A QUESTIONNAIRE pertaining to the use of rapid soil tests was prepared by the Sub-committee on Soil Testing of the general Committee on Fertilizers. Copies of this were sent to the deans of the agricultural colleges and to the experiment station and extension directors in each state, with the request that they be placed in the hands of all who were concerned with such tests. At least one reply was received from every state, with some states returning as high as six filled in questionnaires. It was difficult to determine the exact nature of the work in a few states due to contradictory answers. Some states simplified their replies by returning one questionnaire for all concerned with rapid soil testing. A summary of the information obtained in this survey is presented here.

USE OF TESTS BY STATES

Five states, namely, California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and Florida, reported no use of the rapid soil tests. The reasons given varied from that of lack of funds to unsatisfactory results with those tried. Seventeen states reported only a limited use of such tests. It is interesting to note that most of these states are located in two sections, namely, the southern Atlantic and Gulf states and the north-western states east of the Rockies. The reasons given for the limited use of rapid tests were many. The principle ones were lack of funds or personnel to carry out the tests, no means of checking the results against soils of known fertility, very little demand for this kind of work, and the belief that a good observer in the field could guess as well as the one making the determinations. The remaining states reported extensive use of many different kinds of rapid tests. These states lie primarily in the central western area, the corn belt section, and the eastern Atlantic states. Most of these states indicated this kind of work was done rather extensively in order to give better advice and service to the grower and farmer. The use of the rapid soil tests as presented by the returned questionnaires is charted by states in Fig. 1. The states in which no cross hatching appears reported no use of the methods. Limited use is shown by the vertical lines and extensive use by horizontal lines. The meaning of the terms limited and extensive was not definite. Limited seemed to indicate that not many of a single test or only a few of many of the different kinds of tests were made. Extensive was used when a large number of single tests or many different kinds of tests were made on the individual samples.

The material presented here was assembled and prepared by the author upon the request of the late Dr. N. A. Pettinger, Chairman of the Sub-committee on Soil Testing of the general Committee on Fertilizers of the Society and was first reported upon at the annual meeting of the Society in Chicago, Ill., December 6, 1935. The report was submitted for publication upon request of the Sub-committee. Received for publication January 28, 1936.

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