

Turning next to the actual utilization of cultivated lands as giving an indication of the change in the character of land development, the following table shows for selected years the main types of utilization practised :—

Table No. 75.—Table showing Occupied Areas under Cultivation, differentiating as to Different Types of Uses, in Selected Years from 1890 to 1944

Year.	Pasture Land.	Field Crops.	Plantations.*	Orchards.	Fallow.	Other Cultivated Land.	Total Cultivated Land.
1890-91	6,966,218	1,285,768	35,310	17,047	210,509	9,810	8,524,662
1895-96	9,285,230	1,355,600	43,426	19,362	58,039	17,569	10,779,226
1900-01	11,081,912	1,486,376	49,394	25,777	67,747	17,411	12,728,617
1905-06	12,525,461	1,535,484	61,479	27,310	54,080	29,815	14,233,629
1915-16	14,560,797	2,051,895	108,685	31,733	84,649	57,791	16,895,590
1919-20	16,125,265	1,658,991	54,837	33,179	81,760	50,724	18,004,776
1924-25	16,450,625	1,768,303	71,218	27,525	124,459	68,428	18,510,558
1929-30	16,872,948	1,762,792	289,020	24,861	124,565	81,888	19,156,074
1934-35	16,501,811	1,981,804	753,684	25,087	115,832	96,301	19,474,519
1940-41	16,788,121	2,048,198	852,196	20,064	104,189	93,888	19,906,656
1943-44	16,774,304	1,965,670	859,737	19,196	110,000†	101,092	19,829,999

* Prior to 1934-35 large areas of State forests excluded.

† Approximate.

This table shows conclusively that the major development in farming in New Zealand has been in the pastoral field. The extension of sown pastures from 1891 to 1920 is an indication of the rise of the dairying industry to its present important place, but this figure is also indicative of the development of the small mixed farm, particularly in the South Island. The relatively minor fluctuations in the area devoted to field crops denotes some stability about arable farming in New Zealand. Actually the bulk of the land most suitable for grain crops is in Otago and Southland. This has been so used for many years, although there have been fairly wide fluctuations in the actual grain sowings from time to time. Root crops for stock feeding have utilized about 500,000 acres in recent years. The area devoted to hay and ensilage, however, over the period has tended to increase quite markedly. The figures available for plantation are obviously unreliable due to some flaw in tabulation. Until 1935 State plantations were excluded, and the area recorded to this date is indicative chiefly of the activities of commercial afforestation companies. The steady rise between 1935 and 1944 has been due to some State, some commercial, and some private activity. The most striking feature of the table, however, is the decline in areas devoted to orchards. From a peak of 33,179 in 1920 it has fallen to 19,196 in 1944. There is little doubt that the boom in fruit-farming in the early "twenties" did result in many unsuitable areas being planted in fruit-trees. However, though there has been a reduction in the number of trees, particularly apples and pears, the crop up to the present has been maintained, although there is some reason to think that the crop will soon decline unless some immediate steps are taken.

The following table shows something of the importance of the smaller crops :—

Table No. 76.—Table showing Area devoted to various Types of Cultivation at Selected Dates

Year.	Market Gardens.	Linen Flax.	Nurseries.	Tobacco.	Grape-vines.
1919-20	3,540	..	456	*	*
1924-25	4,516	..	482	*	*
1929-30	5,871	..	657	1,073	*
1934-35	7,284	..	1,276	1,358	244
1940-41	9,432	13,118	957	2,150	131
1943-44	16,083	9,755	871	2,586	79

* Not available.