

PART V

CROPS

Major Crops

Grays Harbor County's harvested cropland in 1959 totaled 18,632 acres. The major part of the county's cropland is devoted to the growing of feed crops reflecting the significance of dairying and livestock in the area's agricultural economy. According to the Census of Agriculture, nearly 87 percent of the 1959 harvested cropland was in hay. The wet climate of the region satisfies the water needs of most crops raised in the county. Only 2,133 acres of harvested cropland was under irrigation in 1959.

In terms of acreage, clover-timothy hay ranks first among the crops annually harvested on Grays Harbor County farms. Ranking second in terms of acreage in 1959 was land devoted to grass silage. The third major crop in 1959 was wild hay taken off some 1,324 acres. Other important Grays Harbor County crops in 1959 included green peas and oats. Although it is minor among the county's crops in terms of acreage, Grays Harbor's cranberry bogs represent about one-third of the state total. Grays Harbor is one of two counties which virtually produce all of Washington's cranberries.

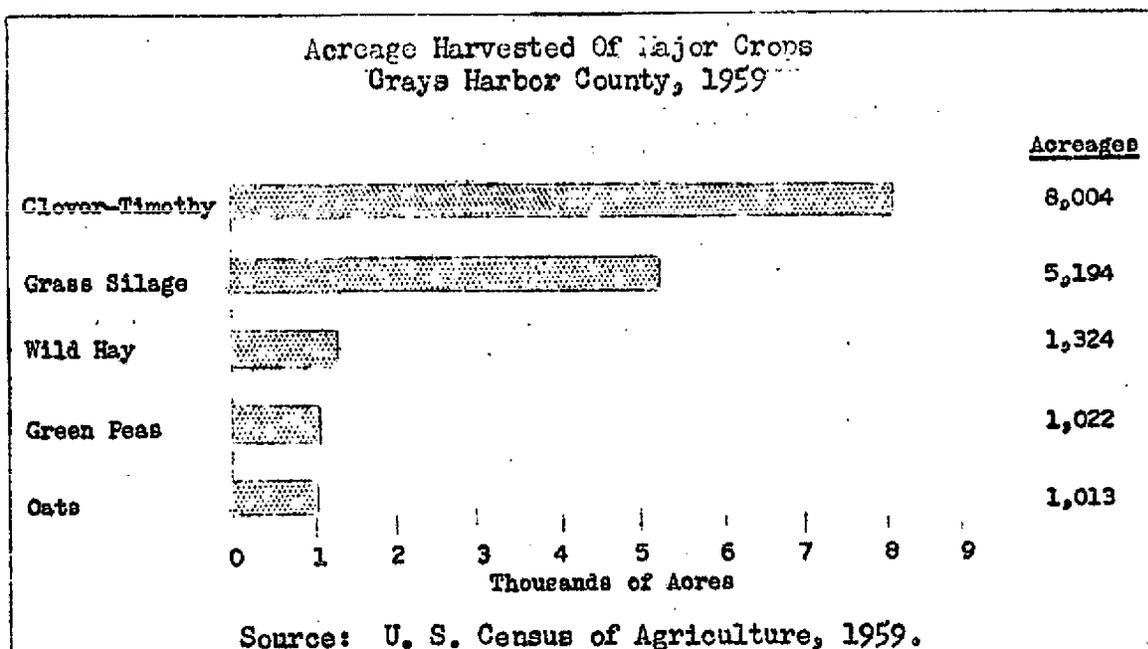


Figure 11. Major Crop Acreages, Grays Harbor County, 1959.

Crop Trends

A number of changes are apparent in the emphasis and acreages Grays Harbor County farmers have given to leading crops. These show the influence of new market outlets and improved facilities for the distribution and storage of farm products. They also reflect technological advances in agriculture. New food processing methods have affected the acreages of various crops. Indeed, changes of crop patterns have resulted from the farmer's own initiative in experimentation with different crops and types of farming.

Grays Harbor County agriculture through specialization and intensification has become increasingly more valuable to the area's economy. The acreage of hay, vegetables and cranberries has continued to increase. Acreages of small grains, fruits, nuts, grapes, horticultural specialties and field crops, on the other hand, have generally been reduced from earlier years.

Hay Crops

For many years the most important crop in Grays Harbor County from the acreage standpoint has been hay. Harvested hay acreage in the county has increased from around 11,000 acres in 1920 to 13,900 acres in 1950 and over 16,000 acres in 1959.

In terms of acreage, clover-timothy hay is the dominant crop in Grays Harbor County. This crop is well-suited to the humid summers of the area where precipitation is heavy and droughts and hot sun do little damage. Heavy dependence of local dairy cattle on hay crops is another reason for the relatively large acreage in the county. Clover-timothy produces a hay of good quality which is rich in protein and mineral content. It is also used for silage, green chop or summer pasture. The general trend in Grays Harbor's clover-timothy acreage has been upward. In 1939, the county acreage was 4,400 compared with 9,400 in 1962. Yields have remained relatively steady throughout the last two decades. The 1962 crop amounted to about 20,000 tons--an all time high. Grays Harbor County's clover-timothy acreages are mainly found in the Chehalis River Valley east of Montesano.

Table 15. Alfalfa Hay and Clover-Timothy Hay
Acreage, Yield and Production
Grays Harbor County, 1949-1962

Year	Alfalfa Hay			Clover-Timothy Hay		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (Tons Per Acre)	Production (Tons)	Harvested Acres	Yield (Tons Per Acre)	Production (Tons)
1949	140	2.5	100	5,000	1.9	9,500
1950	140	3.0	120	4,700	2.0	9,400
1951	140	2.5	100	4,100	2.1	8,600
1952	140	3.5	140	4,500	2.8	12,600
1953	---	---	---	5,100	2.0	10,200
1954	200	2.4	480	6,800	2.0	13,600
1955	210	3.0	630	6,400	2.0	13,100
1956	200	2.0	400	7,400	2.6	19,200
1957	250	2.4	600	8,300	2.3	19,000
1958	130	2.0	260	7,200	2.2	15,500
1959	110	3.0	330	8,000	2.2	17,300
1960	110	2.0	220	9,100	2.1	19,000
1961	110	3.0	330	9,100	2.0	18,200
1962	100	2.5	250	9,400	2.1	20,000

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

Alfalfa is grown on a much smaller scale compared with clover-timothy in Grays Harbor County. Alfalfa, in contrast to clover-timothy, is not well suited to western Washington's climate since it requires much sunshine and warmth as well

as abundant soil moisture. Prior to 1953, the county's alfalfa acreage ranged between 40 to 60. Between 1954 and 1957, the acreage was increased to over 200 but since this period it has dropped to around 100 acres in 1962. Yields have averaged from 2 to 3 tons per acre. In 1962, about 250 tons of alfalfa were harvested off Grays Harbor County farms. The county's alfalfa is raised in the area south of Elma in the Chehalis River Valley.

Hay cut for silage has become increasingly more important in Grays Harbor County. This form of feed is particularly ideal for dairy cows. While there are no statistics for silage grass in censuses prior to 1950, 2,641 acres were reported in 1950, 4,604 acres in 1954 and 5,194 acres in 1959. Acreage devoted to silage making is predominately on the Chehalis River lowlands between Montesano and Oakville.

The remaining hay crops in Grays Harbor County are minor. In 1959, wild hay was harvested from over 1,300 acres while small grains cut for hay covered 649 acres, vetch or peas cut for hay 44 acres and other miscellaneous grass hay 935 acres.

Small Grains: Oats, Wheat, Barley and Rye

Marked changes have occurred in Grays Harbor County's acreages of small grains--oats, wheat, barley and rye. In recent years there has been a great reduction in the acreage devoted to small grains in the county.

Table 16. Oats and Wheat: Acreage, Yield and Production
Grays Harbor County, 1949-1962

Year	Oats			All Wheat		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)
1949	1,810	46.0	83,240	460	26.6	12,220
1950	1,300	43.0	55,900	100	30.0	3,000
1951	2,300	43.0	98,900	240	26.7	6,400
1952	2,750	54.0	148,500	310	37.0	11,460
1953	2,280	43.0	98,040	170	30.4	5,170
1954	2,100	52.0	109,200	120	32.8	3,940
1955	1,500	60.0	90,000	30	26.0	780
1956	1,000	55.0	55,000	40	27.5	1,100
1957	1,200	46.5	55,800	10	25.0	250
1958	1,000	31.5	31,500	30	25.3	760
1959	1,050	40.5	42,500	40	32.0	1,280
1960	710	42.0	29,800	30	22.0	660
1961	500	41.0	20,500	40	27.0	1,080
1962	300	65.0	19,500	40	36.0	1,440

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

Small grains covered over 3,000 acres of Grays Harbor County's cropland during the early 1950's compared with only 380 acres in 1962. Large commercial production of small grains has not developed in the county because of the physical drawbacks of the area to such crops. Land from which cereal crops were formerly

harvested have been used to produce more profitable cash crops, put into pasture or devoted to growing hay.

Over the years Grays Harbor County farmers have planted more oats than any other grain crop. In 1920, oats were harvested from nearly 2,900 acres. Since then, the acreage has fluctuated erratically but has remained below the 1920 high. Since 1959 a strong downward trend in acreage has taken place. In 1959, there were over 1,000 acres in oats compared with only 300 in 1962. Yields have varied from 30 to over 60 bushels per acre in recent years. In 1962, 19,500 bushels of oats were harvested from 300 acres resulting in an average yield of 65 bushels per acre. Lands devoted to oats are mainly located in the southeastern part of the county between Elma and Oakville.

In 1920, wheat was harvested from over 900 acres in Grays Harbor County. An over all downward trend in acreage since then culminated in a low of only 10 acres in 1957. After 1957, acreages have ranged between 30 to 40 acres per year. Both spring and winter wheat are grown in the county with the latter predominating. In 1962, 30 acres were devoted to winter wheat and only 10 to spring wheat. Yields have varied greatly at times and production has not changed proportionately to changes in acreage from year to year. Total wheat production amounted to 1,440 bushels in 1962.

Table 17. Winter Wheat and Spring Wheat
Grays Harbor County, 1949-1962

Year	Winter Wheat			Spring Wheat		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)
1949	330	26.0	8,580	130	28.0	3,640
1950	80	30.0	2,400	20	30.0	600
1951	200	27.0	5,400	40	25.0	1,000
1952	290	38.0	11,020	20	22.0	440
1953	160	31.0	4,960	10	22.0	220
1954	100	34.0	3,400	20	27.0	540
1955	--	--	--	30	26.0	780
1956	30	28.0	840	10	26.0	260
1957	--	--	--	10	25.0	250
1958	10	26.0	260	20	25.0	500
1959	20	44.0	880	20	20.0	400
1960	20	25.0	500	10	16.0	160
1961	30	30.0	900	10	18.0	180
1962	30	33.0	990	10	45.0	450

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

Barley and rye complete the list of the small grains grown in Grays Harbor County. Up to 250 acres of barley was grown in the county during World War II. Between 1946 and 1959 the land annually devoted to barley varied from 120 to 220 acres. After 1959, acreage has dropped to a mere 20 acres in 1962. Yields have averaged from 58 bushels per acre in 1957 to 26 bushels in 1961. In 1962, 700 bushels of barley were harvested from 20 acres. Rye was not grown in the county during the years between 1940 and 1957 although some was harvested in the area.

prior to this period. About 40 acres were put into rye in 1957 but since then the acreage dropped to a low of 10 acres in 1960 and 20 acres in 1962. Yields have ranged from 16 to 35 bushels per acre. Production amounted to 900 bushels in 1961 and 700 bushels in 1962.

Table 18. Barley and Rye: Acreage, Yield and Production
Grays Harbor County, 1949-1962

Year	Barley			Rye		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)
1949	130	37.0	4,810	--	--	--
1950	150	40.0	6,000	--	--	--
1951	140	37.0	5,180	--	--	--
1952	130	36.0	4,680	--	--	--
1953	160	32.0	5,120	--	--	--
1954	190	28.0	5,320	--	--	--
1955	220	37.0	8,140	--	--	--
1956	220	46.0	10,120	--	--	--
1957	140	58.0	8,120	40	20.0	800
1958	150	44.0	6,600	30	19.0	570
1959	200	42.0	8,400	30	26.5	800
1960	70	47.0	3,300	10	16.0	160
1961	30	26.0	780	30	30.0	900
1962	20	35.0	700	20	35.0	700

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

Vegetables

According to the Census of Agriculture, there were only 20 acres of vegetables in Grays Harbor County in 1920. Acreage was increased to over 1,500 by 1939 but was reduced during the 1940's to approximately 50 acres in 1949. Since 1949, the county's vegetable crop has again increased to an annual harvest of over 1,000 acres. In 1959, 564 Grays Harbor County farms reported having harvested vegetables for home use while farms which harvested vegetables for sale numbered 31.

Vegetables form an important crop in Grays Harbor County in terms of value of sales. In 1959, vegetables sold amounted to 18.2 percent of the value of all crops marketed and 4.7 percent of all farm products sold off Grays Harbor County farms. Vegetables were grown on over 6 percent of the county's croplands in 1959.

The single most important vegetable crop in terms of acreage and production in Grays Harbor County is green peas grown for processing. In 1962, an estimated 1,000 acres or 90 percent of the total vegetable acreage in the county was devoted to green peas. Green peas acreage was greatly increased during the 1950's from only 11 acres in 1949 to over 1,000 acres in 1959. Although far below the acreage and production of the leading green peas counties of the state, the green pea crop in 1962 brought Grays Harbor to ninth place in acreage and to a tie for eighth place in production. In 1962, the county's contribution to the total state green peas production for processing amounted to 1.6 percent.

Table 19. All Vegetables, Green Peas and Sweet Corn
Acreage and Production
Grays Harbor County, 1954-1962

Crop Year	All Vegetables		Green Peas (Processing)		Sweet Corn	
	Harvested Acres	Production (Tons)	Harvested Acres	Production (Tons)	Harvested Acres	Production (Tons)
1954	750	1,050	750	1,050	---	---
1955	730	850	720	790	---	---
1956	700	1,550	680	1,460	10	30
1957	700	1,410	680	1,330	10	30
1958	860	1,830	700	1,190	100	350
1959	1,240	2,460	1,100	1,860	100	400
1960	1,320	2,730	1,100	1,870	110	440
1961	1,240	2,460	1,100	2,000	70	210
1962	1,310	2,320	1,000	1,900	50	200

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

Table 20. Vegetable Crops: Broccoli, Snap Beans, Cucumbers and Cabbage, Acreage and Production
Grays Harbor County, 1954-1962

Year	Broccoli		Snap Beans		Cucumbers		Cabbage	
	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)
1954	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1955	---	---	---	---	10	60	---	---
1956	---	---	---	---	10	60	---	---
1957	---	---	---	---	10	50	---	---
1958	40	140	---	---	10	50	10	100
1959	20	60	---	---	10	40	10	100
1960	80	240	10	40	10	40	10	100
1961	40	110	10	40	10	50	10	50
1962	40	140	10	40	10	40	---	---

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

Vegetables grown on a minor scale in Grays Harbor County include sweet corn, broccoli, snap beans and cucumbers. Sweet corn acreage declined from a high of 110 acres in 1960 to 50 acres in 1962. Production likewise dropped over 50 percent from 440 to 200 tons over the same period. Broccoli was harvested from 40 acres in 1962 while snap beans and cucumbers both amounted to 10 acres each. Cabbage was raised commercially in the county between 1958 and 1961, during which 50 to 100 tons were annually harvested from around 10 acres.

Berries

Grays Harbor is one of two Washington counties which annually produce virtually all of the state's cranberries. Growing cranberries is highly specialized requiring peat soils, adequate water supply, good drainage and ample supply of sand as well as moderately cool summers. In Grays Harbor County, cranberries are grown in the peat bogs located between sand bars or low sand dunes which parallel the coast in the Grayland and Copalis Beach districts. Individual holdings of bog

acres are small, generally running from 1 to 15 acres. Sprinklers are used for frost control, application of chemicals and to guard against excessive summer heat as well as for irrigation. Mechanical pickers are used in cranberry harvests which generally begin in September and extend into November.

Cranberry acreage in the county has increased over the years from around 170 acres in 1947 and 1948 to approximately 290 acres in 1962. Production, however, has fluctuated considerably from year to year over the same period. For example, 3,610,000 pounds were harvested from 280 acres in 1961 compared with 1,550,000 pounds from 290 acres in 1962. In 1962, Grays Harbor County accounted for nearly 29 percent of the state's cranberry production. McFarlin is the leading variety grown in the county. Cranberries go on the fresh market as well as being processed in the Ocean Spray plant at Markham.

Table 21. Cranberries: Acreage, Yield and Production
Grays Harbor County, 1950-1962

Year	Cranberries		
	Harvested Acres	Yield 000 Lbs.	Production 000 Lbs.
1950	180	4.4	800
1951	180	8.1	1,450
1952	220	3.6	800
1953	220	8.6	1,900
1954	220	7.0	1,550
1955	220	6.4	1,400
1956	280	6.4	1,800
1957	280	9.2	2,580
1958	260	6.5	1,680
1959	260	9.8	2,550
1960	260	4.0	1,040
1961	280	12.9	3,610
1962	290	5.3	1,550

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

Strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries are also grown in the county but on a minor scale. Acreages devoted to these berries have all declined in recent years. Strawberries amounted to 16 acres in 1959 compared with 100 acres ten years earlier in 1949. Raspberries, blueberries and blackberries totaled less than 10 acres in 1959.

Fruits, Nuts and Grapes

Fruit, nut and grape production is a minor farm enterprise in Grays Harbor County. In 1959, land in bearing and nonbearing fruit orchards, groves, vineyards and planted nut trees in the county amounted to 171 acres on 93 farms. Farms with less than 20 trees and grapevines were not enumerated by the Census in 1959, thus excluding many farms with a few trees of several different fruit and varieties for home use. The 1959 Census tabulation of trees and vines of bearing age is as follows: apples (2,455), cherries (1,113), pears (684), plums and prunes (479), filberts (419), walnuts (103), grapes (64) and peaches (41). Fruit, nut and grape production in general has never reached sizable commercial levels in the county

and there has been a reduction in the number of trees and vines, particularly since 1950.

Field Crops: Potatoes, Red Clover Seed and Field Corn

Grays Harbor County's potato acreage has decreased over the years since 1920 when it amounted to over 800 acres. Acreage in more recent years ranged between 30 to 70 since 1949 but was increased to 130 acres in 1962. Yields have varied from 120 to 225 hundredweight per acre since 1949. Farms reporting growing potatoes for home use as well as for sale numbered 183 in 1954 and 42 in 1959.

Table 22. Potatoes: Acreage, Yield and Production
Grays Harbor County, 1949-1962

Year	Potatoes		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (Hundredweight Per Acre)	Production (Hundredweight)
1949	60	120	7,200
1950	40	120	4,800
1951	50	120	6,000
1952	40	120	4,800
1953	30	140	4,200
1954	45	200	9,000
1955	40	225	9,000
1956	70	160	11,200
1957	70	160	11,200
1958	60	183	11,000
1959	70	171	12,000
1960	70	194	13,600
1961	70	180	12,600
1962	130	120	15,600

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

Red clover has been the only field seed crop grown in Grays Harbor County in recent years. In 1959, 3,187 pounds of red clover seed were harvested from 60 acres. No field seed crop was grown in the county in 1954 but in 1949 about 11,410 pounds of red clover seed were taken off 100 acres. Red clover acreages were below 50 in earlier years.

Field corn has either been nonexistent or a very minor crop in Grays Harbor County. No field corn was grown in the county between 1949 and 1961 although in years prior to this period acreages ran around 10 acres. In 1962, however, about 1,710 bushels were harvested from 30 acres.

Horticultural Specialties

In 1959, 22 farms reported nursery and greenhouse type operations in Grays Harbor County. Over a third (8) of these farms had sales of over \$2,000 during the year from marketing nursery and greenhouse products. By far the most important of the horticultural specialty crops are cut flowers, potted plants, florist greens and bedding plants. Nursery products (trees, shrubs, vines, ornamentals,

etc.), vegetables grown under glass, flower seeds, vegetable seeds, vegetable plants, bulbs and mushrooms are also harvested for sale to some degree. Growing horticultural specialties has declined considerably in the county since 1954 when gross sales of these products off the farms amounted to \$90,654 compared with \$31,073 in 1959.

Table 23. Livestock Sold From Farms
Grays Harbor County, 1959

Livestock Sold	Number of Farms Reporting	Number Sold	Value in Dollars
Cattle	527	3,385	564,209
Calves	355	3,680	173,135
Horses and Mules	30	120	10,300
Hogs and Pigs	35	785	25,905
Sheep and Lambs	20	70	910
Broilers	3	98,000	No data
Chickens (other than broilers)	72	18,962	No data

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1959.