

to perennials of the temperate zones. Vines may grow luxuriantly but will not produce fruit in climates of great heat, such climates as limit the profitable growth of wheat. The cultivation of tropical plants is limited in the north by the frosts of winter. They will vegetate and produce abundance of leaves, much beyond the line where they will ripen their fruit. Maize will grow luxuriantly in northern latitudes in a high summer heat where the season is too short to ripen its grain. The date palm is grown for its foliage on the northern coast of the Mediterranean, where it will not produce fruit.

The cereals, grains and grasses constitute the most important group of plants cultivated as food, and those of the old world are identified most closely with the civilization of the human race. The regions best adapted to these are the middle and higher latitudes of the temperate zones.