
This book provides the reader with a broad understanding of the major agricultural regions of the United States based on the rural landscape and its physical resources of soil, water, and climate. References to published materials are used freely. Many tables, charts, maps, and sketches are used to present data and illustrate materials in the text. The farms visited by the author illustrate good land use and conservation and provide the reader with "down to earth" information about the problems common to each region and methods to cope with them. Information contained in this book should be particularly useful to students of the agricultural sciences and to the general reader interested in the agricultural regions of the United States and their associated land-use problems.

Soils, climate, agricultural, and land-use differences between the arid west and the humid east are described. The relationship of soil and climate to the kind of agriculture, the problems encountered, and the kinds of management practices followed are discussed as they apply to the major agricultural regions such as the Cornbelt and the Cottonbelt of the east and the range, irrigated, and dry land areas of the west.

The conservation and use of water and problems associated with irrigation and the use and management of dryland areas, range lands, and the multiple use of national forests are among the topics covered for the agricultural regions of the west. The text also deals with land-use patterns and conservation problems as they are related to the major agricultural regions of the humid east. Descriptions of good land-use and management practices followed on many different types of farms common to these regions are included in the text.

This book is highly readable, well illustrated with diagrams, charts, and maps and contains a number of examples of individual farms and areas where good land use and management practices have been followed.—A. A. Klingebiel, SCS, USDA, Washington, D. C.


This book is a compilation of the papers and subsequent discussion presented at the Fourth Easter School in Agricultural Science, held at the University of Nottingham School of Agriculture, Sutton Bonington, from 15th to 17th April, 1957. The general topic for the school was "Control of Environment in Crop Experimentation". The author has organized the papers and discussion under four headings: (1) Effects of the environment on plants, (2) The control of environmental factors for plant experimental work, (3) Installations for the control of plant environments, and (4) Demonstrations.

This book brings together considerable information of interest to the research worker concerned with environmental control. Early work in this area of research is cited and many ideas presented and discussed. Many factors of the environment were referred to in these papers but emphasis was centered on air and soil temperatures, light, vapor pressure and composition of the air, effects of wind, and availability of soil moisture.

The book is the report of a symposium and covers a very broad and complex subject. The information compiled by the author would be helpful to the research worker as reference material but the scope of the subject is too broad to permit adequate coverage in one volume. This book contains insufficient specific information to guide research workers interested in initiating research under controlled environmental conditions.—W. E. Knight, ARS, USDA, Mississippi Agr. Exp. Sta.