

# The Bottom Line



Lumber products were the first exports to leave South Carolina.

Barbados and South Carolina shared a common motive in their founding, the bottom line. Investors in these ventures expected returns. Both colonies struggled in the early years to find a lucrative cash crop. The colonists sought to exploit any resource that had the potential for profit. From tobacco to indigo and from lumber to animal skins – if it had been successful elsewhere, it would be tried here.

Eventually, Barbados would find great wealth in sugarcane. It was not until the 1690s that South Carolina found its most successful cash crop. Rice would make the colony one of the wealthiest in English North America.



Planters found moderate success with crops like indigo.



By the 18th century, Rice became the "sugarcane" of South Carolina bringing both an economic boom and social change.



Sugarcane Field - Courtesy of Rhoda Green



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