PART V

CROPS

Trends in Major Crops

Although Grant County agriculture is becoming more diversified as more land is put under irrigation, wheat and other grains grown mostly in dryland areas continue to be the major crops. Grant was among the top 100 U. S. counties for acreage and production of wheat in 1959, and ranked second among all Washington counties in spring wheat acreage and seventh in winter wheat acreage.

Lands brought under irrigation by the Columbia Basin Project have undergone great changes with respect to the crops grown on them. Some newly introduced crops have attained major importance, and acreage and production of some existing crops have increased.

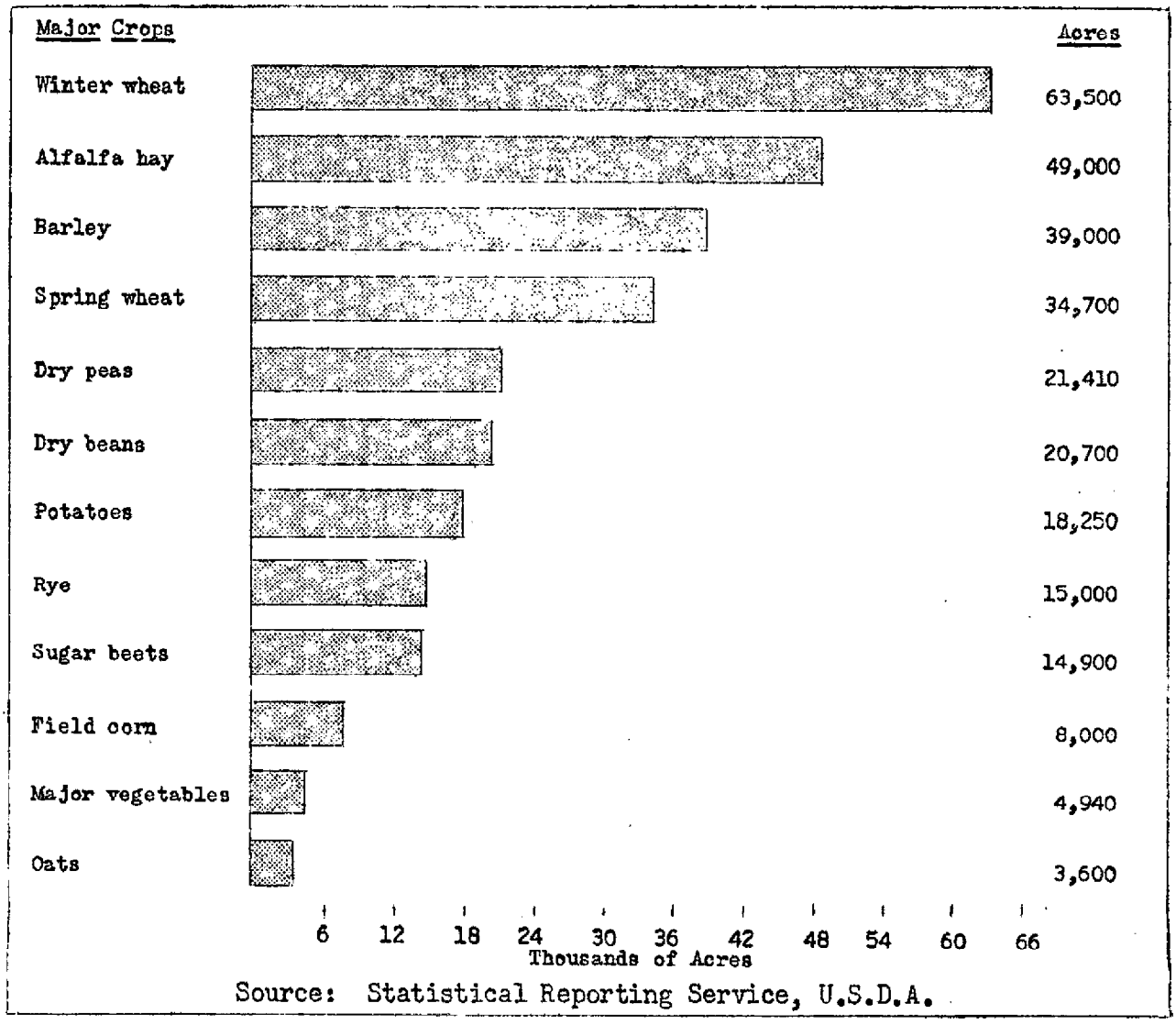
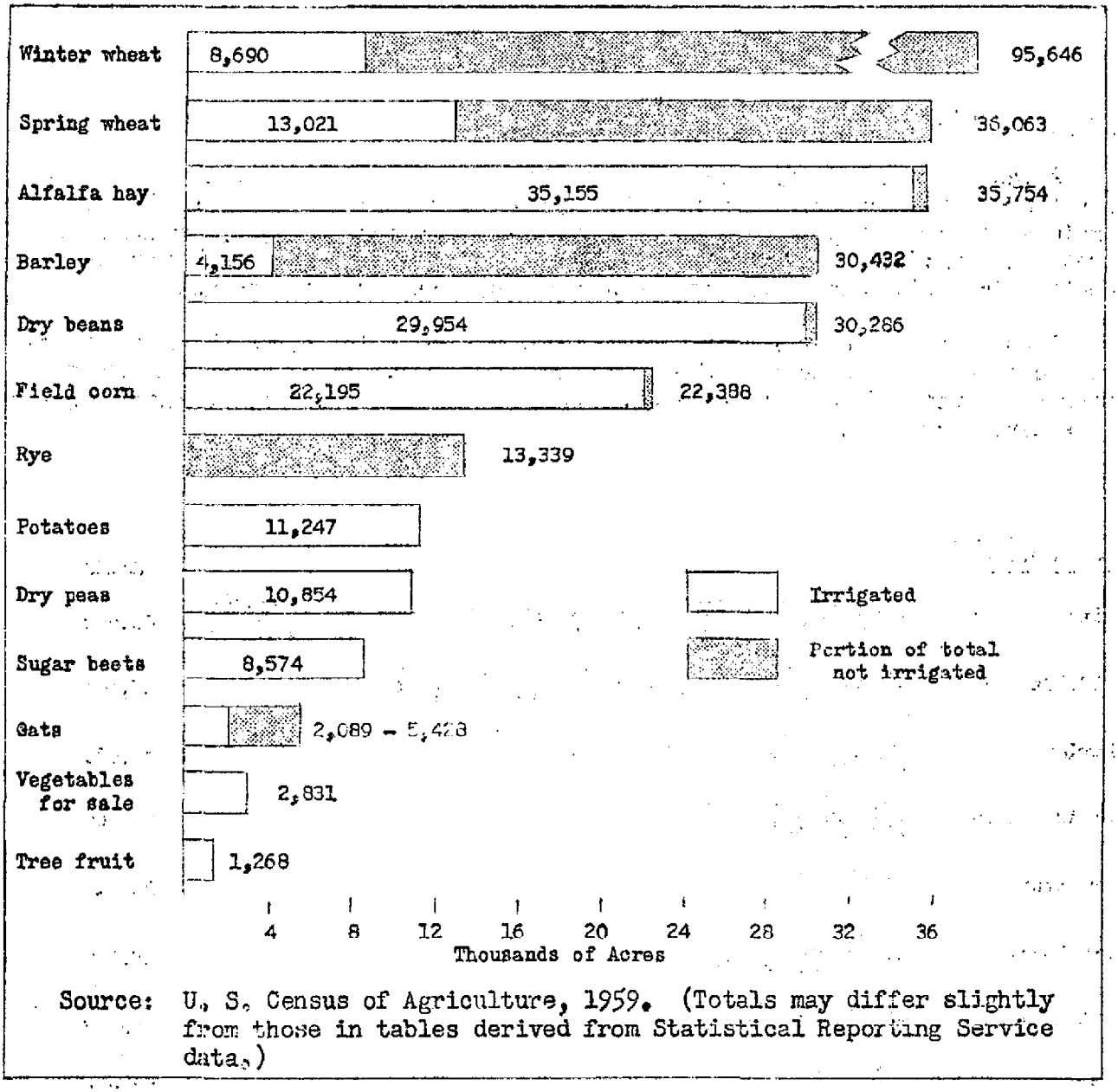


Figure 10. Acreages Harvested for Major Crops, Grant County, 1962.



Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1959. (Totals may differ slightly from those in tables derived from Statistical Reporting Service data.)

Figure 11. Comparison of Total Acreages Harvested and Portion Irrigated for Major Crops, Grant County, 1959.

Grant County has led the state in hay and potato acreage for the past several years. Most alfalfa and other tame hays and practically all potatoes are grown on irrigated fields. Alfalfa is the second most important crop in the county on an acreage basis. Dry peas and dry beans are newcomers made possible by irrigation. The county led all others in the state for dry field and seed bean acreage in 1959, and was third in acreage of dry field and seed peas.

Another important crop recently introduced on project lands is sugar beets. Grant County has ranked second statewide in sugar beet acreage for several years and was twentieth nationwide for production in 1959. Grant is also one of the leading Washington counties in raising mint for oil, dry onions, and red clover and alfalfa seed. Although fruit tree and grape acreage is minor compared to that

of other crops, the county was among the top 100 nationwide in the number of apple and pear trees, and grape vines in 1959.

Table 15. Grant County's Rank in Agriculture Compared to 100 Leading U. S. Counties

Item	Rank	
	1954	1959
Value of all farm products sold	*	64
All wheat harvested - acreage	77	93
- quantity harvested	27	31
Irish potatoes harvested for home use or sale - acreage	40	21
- quantity harvested	29	11
Sugar beets harvested for sugar - acreage	31	27
- quantity harvested	19	20
Apples - number of trees of all ages	*	97
Pears - number of trees of all ages	*	49
Grapes - number of vines of all ages	*	92
- quantity harvested	89	67

* Not one of the first 100 counties.

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1959 (Special Reports - Ranking Agricultural Counties).

Small Grains

The 1959 small grain harvest, including 180,908 acres of wheat, barley, oats, and rye, and 1,180 acres of other grains, took up 59 percent of the county's total harvested cropland. For the four main grain crops, 85 percent of the harvested acreage was from nonirrigated fields.

Wheat

Wheat has long been the most important crop in Grant County. The 1959 harvested acreage accounted for 42 percent of the county's total harvested cropland. Acreage has fluctuated somewhat in recent years with the overall trend being slightly downward due to production controls and irrigation of former wheatland. The highest year since 1949 for harvested acreage was 1953, with 183,400 acres. The lowest was 1962, with 98,200. Acreage was back up to 137,100 in 1964. Production and yields have shown tremendous increases due to newly introduced varieties and irrigation. Yields have ranged from 18.5 bushels per acre in 1949 to 53.5 in 1964.

Fall sown winter wheat has been preferred over spring wheat to take advantage of winter moisture and protective snow cover. Yield generally exceeds that of spring wheat. Fields are summer fallowed for maximum moisture retention and fall soil moisture is usually sufficient for germination. There is usually enough snow to protect the young sprouts from extreme cold. Fields that show poor germination or fail to survive the winter in good condition are generally reseeded wholly or partially to spring wheat. Under dry soil conditions in the fall, planting is often deferred until spring. Spring wheat acreage in any given year is strongly related to winter losses of winter wheat. Over a third of the spring wheat acreage is now on small, irrigated farms. The great majority of the winter wheat crop

still comes from large dryland farms in the northeastern and eastern parts of the county.

Table 16. Wheat and Barley, Acreage, Yield and Production Grant County, 1949-1964

Year	All Wheat			Barley		
	Acreage (acres)	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)	Acreage (acres)	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)
1949	177,000	18.5	3,268,500	250	30.0	7,500
1950	174,000	21.3	3,709,500	8,300	29.0	240,700
1951	181,000	23.6	4,263,000	500	38.0	19,000
1952	176,000	23.3	4,093,000	600	45.0	27,000
1953	183,400	23.0	4,215,000	3,000	50.0	150,000
1954	150,700	27.7	4,168,900	26,400	26.5	700,000
1955	132,600	21.0	2,787,600	35,000	17.0	595,000
1956	133,000	31.0	4,120,500	22,600	22.1	499,600
1957	100,600	35.2	3,545,200	33,000	38.4	1,265,700
1958	129,400	31.8	4,113,600	28,600	30.3	866,200
1959	135,400	31.3	4,237,600	31,000	35.2	1,090,800
1960	121,500	27.7	3,368,500	41,500	27.5	1,141,200
1961	117,100	27.7	3,239,500	50,000	37.3	1,865,000
1962	98,200	34.4	3,373,500	39,000	38.0	1,482,000
1963	112,700	28.8	3,250,100	45,000	37.5	1,689,000
1964	137,100	53.5	7,334,700	30,000	36.1	1,084,200

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.
Estimates for 1964 are preliminary.

Table 17. Varieties of Wheat Grown in Grant County, 1964

Classes and Varieties of Wheat	Production (Bushels)	Percent of Total Crop
COMMON WHITE	2,434,500	33.2
Gaines	1,777,500	24.2
Marfed	406,100	5.5
Baart	157,500	2.2
Burt	25,800	0.4
Idaed	63,000	0.9
Bluestem	2,800	Trace
Federation	1,800	Trace
WHITE CLUB	3,741,900	51.0
Elgin	2,035,900	27.8
Omar	1,706,000	23.2
HARD RED WINTER	1,129,500	15.4
Itana	810,000	11.1
Turkey-Rio	189,100	2.6
Columbia	24,200	0.3
Ridit	68,200	0.9
Cheyenne	38,000	0.5
HARD RED SPRING	7,900	0.1
Henry	7,900	0.1
DURUM	20,900	0.3
Wells	14,800	0.2
Sentry	6,100	0.1
Total all classes	7,334,700	

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Table 18. Winter Wheat and Spring Wheat
Grant County, 1949-1964

Year	Winter Wheat			Spring Wheat		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (Bushels Per Acre)	Production (Bushels)	Harvested Acres	Yield (Bushels Per Acre)	Production (Bushels)
1949	132,000	20.5	2,706,000	45,000	12.5	562,500
1950	109,000	23.0	2,507,000	65,000	18.5	1,202,500
1951	132,000	24.5	3,234,000	49,000	21.0	1,029,000
1952	133,000	23.5	3,125,500	43,000	22.5	967,500
1953	91,000	25.0	2,275,000	92,400	21.0	1,940,400
1954	110,700	27.0	2,988,900	40,000	29.5	1,180,000
1955	98,700	20.0	1,974,000	33,900	24.0	813,600
1956	47,400	16.5	782,100	85,600	39.0	3,338,400
1957	71,100	37.0	2,630,700	29,500	31.0	914,500
1958	85,400	34.0	2,903,600	44,000	27.5	1,210,000
1959	95,200	31.0	2,951,200	40,200	32.0	1,286,400
1960	98,000	25.5	2,499,000	23,500	37.0	869,500
1961	78,600	27.5	2,161,500	38,500	28.0	1,078,000
1962	63,500	34.0	2,159,000	34,700	35.0	1,214,500
1963	72,100	31.0	2,235,100	40,600	25.0	1,015,000
1964	117,100	57.0	6,674,700	20,000	33.0	660,000

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.
Estimates for 1964 are preliminary.

Grant County wheat growers have experimented with many varieties. Common White and White Club wheats, ideal for pastry uses, are the most common classes. They accounted for 84 percent of the total 1964 crop. Elgin, Gaines, and Omar are the most popular white varieties. Considerable acreage of hard red winter wheats, mainly Itana, are also raised. Hard red winter and Durum wheats have lately been in the minority. Research and experimentation in selection of varieties has involved close cooperation between Federal, State, and private agencies. Activities are coordinated by the Pacific Northwest Crop Improvement Association with headquarters at Walla Walla.

Barley, Rye, and Oats

Barley is the second most important grain crop. Its distribution pattern largely follows that of wheat. Cash-grain farmers, when their wheat acreage is limited under Federal wheat allotment agreements, often follow summer fallow with barley. Barley has also been a pioneer crop on newly irrigated farms. The irrigated acreage amounted to 14 percent of the total in 1959. Many farmers have turned to barley to fill out their programs, to keep fields free of weeds, or to enrich the soil. Acreage showed a sudden jump in 1954 and has fluctuated between 22,600 and 50,000 acres since then. Originally grown primarily for local livestock feed, part of the crop has been marketed through Seattle and Spokane since acreages increased.

Rye is another crop often planted on nonirrigated wheatland taken out of production and is commonly used as a winter and spring cover crop to prevent wind erosion. When planted for this purpose it often serves as pasture and then is

plowed under as a green manure crop. The harvested crop used to go for livestock feed on the farm where grown, but today most of the rye crop is sold. Rye has become an important cash crop used for seed, for distilling purposes, as a feed grain, and for milling as flour. Harvested acreage remained low through 1955, increased fourfold to 13,800 acres in 1957, and has remained at about that level since.

Oats are a minor grain crop grown almost exclusively for livestock feed on the farm where produced. It is commonly fed directly, ground with corn for young animals, or fed to cattle as part of a ration. Oats alternate with wheat and barley in crop rotations on some farms. Although oats is a crop of cool, moist regions, the bulk of the Grant County crop comes from dryland wheat areas. Yield is often reduced by hot, dry weather. Harvested acreage has declined steadily from a recent high of 10,000 acres in 1956.

Table 19. Oats and Rye: Acreage, Yield and Production
Grant County, 1949-1962

Year	Oats			Rye		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)
1949	1,870	57.5	107,500	1,520	5.5	8,300
1950	5,900	49.5	292,000	4,850	10.0	48,500
1951	1,100	52.0	57,200	3,890	13.0	50,600
1952	1,200	50.0	60,000	1,240	8.5	10,500
1953	3,500	43.0	150,500	1,320	14.2	18,700
1954	5,300	35.0	185,500	4,200	9.9	41,500
1955	9,100	34.5	314,000	4,400	7.3	32,000
1956	10,000	40.0	400,000	8,500	9.5	80,750
1957	8,100	59.0	477,900	13,800	21.0	289,800
1958	5,600	46.0	257,600	13,900	21.5	298,850
1959	5,600	45.5	254,800	13,700	16.5	226,050
1960	4,300	45.0	193,500	11,700	18.5	216,450
1961	4,800	53.0	254,400	12,200	20.5	250,100
1962	3,600	56.0	201,600	15,000	25.0	375,000

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Hay Crops

Alfalfa is a crop well adapted to the irrigated fields of Grant County. It needs sunshine, warmth, and great amounts of water for maximum yields, and yet is quite tolerant of drought and heat. Acreage has steadily increased since irrigation began in the early 1950's. It reached 49,000 acres in 1962, second only to that of winter wheat. Yields are high, averaging from 4 to 5 tons per acre. Of the 228,400 tons produced in 1962, 112,326 tons were sold from 604 farms. Demand for high protein tested hay is resulting in production of higher quality alfalfa. Growers are rapidly organizing to better meet the quality demanded. Processing of alfalfa as meal, pellets, wafers, and mixed ration feeds is an expanding industry.

Clover and timothy hay in Washington is grown mostly west of the Cascades and is a minor crop in Grant County. Other minor hay crops include small grains cut for hay, wild hay, and silage cut from grasses, alfalfa, clover, or small grains.

Acreages of most hay crops other than alfalfa have declined in recent years; an exception is silage, which has gained a small popularity with the increase in irrigation and livestock numbers.

Table 20. Alfalfa Hay and Clover-Timothy Hay
Acreage, Yield and Production
Grant County, 1949-1962

Year	Alfalfa Hay			Clover and Timothy Hay		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (Tons Per Acre)	Production (Tons)	Harvested Acres	Yield (Tons Per Acre)	Production (Tons)
1949	3,200	3.5	11,300	100	1.4	140
1950	3,100	2.6	8,100	210	1.1	240
1951	3,700	3.5	13,100	360	1.4	510
1952	3,900	4.2	16,500	640	1.6	1,050
1953	5,500	3.3	17,900	1,130	4.1	4,600
1954	10,400	4.5	46,800	1,270	1.7	2,200
1955	14,500	4.7	68,000	1,170	1.3	1,500
1956	25,000	4.8	120,000	1,400	2.5	3,500
1957	27,500	5.1	140,200	990	2.1	2,100
1958	34,000	4.8	163,200	620	2.9	1,770
1959	36,000	4.2	151,200	320	2.2	700
1960	44,000	4.3	189,000	400	2.3	910
1961	48,000	4.8	228,500	350	2.3	800
1962	49,000	4.7	228,400	300	2.4	720

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Table 21. Hay Crops other than Alfalfa and Clover-Timothy:
Acres Cut and Production, Grant County, 1919-1959.

Year	Small Grains cut for hay		Wild Hay		Silage from grass, hay, or small grains		Other Hay	
	Acres	Prod. (tons)	Acres	Prod. (tons)	Acres	Prod. (tons)	Acres	Prod. (tons)
1919	30,487	14,912	1,161	1,236	0	0	371	503
1929	11,444	6,621	386	384	No Data	No Data	622	899
1939	5,721	5,013	2,157	2,614	0	0	2,864	2,996
1949	2,371	2,175	276	431	0	0	155	185
1954	2,526	3,770	125	100	351	2,177	237	380
1959	1,245	2,137	267	189	213	920	309	673

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture.

Dry Beans and Peas

Washington's dry field and seed bean production is mostly limited to Grant County and her near neighbors on Columbia Basin Project irrigated fields. Growers include beans in a balanced rotation and rely on them as an important cash crop. Red Mexican--known as "small reds" in the trade--is the most important variety. Others are pinto, small white, Great Northern, pink, and Black Turtle beans. Acreages have fluctuated between 16,200 and 30,286 acres since the crop became

important in 1954. Reduction in overseas outlets has been largely responsible for an acreage reduction since 1959, and yields have been lowered somewhat by disease and inclement growing and harvesting weather. Field beans are used mostly as human food.

Dry field and seed peas have spread from the primary growing areas in eastern Washington's dryland wheat region to the Columbia Basin with the coming of irrigation. As a legume, peas restore nitrogen and act as a cover and green manure crop, as well as providing a cash income. Initiated in 1954, dry peas have been harvested from 4,951 to 21,410 acres each year since.

Table 22. Dry Peas and Dry Beans: Acreage, Yield, and Production in Grant County, 1925-1959

Year	Dry Peas			Dry Beans		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (pounds per acre)	Production (pounds)	Harvested Acres	Yield (pounds per acre)	Production (pounds)
1944 1/	0	0	0	0	0	0
1949 1/	0	0	0	59	1,986	117,200
1954 1/	4,951	2,411	11,935,044	25,085	2,207	55,368,200
1959 1/	10,854	2,664	28,912,878	30,286	1,709	51,744,500
1960 2/	8,299	2,724	22,605,500	21,700	1,663	36,090,000
1961 2/	13,730	2,322	31,876,800	16,200	1,833	29,702,000
1962 2/	21,410	2,866	61,362,100	20,700	1,555	32,194,000
1963 2/	14,416	2,505	36,107,600	18,600	1,806	33,590,000

1/ Data for these years from U. S. Census of Agriculture.
2/ Data for these years from Bureau of Reclamation for dry peas, and from Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A., for dry beans.

Table 23. Potatoes: Acreage, Yield and Production Grant County, 1949-1964

Year	Harvested Acres	Yield (Tons Per Acre)	Production (tons)
1949	4,200	13.10	55,000
1950	4,500	12.00	54,000
1951	2,900	12.07	35,000
1952	4,500	13.56	61,000
1953	6,000	12.17	73,000
1954	8,800	14.20	125,000
1955	14,500	13.72	199,000
1956	15,440	13.46	207,900
1957	14,100	14.03	197,800
1958	16,340	13.63	222,640
1959	15,720	14.84	233,260
1960	14,400	17.03	245,200
1961	19,300	16.74	323,100
1962	18,250	16.50	301,100
1963	15,950	19.78	313,550
1964	15,700	17.20	270,000

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.
Estimates for 1964 are preliminary.

Potatoes

Grant has been Washington's leading potato growing county since 1950. Harvested acreage rose from 8,800 acres in 1954 to 14,500 the following year, and has remained at about that level or higher since. Yields have increased considerably in recent years. Strictly an irrigated crop in Grant County, potatoes are harvested either in late summer or fall. The late summer crop is dug and marketed immediately. Most fall potatoes go into storage for winter marketing. The russet is the most popular variety--others include round red and white rose.

Markets are in the Midwest, South, East, and along the West Coast. Most potatoes go to fresh markets, but a growing amount is being taken by potato chip manufacturers, canners, french fry and hash brown producers, and other processors.

Sugar Beets

Requirements of a long, warm growing season, fertile soil, and plentiful water make sugar beets an ideal crop for the county's new irrigation areas. Besides its importance for sugar, the sugar beet is a valuable rotation crop and the tops, pulp, and molasses--byproducts of sugar manufacture--furnish livestock feed.

The harvested acreage increased from 8,574 acres in 1959 to 14,200 in 1961, when the U. S. Department of Agriculture eliminated acreage controls. A refinery established by the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company at Moses Lake provides a nearby market. Local consumers cannot use all the refined sugar, and most is marketed outside the state.

Table 24. Sugar Beets for Sugar: Acreage, Yield, and Production, Grant County, 1944-1963

Year	Harvested Acres	Yield (tons per acre)	Production (tons)
1944 1/	0	0	0
1949	93	23.5	2,186
1954	7,666	24.0	184,364
1959	8,574	24.7	211,698
1960 2/	10,100	22.5	227,200
1961	14,200	24.4	346,000
1962	14,900	25.6	381,000
1963	16,700	25.2	420,900

1/ Data for 1944-1959 from U. S. Census of Agriculture.
2/ Data for 1960-1963 from Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Field Corn

Corn acreage in Grant County remained quite small during early years of the irrigation project, jumped to 22,600 acres in 1959, and then dropped somewhat. Most of the corn crop a few years ago was harvested for grain, used mostly in poultry feeds and egg mash. County farmers have been cutting increasing percentages of the crop for silage since 1961. Washington is a corn deficit area and imports a substantial amount each year from midwestern states to meet her feed requirements.

Table 25. Field Corn: Acres Planted and Acres Harvested for Grain Grant County, 1949-1964

Year	Acres Planted For All Purposes	Harvested For Grain		
		Acres	Yield (Bu. per Acre)	Production (Bushels)
1949	No data	60	60.0	3,600
1950	No data	50	54.0	2,700
1951	No data	50	55.0	2,750
1952	No data	160	66.2	10,600
1953	No data	580	37.1	21,500
1954	3,900	2,810	63.0	177,000
1955	2,800	2,300	63.0	144,900
1956	3,100	1,800	74.0	133,200
1957	6,400	3,200	85.0	272,000
1958	9,500	6,400	86.0	550,400
1959	22,600	18,200	90.5	1,647,100
1960	22,300	18,000	90.0	1,620,000
1961	14,000	9,900	94.0	930,600
1962	13,300	8,000	95.0	760,000
1963	15,600	7,900	99.0	782,100
1964	13,500	4,700	106.3	499,800

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.
Estimates for 1964 are preliminary.

Vegetables

County vegetable growers have benefited by irrigation and by the installation of processing plants. One such plant in the Quincy Basin area has pioneered processing of green peas, asparagus, green beans, sweet corn, and broccoli. Another plant at Wenatchee contracts for processing vegetables. The 1959 commercial vegetable crop, valued at $466,560, was produced on 2,831 acres on 84 farms.

Table 26. All Vegetables, Green Peas for Processing, and Sweet Corn, Grant County, 1954-1964

Year	All Vegetables 1/		Green Peas for Processing		Sweet Corn	
	Harvested Acres	Production (Tons)	Acres	Production (Tons)	Acres	Production (Tons)
1954	3,122	22,125	1,400	2,520	550	2,500
1955	4,025	28,915	1,600	2,560	750	2,950
1956	3,385	20,100	1,530	2,470	650	2,950
1957	5,230	27,978	1,990	4,940	900	5,200
1958	4,100	19,677	1,200	1,560	500	2,000
1959	4,020	19,457	1,250	2,040	460	2,300
1960	5,220	23,398	1,300	1,950	1,160	4,770
1961	6,580	29,932	1,700	2,700	1,700	7,800
1962	4,940	29,500	1,600	2,700	750	5,800
1963	5,355	27,233	2,000	2,500	630	3,500
1964	5,400	28,138	1,750	2,880	950	6,200

1/ Summaries of acreage and production figures are for the following major vegetables: green peas for processing, sweet corn, dry onions, watermelons, carrots, asparagus, cantaloup, tomatoes, and rutabagas and turnips.

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Table 27. Vegetable Crops: Dry Onions, Watermelons, and Carrots, Grant County, 1954-1964

Year	Dry Onions		Watermelons		Carrots	
	Acres	Production (Tons)	Acres	Production (Tons)	Acres	Production (Tons)
1954	700	15,000	200	1,200	15	50
1955	1,100	21,800	135	700	20	500
1956	510	10,600	190	1,700	30	900
1957	650	13,220	300	2,430	30	660
1958	550	10,060	400	3,600	40	880
1959	510	10,180	400	2,670	50	1,100
1960	700	12,100	380	2,280	50	1,200
1961	770	12,705	400	4,000	80	1,900
1962	620	12,850	320	2,240	180	5,000
1963	620	14,300	350	3,500	150	2,950
1964	530	13,300	300	2,600	130	2,600

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Table 28. Vegetable Crops: Asparagus, Cantaloup, Tomatoes, Rutabagas and Turnips, Grant County, 1954-1964

Year	Asparagus		Cantaloup		Tomatoes		Rutabagas and Turnips	
	Harvested Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Harvested Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Harv. Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Harv. Acres	Prod. (Tons)
1954	170	320	60	280	7	55	No record	
1955	200	310	210	20	10	75	No record	
1956	370	700	20	140	35	290	50	350
1957	370	730	20	180	15	90	50	350
1958	450	720	60	300	20	80	30	350
1959	480	580	30	120	20	80	30	360
1960	440	570	60	240	10	50	20	200
1961	180	240	40	220	20	120	20	180
1962	180	270	50	225	40	160	30	210
1963	100	200	40	140	5	20	10	70
1964	100	130	30	168	20	140	10	70

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

The major vegetable crops, in rank order according to 1964 harvested acreages, are: green peas for processing, sweet corn, dry onions, watermelons, carrots, asparagus, cantaloup, tomatoes, and rutabagas and turnips. Acreages reflect processor demand and fluctuate from year to year.

Mint

Peppermint and spearmint, grown in irrigated fields for mint oil, have become a lucrative specialty crop. The plants are harvested similarly to hay, allowed to sun cure, and treated in "mint stills" to extract oil from the leaves. Much of the mint oil is used as flavoring in chewing gum. Other markets are candy, ice cream, and dentrifice companies, pharmaceutical houses, jelly and jam processors, and extract companies. Some oil is exported abroad.

Plant diseases and other production problems experienced by growers in southwestern Washington and the Yakima Valley resulted in a shift in the mint crop to the climatically drier Columbia Basin Project irrigated lands. Grant County ranked third in the state in mint oil acreage in 1959. Acreages since then have increased for peppermint and decreased slightly for spearmint.

Table 29. Acreage and Production of Mint for Oil, Grant County, 1956-1964

Year	Peppermint			Spearmint		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (Lbs. per Acre)	Production (Tons)	Harvested Acres	Yield (Lbs. per Acre)	Production (Tons)
1956	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
1957	550	45	12	360	79	14
1958	550	90	25	370	78	14
1959	360	65	12	470	65	15
1960	400	80	12	700	75	26
1961	950	80	38	720	80	29
1962	500	70	18	670	81	27
1963	1,000	70	35	450	80	18
1964	1,230	63	38	350	71	12

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Field Seed Crops

The recent expansion in irrigation has helped make Grant County one of Washington's leading producers of grass and legume seed. The county ranked second statewide in 1959 for red clover seed acreage (611 acres harvested) and third for alfalfa seed (1,639 acres). Field seed crop acreages vary greatly from year to year, as farmers experiment with new crops. Other seed crops harvested in 1959 include red fescue (4 acres), tall fescue (40 acres), Merion bluegrass (131 acres), and wheatgrass (167 acres).

Table 30. Field Seed Crops Harvested: Acres and Production Grant County, 1929-1959

Year	Alfalfa Seed		Red Clover Seed	
	Acres	Production (Lbs.)	Acres	Production (Lbs.)
1929	85	14,100	0	0
1939	0	0	0	0
1949	94	8,627	39	4,083
1954	263	50,543	1,094	281,748
1959	1,639	552,416	611	210,990

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture

Tree Fruits, Grapes, and Berries

Emphasis on types of tree fruit grown in Grant County orchards has undergone considerable change in the last 50 years. Apple, pear, and plum and prune

production have decreased greatly since their peaks in the 1920's and 1930's. The number of peach trees decreased after 1920 but has been gaining in recent years. Cherry trees have undergone considerable fluctuation in number over the years, but the production trend has been generally upward. The apricot crop gradually increased to 1949, dipped in 1954, then reached a new high in 1959; the number of trees decreased between 1954 and 1959. Interest in grapes has gained considerably in recent years, and production and number of vines were higher in 1959 than in any previous census year.

The primary apricot and peach area is in the vicinity of Quincy. New orchards have been planted in the sloping Babcock Ridge area along the Columbia River, where climatic conditions are more favorable than in the level irrigated plains. All Grant County fruit is grown under irrigation.

Table 31. Fruit Trees or Vines of Bearing Age, Grant County, 1910-1959

Year	Apples	Pears	Peaches	Cherries	Plums & Prunes	Apricots	Grapes
1910	10,534	982	2,493	1,010	1,385	563	No record
1920	244,249	7,847	7,863	2,429	1,743	595	3,582
1930	150,046	10,069	3,120	788	1,553	3,793	1,098
1940	21,630	6,314	4,465	1,309	286	4,984	437
1950	2,543	172	2,941	954	103	6,855	16,335
1954 1/	3,953	485	5,709	3,056	118	10,329	14,919
1959 1/	7,029	796	5,917	1,679	62	7,597	16,924

1/ Data from farms having less than 20 trees or vines not included.

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture

Table 32. Quantity of Tree Fruits and Grapes Harvested in Grant County, 1909-1959

Year	Apples (bushels)	Pears (tons)	Peaches (pounds)	Cherries (pounds)	Plums & Prunes (tons)	Apricots (pounds)	Grapes (pounds)
1909	2,500	9	24,432	12,000	13	14,000	No record
1919	345,927	314	1,016,256	86,928	47	38,496	34,190
1929	684,221	711	309,648	34,080	59	198,000	11,344
1939	233,645	1,430	555,072	78,592	18	413,455	7,850
1949	28,315 2/	2	181,979	194,419	1	1,260,373	20,460
1954 1/	17,312 2/	3	93,712	228,572	1	803,735	182,116
1959 1/	44,729 2/	67	318,760	218,838	3	1,374,610	517,452

1/ Data from farms having less than 20 trees or vines not included.
2/ Loose boxes; one Northwest box equals 0.92 bushels.

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture

The berry crop, a minor one in the county, included 5,042 pounds of strawberries, 2,020 pounds of raspberries, and 145 pounds of blackberries in 1959.

Horticultural Specialty Crops

Nursery and greenhouse products were sold by 12 farms for $41,340 in 1959. The area devoted to nursery and greenhouse plants and cut flowers has increased recently, while less interest has been shown in growing vegetables and seeds under glass.

Table 33.- Horticultural Specialty Crops in Grant County, 1949-1959

Year	Nursery Products (trees, shrubs, vines, ornamentals, etc.)	Cut flowers, potted plants, florist greens, and bedding plants		Vegetables, vegetable seeds, vegetable plants, flower seeds, bulbs, and mushrooms	
	Acres	Grown under glass - Sq. Ft.	Grown in the open - Acres	Grown under glass - Sq. Ft.	Grown in the open - Acres
1949	2	5,350	1 minus	5,000	1 minus
1954	7	5,000	3	0	73
1959	15	11,903	1 minus	600	26

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture

Additional References

Axel E. Strom (Chairman). 1959. Basic Information on a Growing Area - Grant County, Washington. A report prepared by the Grant County Resources Committee.

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