

Definitions starting with A: Agriculture

The plantation system of the Caribbean proper and the American South was never successful in the Bahamas because of the thin soil and uncertain rainfall. The loyalists' cotton plantations failed, as did later attempts at large-scale export of pineapples, sisal, and tomatoes, further thwarted by the great distance to markets, the quality of the produce, and high foreign tariffs. Moreover, the occupation of [KEEPING FIELD](#) is looked down upon, so while individual Bahamians might keep a small [FARM](#) in their yard for their family's own needs, most food must be imported.

However, some people do live by farming. These [CULTIVATORS](#) usually have their [PLANTATIONS](#) or [PROVISION GROUNDS](#) away from the settlement in the [BACK LAND](#). While [WHITE LAND](#) is sufficient for [GROUND VEGETABLES](#), also called [GROUND FRUIT](#), the richer [BLACK LAND](#), also called [PROVISION LAND](#), is needed for other crops. Iron-rich [RED LAND](#), also called [PINEAPPLE LAND](#), is best for growing [PINES](#); the [PINE-SLIPS](#) are planted in [POT-HOLES](#), the entire [PIECE](#) forming an [ORCHARD](#). Bananas and sugar cane are also grown in such cavities, also called [BANANA HOLES](#).

Traditionally, new areas of [LOW BUSH LAND](#) are cultivated every few years since the soil quickly becomes exhausted and insect-infested. To [CUT DOWN](#) a field, the [BUSH](#) is [CHOPPED](#) with a [MACHET](#) and trees are [LAPPED](#) and left to dry. A [BUSH FENCE](#) may be left (or grown) in order to separate [SQUARES](#). Finally the ground is [BURNED OUT](#) to rid it of insects and any remaining undergrowth. Tradition dictates that planting take place during a [YOUNG](#) or [COMING MOON](#); if the moon is [WASTING](#), the crop might [WASTE](#), tooeærn might [BLAST](#) and cane might [BORE](#). A [PLANTING STICK](#) is used to make holes for the seeds, and in the rainy [CROP SEASON](#) the young plants soon [BUMP UP](#). A [BUGGY](#) may be needed to bring in [CAVE-EARTH](#) as [FERTILIZE](#); the [PIECE](#) may have to be cleaned several times of [SPROUT-WEEDS](#) or [STOCK-WEEDS](#), and stumps may have to be [BRUISED](#). As [CROP TIME](#) approaches, the farmer may sleep in a [CAMP](#) by his field to protect it, or have an [OBEAH MAN FIX](#) it against [THIEFING](#) with a [GUARD](#). In former times the produce might have been collected in a [CATACOO](#) and transported in [CHIRONES](#) or [CROOKS](#) on the back of a donkey; today it is usually [BUSHELED OFF](#) into [CROP BASKETS](#) or [CROCUS SACKS](#), also called [STRAW BAGS](#).

As for animals, many yards have a few [FOWL](#) and their [BIDDIES](#), some [PIGS](#) being fattened into [HOGS](#), and a goat tethered nearby for milk and [MUTTON](#).

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Author: Holm and Shilling, DBE, 1982

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