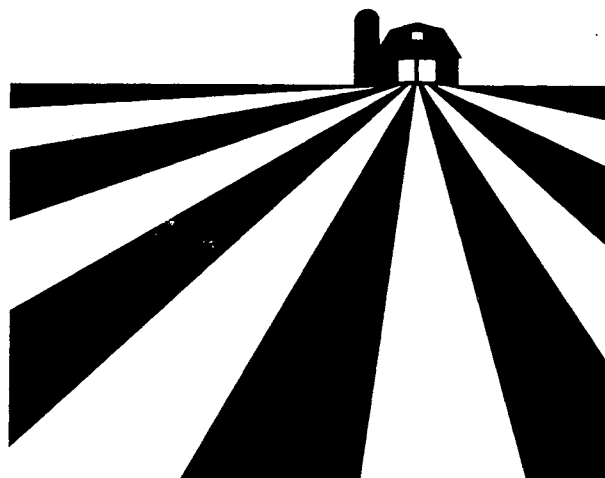
1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



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Part 7
**1979 Census of
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Issued April 1982



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This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division under the general direction of **Orvin L. Wilhite**, Chief (to January 1980), and **Arnold L. Bollenbacher**, his successor. **Kenneth R. Norell**, Assistant Division Chief for Special Surveys, supervised report preparation, table design, and publication of the census.

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HISTORY

This is the sixth census of horticultural specialty production. These censuses have been taken in conjunction with the agriculture censuses of 1890, 1930, 1950, 1959, 1969, and 1978. The 1979 Census of Horticultural Specialties, as in previous censuses, includes producers of cut flowers, flowering and foliage plants, bedding plants, cultivated florist greens, nursery products, bulbs, flower seeds, vegetables grown under glass or other protection, cultivated mushrooms, vegetable seeds, and sod. Data for these specialty items were collected for each State.

Establishments producing horticultural specialties also have been included in the regular census of agriculture; however, the number and detail of questions included in that census were severely limited.

AUTHORITY

The 1979 Census of Horticultural Specialties was taken in accordance with the provisions of title 13, United States Code. Section 142 provides for the census of agriculture and section 193 provides for the collection of supplementary statistics related to the main topic.

HORTICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENT DEFINITION

This census defines a horticultural establishment as an operation growing and selling \$2,000 or more of horticultural products in the census year. This definition also has been used in the special censuses of 1959 and 1969. The previous definition used in 1950 included operations producing and selling at least \$1,000 of horticultural products. The 1930 census included all operations with any sales.

PERIOD COVERED

The 1979 Census of Horticultural Specialties covers operations of the calendar year 1979 except for the small portion of establishments that maintain their records on a fiscal year basis.

These establishments were permitted to report their fiscal year that included at least half of the 1979 calendar year. Data on employment, land, structures, and equipment were to be reported for the period specified on the report form.

METHOD OF ENUMERATION

The 1979 Census of Horticultural Specialties was conducted primarily by mail for maximum economy, supplemented by telephone interviews. It was taken in conjunction with the annual Floriculture Survey conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and in California by the State government to minimize respondent's burden. Appendix A provides a more detailed description of how the census was taken.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

Detailed data on horticultural specialty production have been obtained in five previous censuses in conjunction with the censuses of agriculture. Only limited comparative data are given in this volume, but historical data may be obtained for the census year in question by referring to one of the following census reports:

1890—Eleventh Census of the United States 1890.

1930—Fifteenth Census of the United States 1930; Horticulture for the United States and for States, 1929 and 1930.

1950—1950 Census of Agriculture; Volume V, Special Reports; Part 1, Horticultural Specialties.

1959—1959 Census of Agriculture; Volume V, Special Reports; Part 1, Horticultural Specialties.

1969—1969 Census of Agriculture; Volume V, Special Reports; Part 10, Horticultural Specialties.

Differences in the amount of data collected, in methodology, and format will affect comparability of data. In a 10-year period, emphasis usually changes as it did in this census period. Pot and basket sizes are included for the first time for flowering and foliage plants. Also, the 1979 census included with land and structures information concerning the value of machinery and equipment. Other new items are detail data on energy and costs of fertilizer and agricultural chemicals.

The data from the 1978 Census of Agriculture are not directly comparable. The 1978 data include all establishments that grew and sold any horticultural products. However, this census covers those operations with at least \$2,000 in gross sales of horticultural specialty products. Some difference in the reporting of county location of the horticultural operation will appear between 1978 data and 1979 data. In all tables, the sum

of the parts will not necessarily equal the total, whenever rounded data are used. Also, this is the case between tables.

TABULAR PRESENTATION

U.S. data—Tables 1 through 16 show detailed data of the United States. Tables 1 through 8 show data by various kinds of business and value of sales, and tables 9 through 16 show each specialty item.

State data—Tables 17 through 24 show selected data items on a State level, such as sales, production expenses, land, and machinery and equipment. Detailed data are shown in tables 25 through 39 and table 40 includes selected items for Hawaii.

County data—Tables 41 through 56 are presented on a county level. Table 41 shows total sales and labor, and tables 42 through 56 show statistics on each specialty commodity group.

CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

In keeping with the provisions of title 13, United States Code, data that would disclose the operations of an individual horticultural establishment are not published. However, the

number of establishments in a given size category or other classification is not considered a disclosure. Appendix A presents additional information on disclosure rules.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Appendix A includes definitions and explanations of selected terms used in the tables.

“SEE TEXT” REFERENCE

Items in the tables which are followed by the reference “See text” are explained or defined in appendix A.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used, where applicable, throughout the tables:

- Zero.
- (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual establishments.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half of the unit reported.
- (NA) Not available.

Highlights of the Nation's Horticultural Specialties: 1979 and 1970

(Significant changes were made to data collection procedures to improve coverage of 1979 census, including a more complete mail list and improvements in methods of tabulation. Thus, 1970 data are not directly comparable to 1979 data)

	All farms		Farms with sales of \$10,000 or more	
	1979	1970	1979	1970
TOTAL				
Establishments number	22,347	12,962	15,854	8,896
Value of horticultural products sold:				
Total sales ¹ \$1,000	3,212,002	960,918	3,178,373	939,255
Wholesale sales ¹ \$1,000	2,775,184	781,037	2,760,176	769,332
Hired labor:				
Employees on payroll number	223,892	97,569	(NA)	92,184
Full time employees number	95,066	52,215	(NA)	50,639
Part time employees number	128,826	45,354	(NA)	41,545
Unpaid family members number	10,239	10,606	(NA)	6,933
Wages and salaries: ¹				
Wages paid out \$1,000	934,783	316,121	(NA)	(NA)
Full time wages \$1,000	768,386	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Part time wages \$1,000	166,395	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Type of ownership:				
Individual proprietor number	14,880	8,551	(NA)	5,181
Partnership number	2,684	2,064	(NA)	1,547
Corporation number	4,783	2,347	(NA)	2,168
KIND OF BUSINESS				
Bedding plants:				
Establishments number	3,947	(NA)	2,292	(NA)
Sales ¹ \$1,000	254,241	61,627	245,753	56,901
Potted flowering plants and/or cut flowers:				
Establishments number	6,486	7,969	4,984	5,460
Sales ¹ \$1,000	867,021	401,470	859,054	393,290
Foliage plants:				
Establishments number	2,347	2,030	1,762	1,527
Sales ¹ \$1,000	410,000	38,376	406,873	37,909
Nursery crops:				
Establishments number	6,257	3,764	4,189	2,515
Sales ¹ \$1,000	956,001	283,636	945,704	278,123
Sod:				
Establishments number	973	545	812	408
Sales ¹ \$1,000	206,895	43,365	206,067	42,461
Greenhouse vegetables:				
Establishments number	538	2,555	325	1,508
Sales ¹ \$1,000	25,202	18,359	24,089	17,437
Bulbs:				
Establishments number	159	270	104	196
Sales ¹ \$1,000	19,371	10,375	19,074	10,190
Seeds:				
Establishments number	441	261	346	141
Sales ¹ \$1,000	40,868	8,520	40,299	7,888
Cultivated mushrooms:				
Establishments number	476	546	464	525
Sales ¹ \$1,000	348,341	95,191	348,256	95,056
Other (see text):				
Establishments number	723	(NA)	576	(NA)
Sales ¹ \$1,000	84,058	(NA)	83,203	(NA)

¹ Dollar figures shown have not been adjusted for changes in price levels between census years.

REGIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

