



WHERE DOES SUGAR COME FROM?

Map it Out

Have you ever thought about where sugar comes from? If you think it comes from the grocery store, you're right, but before it's on the grocery shelves, it's in plants that are grown on farms across the United States.

In the U.S., sugarcane and sugar beets are grown in 15 states. Our **diverse** climate allows sugar farmers to grow sugarcane in some regions, while other areas provide the perfect conditions for growing sugar beets.

Sugarcane is grown around the world in a region known as the tropical belt. A tropical climate is warm and has year-round **temperate** weather. The temperatures rarely dip below freezing. The sugarcane-growing regions in the United States include southern Louisiana, southern Texas, southern Florida and Hawaii.



In Louisiana, sugarcane is grown in 22 **parishes** known as the Sugar Belt. (Parish is the Louisiana term used to designate a county). Iberia Parish is the largest sugar producing parish but plenty of sugarcane is grown in Pointe Coupee, St. Mary, Iberville, Assumption, Vermilion, St. Martin,

Lafourche, St. James, Ascension, West Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Rapides, Terrebonne, Avoyelles, St. John the Baptist, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Calcasieu and Evangeline parishes.

Sugar beets grow best in places where the temperatures are generally cooler. Sugar beets are grown in California, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming.

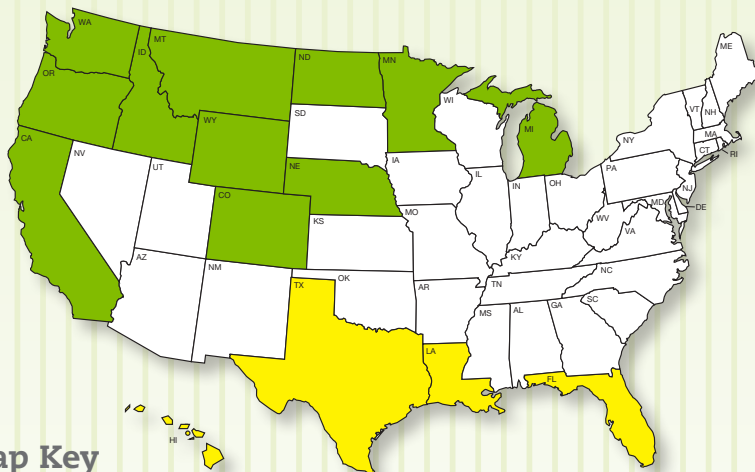
For more information about crops and climate go to <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Other/MWCACP>

U.S. farmers produce a lot of sugar (the fifth largest **yield** in the world), but many other countries produce natural sugar, too. The countries that produce the most sugar from cane are Brazil, India, and China. The largest producers of sugar from sugar beets are France, Germany and the U.S.

The next time you see a sugar bowl, you may wonder, "cane or beet?" Regardless of the kind of plant or where it was grown, you can be sure that it is the same all natural sugar that has been safely **consumed** by people all over the world for thousands of years.

Glossary

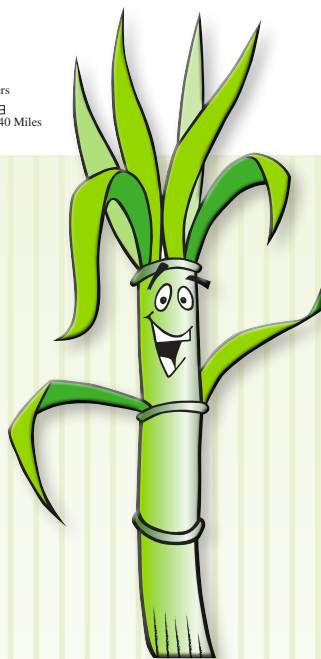
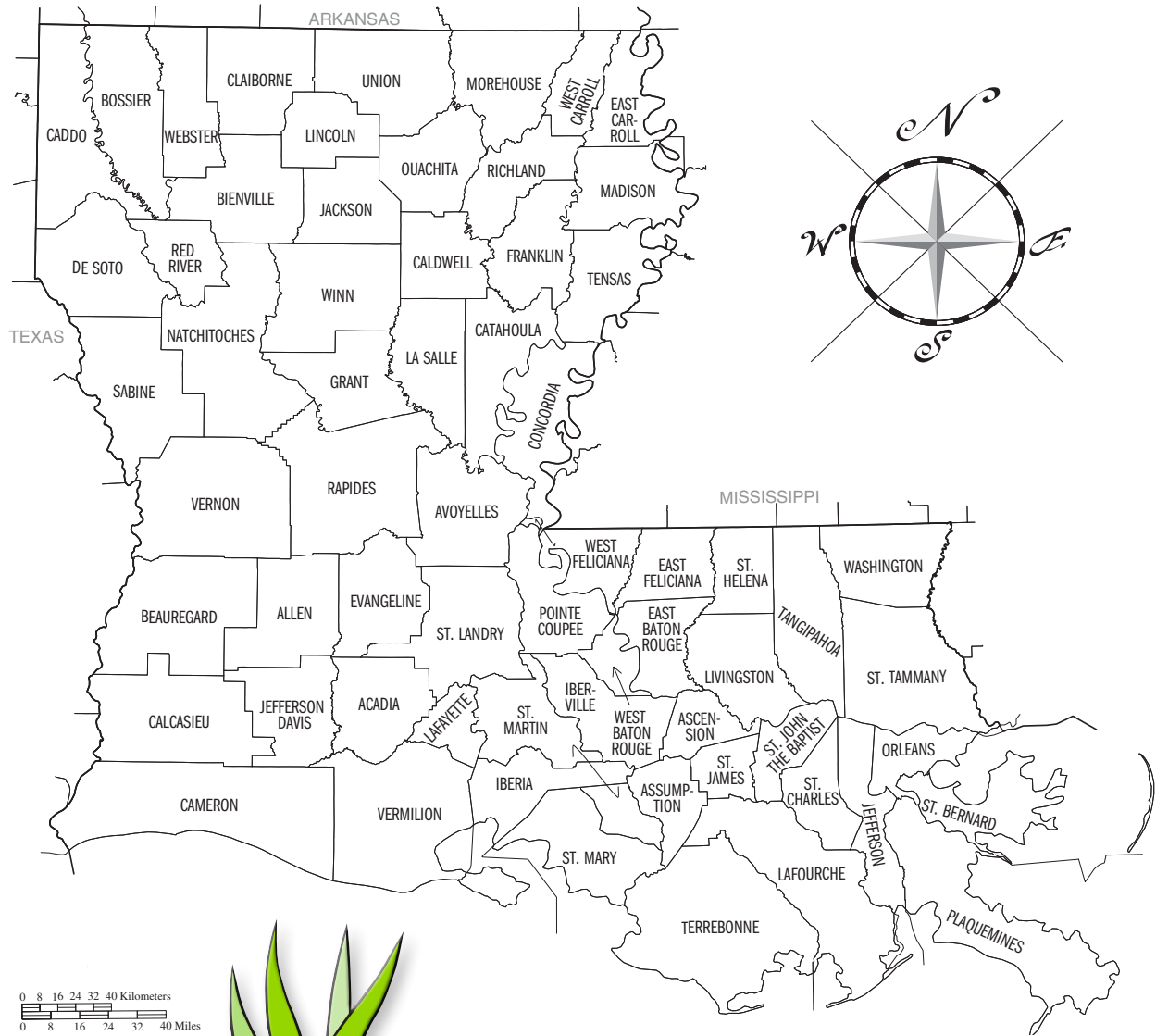
- **diverse** - *adj.* of several or many kinds; different
- **temperate** - *adj.* having a climate that is not too hot or too cold
- **parish** - *n.* a Louisiana county
- **yield** - *n.* an amount produced
- **consume** - *v.* eat, drink, or digest (food or drink)



Map Key

- Sugarcane Growing States
- Sugar Beet Growing States
- Non-Sugar Growing States

Create a colorful and informative visual aid to accompany any report or project by labeling the Parishes where sugarcane in Louisiana grows. Choose the colors you will use for your map, and don't forget to include them in your map key.



Map Key

- #1 Producing Parish
- Cane Growing Parishes
- Non-Sugar Growing Parishes