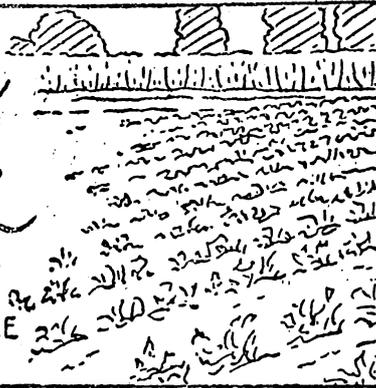
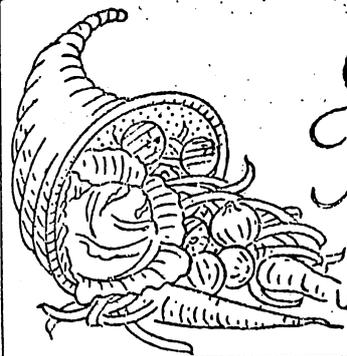


TC-51: 913

Commercial Truck Crops

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Washington, D. C.

September 20, 1951

COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS FOR FRESH MARKET TRUCK CROP NEWS - SEPTEMBER 15, 1951

Commercial truck crops progressed satisfactorily in most areas during the first half of September, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. Rains which brought needed relief in many areas, were generally too late to materially affect late summer and early fall crops, but improved prospects for the late fall crops. In Texas heavy rains brought an end to the extended drought; improved prospects for crops that have been planted, and will enable planting for late fall and winter harvest to progress rapidly. Planting for fall and winter harvest is about on normal schedule in Florida and California.

Harvest of most New England vegetable crops continued seasonally heavy during the first two weeks of September. Rainfall was light during this period but soil moisture is generally adequate. In the Middle Atlantic States rains near mid-month brought relief from drought in many areas but more rain was needed on Long Island, in central New Jersey and in some western Pennsylvania areas. Harvest is progressing satisfactorily in most areas in the North Central States. Recent rains were too late to be of much help to Ohio vegetables, while excessive rain injured crops in some Wisconsin areas and delayed harvest in some Minnesota areas.

The drought situation has been checked in most producing areas in the South Atlantic States. These rains were too late to materially affect prospects for late summer and early fall crops, but improved prospects for late fall crops. In Florida, soil moisture is generally adequate in central and northern producing areas, but in south Florida ranges from excessive in some areas to too dry for germination in others. Throughout the state weather has been favorable for field work and planting of fall crops is about on the normal schedule. Crops that are up are making fair to good progress.

The drought breaking rains in Texas have resulted in substantial improvement in prospects for fall and winter crops. Although there was injury from flooding in some areas, such losses were more than offset by the general improvement. Early planted crops in the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass areas are now in good condition and soil moisture is favorable for planting winter crops. Planting has been light to date in the Lower Valley but is expected to proceed rapidly as soon as field work can start. Similarly planting is expected to progress rapidly in the Coastal Bend, although the total acreage planted may not reach the high level of a few years ago.

Conditions during the first half of September were favorable for harvest operations in most Colorado areas. Rains brought some relief to the drought situation in Oregon, and harvest is progressing rapidly in both this State and Washington. California vegetable shipments are showing the usual fall increase and will continue to expand. Recent weather was favorable in most districts, and growers are actively planting crops for winter harvest.

ARTICHOKEs: Winter (Calif.) Artichokes are currently in light supply, and although production will continue to expand during the next two weeks it is not expected to become heavy during September. Buds are of good quality but are inclined to be loose, a normal characteristic at this season of the year. Most shipments are moving from the Castroville district in mixed cars.

LIIMA BEANS: Summer (N.C., Md., N.J., N.Y.) A moderate volume will continue to be available in the Cedarville section of New Jersey for the remainder of the month.

Fall: The Virginia Fordhook lima bean crop made slow growth during the first two weeks of September and rain is needed in the fall crop-growing area. Should rain come during the third week of September the crop will not suffer seriously from the effects of the recent dry weather. Growers expect to start picking around October 5 in lower Northampton County.

SNAP BEANS: Early Summer (6 States) A few late snap beans will be available until frost in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania. Elsewhere in the State harvest is practically over.

Late Summer: (Ala., Ga., N.C., Va., N.Y., Mich., Colo., Tenn., N.Eng.) Harvest has passed the peak in Michigan and supplies will gradually diminish during the rest of the season. The Colorado snap bean season is drawing to a close and could be terminated most any time by a killing frost. The peak of snap bean marketings in Tennessee was reached in early September, but daily sales are continuing in rather large volume. Dry weather has hindered best development on the Cumberland Plateau but weather has continued favorable in Johnson County. In New England supplies of late snap beans are expected to continue in moderate volume until the first killing frost. A number of fields came into production just before mid-September, and condition of these fields is very good.

Early Fall: (N.J., Md., Va., N.C., S.C., Miss., La., Calif.) Harvest has started in the Cedarville area of New Jersey and the crop is in good condition. The usually equally important Burlington County deal has been reduced by severe drought with only irrigated beans in good condition in this county. In Virginia picking started in the lower Eastern Shore Section around September 12. A few scattered fields had been picked earlier in the Norfolk Section and on the Eastern Shore. Movement will be general by September 25. Growth was slow during the first half of September, and the crop needs rain. In South Carolina, snap beans are in various stages of growth, ranging from just up in the Lake City area to nearing maturity in the Charleston-Beaufort Area. Earlier dry weather prevented normal growth but recent rains have been beneficial. Harvest is expected to begin about September 22 and reach peak around mid-October. California snap bean production is continuing to decline but local market supplies are generally adequate. Current supplies are confined to the Central and South Coast regions. The snap bean crop has made good progress in the Coachella Valley but harvest will not begin there until late October.

Late Fall: (Fla., Tex.) Indications are for slightly reduced plantings of snap beans in the north and central Florida sections. Planting in general started around the first of September and the earliest plantings are up and growing nicely at this time. Planting of most of this acreage is expected to be completed by the last week in September. The pole bean crop in the Manatee-Ruskin section is still in the process of being planted with the earliest fields just coming up. In the important Everglades section, planting got under way around the first of September with the bulk of the planting expected during the period from mid-September to November 1. Some early planting has started in the Pompano section, but it will be late September and early October before seeding in this section becomes active.

BEETS: Summer (N.J., Pa., N.Eng.) Volume supplies of bunched beets continue to be available from the northeast market garden areas of New Jersey. Moisture has been ample and the crop is in good condition. Irrigated late crop beets in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania have made good growth. Marketings of bunched beets will slowly increase and a fair supply of topped beets will move in steady volume through the fall months. Weather conditions during the first half of September were very favorable for growth of the late beet crop in New England. Offerings of bunched beets in moderate volume are expected during the last half of September.

BROCCOLI: Fall (Calif., N.Eng.) California broccoli supplies continue light with the summer acreage in the Castroville section providing most of the supplies for out-of-state shipment. Some early fall fields will be available for cutting in this area and in other central coast producing sections by late September and a moderate increase in volume can be expected. The New England fall broccoli crop is approaching maturity with field condition excellent. Some increase in fall acreage is indicated this year. Heaviest movement is expected during early October.

CABBAGE: Late Summer (Colo., Utah., N.Mex., Minn., Ohio., Pa., Va., N.C.) Only limited supplies are available in Ohio as harvesting is practically completed. Rains came too late to be of any help and many of the heads are small to medium in size. Light supplies of domestic cabbage are still available in a few areas of Pennsylvania, but in most areas the crop is over. Cabbage shipments from Southwest Virginia acreage are still going forward and will continue into early October. Dry weather has injured the crop. Soil conditions continued dry during the first two weeks of September in the late summer cabbage producing counties of western North Carolina. Light to ample rains which fell over most sections around September 15 came too late to be of much benefit to the crop. The hot, dry weather that has prevailed throughout most of the growing season, has cut the crop short and hastened maturity. Supplies are declining rapidly and the season is expected to be over earlier than usual this year.

Early Fall, Domestic: (N.Y., N.J., Mich., Wisc., Wash., N.Eng.) Fall movement is under way in scattered New Jersey areas. In North Jersey rainfall has been ample and the crop is in good condition. However, unirrigated fields in central Jersey have been severely damaged by dry weather. The small south Jersey acreage is in fair condition. The Michigan crop is still being harvested in volume proportions. Harvesting of the Wisconsin crop progressed rapidly during the first part of this month. The quality of the crop is good. Harvest has been very steady in Washington. Quality is generally very good. Late fields have been maturing earlier this year, but it is expected that supplies will continue steady during the next two weeks. Some club root has been reported, and growers have had considerable trouble in scattered localities with aphids. In New England the fall cabbage crop is yielding well and quality is good. Marketings are expected to increase moderately during the last half of September.

Early Fall, Danish: (N.Y., Pa., Ohio, Ind., Mich., Wis., Minn., Colo.) Harvest of Danish cabbage is well along in the Waterford (Erie Co.) area of Pennsylvania. Dry weather in August cut size and yields but quality is good. Throughout western Pennsylvania crops are light except where irrigated. In many eastern areas of the State Danish cabbage was a complete failure due to the lack of adequate moisture during the growing season. Danish is pretty well cleaned up in the Ringtown Valley (Schuylkill County). Peak of harvest in the State is expected during early October. In Ohio, growth was retarded by the hot dry weather during August. Harvest is under way in most areas although some late fields are not ready yet. The Michigan crop will soon be ready for harvest to start. Excellent quality

CABBAGE: Early Fall, Danish (Cont'd.) is reported. In Wisconsin fields appear to be in satisfactory condition. Shipments of Colorado early fall cabbage increased seasonally during the first half of September and are now at peak volume. Marketings are expected to continue in relatively heavy volume with a moderate decline probable near the end of the month. Quality is generally good to excellent. Peak cutting of the Minnesota crop is over in the Hollandale and Minneapolis-St. Paul areas. Quality has been very satisfactory. There has, however, been some oversizing due to the good growing weather and the delay in harvesting caused by wet fields. Storage cabbage in Carlton county, which will not be harvested until about mid-October, needs sunshine and dry weather. Many of the fields have been heavily damaged by excessive moisture.

Late Fall: (Oreg., Va., N.C., S.C.) North Carolina's late fall cabbage crop is growing well. Growers generally experienced difficulty in getting a stand and considerable resetting was necessary. As a result, stands are uneven in size and many fields are rather ragged. The crop is in good condition, plants now have about a six-inch spread, and cultivation is progressing well. No heading is in evidence as yet and very little harvest is expected prior to November 15. The fall cabbage crop in South Carolina suffered from earlier dry weather and is in only fair condition. Recent rains are expected to improve the crop which is about a month from harvest.

Winter, 1952 Season: (Calif., Ariz., Tex., Fla.) Early seed beds have been planted in all of the major producing areas of Florida. Some seeding direct to the field is now in progress particularly in the Everglades. Transplanting to the field has been extremely light to date.

CANTALOUFS: Mid-Summer (12 States) California production of mid-summer cantaloups is now declining rapidly. Carlot shipments will taper off during the next two weeks and for all practical purposes the deal will be terminated by October 1. Quality is still excellent. California supplies of Persians continue limited, compared to recent years with the bulk of the late-season carlot volume originating from the Yuba City and Live Oak Section in the South Sacramento Valley. Carlot shipments will continue from this area during the next two weeks but no marked increase in supplies is anticipated. Persians from the Turlock area will be utilized primarily for mixed car shipments and local market sales. In the Spokane Valley of Washington harvest of the Hearts-of-Gold crop is moving along rapidly. The Yakima Valley deal is over. In Maryland and Delaware the bulk of the harvest was over about September 7 but has continued at a very low rate since then. There will still be a few melons for another week.

Late Summer: (Oreg., Utah, Colo., Kans., Mich., Ohio, N.J., N.Y.) Marketings of Colorado cantaloups are past the peak but should continue in declining volume into early October. The Avondale deal (Pueblo County) which has accounted for the bulk of the late September shipments in recent years is out of the picture this year. Harvest in southwest Michigan has been at volume proportion for the past week and a half. Other areas of the State have been harvesting for a longer period. Hot, dry weather in August injured the Ohio crop. Only light scattered supplies remain for harvest during the last half of September. Movement has held up surprisingly well in New Jersey. Volume supplies continue to be available in Gloucester, Burlington and Monmouth counties and quality continues very good.

In New Jersey

CARROTS: Summer (N.J., N.Y., Ohio, Colo.) / the Great Meadows deal is practically over, but volume supplies of both bunched and topped carrots will continue to be available for several weeks in the northeast market garden sections. Good quality carrots are available in Ohio. Harvest will continue active throughout

CARROTS: Summer (Cont'd.) the remainder of September and October with some carrots being stored for winter sales. Straight carlot billings from Colorado should show some increase during the last half of September but the bulk of the crop is expected to continue to move in mixed cars and trucks.

Call: (Calif., Oreg., Wash., Utah, N.Mex., Minn., Ill., Mich., Pa., N.Y., N.Eng.) The bulk of the current supplies of California carrots are originating in the Salinas area but a few cars are being loaded daily from Santa Maria and Lompoc. The Oxnard area will not start until October. Production is expected to expand during the last half of September and will be heavy during October and November as an increasing acreage becomes available for harvest. Quality is generally good. Supplies of Washington carrots have been increasing rapidly during the last two weeks. Peak harvest is expected by September 25 on the local deal. Yields are highly variable, but quality is very good. Market garden prospects on the Chantenay crop appear very good at this time. Many topped carrots are now on local markets. Although a few Illinois carrots were pulled before July 15th, widespread harvest did not begin until the first part of September. Approximately one-fourth of the crop has been pulled to date. A light harvest has started in the Grant and Decatur areas of Michigan. However, volume harvest is not expected until the onions have been topped. Quality is good. Carrots in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania continue to make slow growth. Market supplies are increasing very slowly and are expected to be light for at least another month. In southern New England, leaf blight has damaged some of the carrot crop. Some of the damaged fields will be marketed as topped carrots. The bulk of the crop, however, is not seriously affected by blight and adequate supplies of bunched carrots will be available during the last half of September.

Winter, 1952 Season: (Calif., Ariz., Tex., La., Fla.) A few early fields of carrots have been irrigated up in the Imperial Valley of California. With present high temperatures it will be difficult to obtain satisfactory stands and at least a part of the early acreage will probably need to be replanted.

CAULIFLOWER: Summer (N.J., N.Y., Colo.) In New Jersey the late acreage, which is grown mostly in central areas, is in good condition considering the very dry weather which has prevailed. Plants are still healthy and stands are good, however severe damage is probable unless rain is received soon as plants are beginning to head. First cuttings have been made but volume supplies are not expected until late September. Colorado cauliflower shipments are declining seasonally. However, the decline through the last half of September may not be as sharp as in normal years as harvest has been delayed on a considerable acreage that has been slow maturing. Growth was delayed further by cool weather the first half of September and the possibility remains that some fields may not make a crop before the season is terminated by a hard freeze. Quality has been good.

Call: (N.Y., Mich., Oreg., N.Eng.) Harvest is gaining momentum in both the east and west side areas of Michigan and volume proportions will be reached during the next week and a half. The east side, or the Berville-Capac area, is a little earlier than the South Haven area on the west side. Quality in both areas is excellent. In Oregon harvest of fall cauliflower for market and processors is getting under way and should be active for the next six weeks in the Willamette valley. Dryland stands were benefited by rain the first week of September. Harvest of the fall cauliflower crop is now under way in New England. Moderately heavy volume is expected by late September with peak movement during the first week in October. Condition of the crop is generally excellent.

CAULIFLOWER: Winter, 1952 Season (Calif., Ariz., Tex., Fla.) Cauliflower has been set to the field in the Bassett-Puente area of Los Angeles County California and is making good progress. Due to the unsuccessful history of that deal in recent years, the acreage there is down considerably. In other sections the transplanting of early Snowball and November-December strains has been completed and growers are now setting out fields of January and February cauliflower.

CELERY: Early Fall (N.Y., Pa., Ohio, Mich., Colo., Utah, Wash., N. Eng.) Small quantities of celery are being harvested from early crops in the central and southeastern counties of Pennsylvania. Late celery growth was rapid during early September as nights were cooler. Harvesting will continue active in Ohio for another month, with light supplies remaining available until in December. Quality is good. A limited supply is still available in the Muskegon area of Michigan but it will be cleaned up in a few days. Growers in the Hudsonville, Decatur, and Inlay City areas will continue to ship until a general frost prohibits further harvesting. At present a labor shortage is restricting harvest in most areas. Colorado marketings are expected to continue at about the present level through the last half of September. The late Pascal crop is coming on very fast in Washington. Many fields are being cut now. Quality is very good to excellent. The warm weather has caused some bolting, but seed stalks have not been serious. The fall celery crop in New England is in unusually good condition, although a few fields in the important Middlesex County area of Massachusetts are blighted. Marketings are expected to increase gradually during the last half of September to heavy volume and then hold about steady during the first half of October.

Late Fall: (Calif., N.J.) In California harvesting of early fields of late-fall celery has been active in the Oceano-Santa Maria area during the past two weeks and the bulk of the carlot shipments is now originating from that section. Production in this district is expected to increase during the next two weeks. Cutting is under way on a limited scale in the Salinas and San Jose areas. In these two districts a considerable acreage of fall celery will reach maturity during the last half of September. In the Delta area, where celery is planted primarily for November-December harvest, the crop has made good progress. Movement is under way in various sections of northern New Jersey. Recent rains have been beneficial and the quality is improving. The Great Meadows section, however, continues to show severe flood damage and movement from this area will be much smaller than usual.

Winter, 1952 Season: (Fla., Calif., Ariz.) In Florida the rather high average temperatures have not been favorable for celery seed beds and growers have experienced considerable trouble in growing plants for the early crop. Transplanting started in the Everglades and Zellwood sections around mid-August and light transplanting is in progress in the Sanford-Oviedo and Sarasota sections at this time.

SWEET CORN: Summer (N.J., N.Y., Pa., N. Eng., Oreg.) Movement in New Jersey has become very small, consisting entirely of pickings from scattered late plantings throughout the State. Late sweet corn is a fair crop in the southeastern counties of Pennsylvania, but in the western counties dry weather during August nearly ruined late crops. Marketings will decrease in volume during late September and will be very light in early October. Harvesting in New England tapers off rather sharply during the first half of September, but seasonally heavy supplies are still available. Late fields are in very good condition and offerings in moderate volume will continue until the first killing frost. Harvest of sweet corn for market and processors in the Willamette Valley of Oregon is past the peak and will be completed in about two weeks. Harvest in Malheur County will be wound up this week.

CUCUMBERS: Summer (9 States) The bulk of the Illinois early summer crop has been harvested although a few fields, primarily in the northern quarter of the State are still in production. Harvest of the late summer crop in Michigan has been completed on all early varieties and growers are now concentrating on the late varieties. These will continue to be harvested until frost. In New England plant diseases caused rapid deterioration in the condition of the crop during the first half of September, and growth in most fields is about over. Light supplies will remain available until frost terminates growth completely.

Early Fall: (La., Ga., S.C.) The early fall crop in South Carolina is in fair to good condition, having been benefitted considerably by recent rains. Harvest is expected to be under way by September 24 and increase in volume until the peak is reached about October 15 to 20.

Late Fall: (Fla.) Occasional plantings were made in early August, but general planting on the main crop started about the last week in August and is expected to continue active until around the middle of October. Fields are being picked in the Wauchula section but most of this early production will find its way into local markets. The main movement from this section should get under way around the 10th of October and it is expected that it will be around the middle of October before movement from the State becomes active. At this time only occasional plantings have been made in the Immokalee section which is the latest of the fall deals. Early plantings at Fort Myers are up and growing nicely.

EGGPLANT: Summer (La., N.J.) In New Jersey a heavy volume of the Highbush variety continues to move from the Vineland section. Plentiful supplies of the Black Beauty variety are available in Gloucester county, but some fields have been partially abandoned because of market conditions. Moderate supplies of both varieties are available in Monmouth and northeastern counties.

Fall: (Fla., Tex.) Occasional early plantings in north Florida are making fair to good progress with some fields well advanced. In the Manatee-Ruskin and Fort Myers section, transplanting on the early acreage is nearing completion. In the Pompeno section, transplanting is just getting under way.

ESCAROLE: Winter, 1952 Season (Fla.) Seeding started in the Zellwood section in early September, and is expected to become active during the second half of the month in the Everglades and Sanford sections.

HONEYDEW MELONS: Summer (Ariz., Calif.) California production increased slightly during the past ten days as a result of relatively high temperatures. Shipments from the Northern San Joaquin and Southern Sacramento Valleys will continue in volume for the next two weeks and then decline unless weather is abnormally warm.

LETTUCE: Summer (Calif., Colo., N.Y.) The main Colorado shipping deals are nearing the end but carlot billings will continue in declining volume through most of September unless the season is terminated abruptly by killing frost.

Fall: (Calif., Oreg., Wash., Ida., N.Mex., N.J.) Production in California has had its ups and downs as a result of temperature variations. Warm weather during the last few days of August increased production but also caused quality to deteriorate. Temperatures during the first half of September were more moderate and supplies declined but quality defects were still prevalent. If normal temperatures continue quality is expected to improve. Shipments will probably range

LETTUCE: Fall (Cont'd.) between 150 and 200 cars daily during the next two weeks. Cutting of late lettuce in Malheur County Oregon is expected to get under way during the third week of September. The late crop in Washington is maturing rapidly with generally favorable growing conditions. Quality is good, but yields are not exceptional, due to generally dry weather at planting time. In New Jersey light volumes are beginning to move from scattered sections in the north but volume supplies will not be available until September 25th. Boston, Romaine and Iceberg will then be available in the northeastern market garden sections and in Monmouth county. The Great Meadows deal will be small because of flood damage. Production from the State's major acreage in the Cedarville area is in good condition and is expected to start by October 1 reaching volume movement by October 10th. Damage from leaf hoppers and wilt has occurred in north and central Jersey and some acreage in Cape May county had to be replanted because of hail damage.

Winter, 1952 Season: (Ariz., Calif., Fla., Tex.) The early acreage of lettuce in Imperial Valley, California has been seeded and growers are expected to begin turning water into these fields this week. Recent temperatures have been too high to make it possible to obtain satisfactory stands and if they continue, some replanting may be necessary. In the Palo Verde Valley, where the planting schedule runs ahead of that for Imperial, irrigating started early this month but recent high temperatures are expected to cause spotty stands and make some replanting necessary.

ONIONS: Late Summer (Mass., N.Y., Ohio., Ind., Ill., Mich., Wisc., Minn., Ia., Kans., Colo., Utah, Nev., Calif., Idaho, Oreg., Wash., Ariz.) The Ohio crop is of excellent quality. Harvesting is progressing very well with most areas being practically completed. Approximately 90 percent of the Illinois acreage has been pulled to date. Onions are of good quality. Harvest in Michigan is now about 90 percent complete in all areas. The crop has been affected by a heavy infestation of maggots and by mildew in all areas. The outcome of the Wisconsin onion crop is uncertain. Excessive moisture has caused a setback and keeping quality may be poorer than expected. Most of the commercial growers are harvesting. Good progress was made in harvesting of the Minnesota crop during the first week of September, but frequent and heavy rains delayed operations during much of the second week. The crop is generally disappointing except in Clay county where a good crop is being harvested. The adverse weather may cause a heavier-than-normal grade-out this year in many areas. Harvest in Colorado will probably be at its peak during the last half of September. Shipments are increasing seasonally and the larger portion of present marketings are moving by truck, but the aggregate volume is significantly smaller than in any recent year. The 1951 crop is the smallest since 1940. Harvest is well along in the important Arkansas Valley and growers are finding very few 3-inch onions. The outlook is somewhat brighter in Northern Colorado but is not up to average. Harvest is just getting under way on the Western Slope. Harvesting of the late-summer crop in California continues active in all areas. The bulk of the crop is moving by truck either to California markets or to dehydrators. Most of the rail shipments from the Salinas area are brown onions destined for export. A few yellows, largely jumbos, are moving by rail from Stockton and Sacramento.

GREEN PEAS: Early Fall (Calif.) Harvest got under way September 4 and is now active in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. Supplies are expected to increase during the next two weeks but daily shipments are not likely to exceed six cars at the peak of the deal which should occur late in September. This district has the only carlot deal in California this fall. For the first time in many years there is no shipping acreage planted for fall harvest in Kern County. Supplies for local markets continue from plantings made along the coastal benches in San Mateo, Marin and Mendocine Counties.

GREEN PEPPERS: Late Summer (N.J., Calif., N.Eng.) In New Jersey, heavy volumes of many varieties including White Cap, Long Hot, Cherry, California Wonder, Bullnose and Cheese peppers, continue to be available in the Vineland-Landisville section. Cedarville continues to move heavy volumes of California Wonders, while the World Beater variety is available in heavy volume in Gloucester county. Lighter volumes of most of these varieties are also available in Central and north Jersey. Quality has been good. Green, mixed and red supplies should continue to move until frost. Supplies in Southern and Central California coastal producing districts are plentiful. As has been the case in recent years, practically all plantings have been made for local markets and there will be active shipping deal. In New England marketing continues at peak levels, with heavy movement indicated until frosts. Plants in most fields are in healthy condition and continue to yield vigorously.

Fall: (Va., Fla., Tex.) Condition of the Virginia crop is as good as at this time last year. A few red peppers are being picked and sold to canneries and picking of green peppers for fresh market will get under way around September 20. In Florida, planting for early harvest appears to be rather light in the Central and West coast areas. Most of the acreage intended for early harvest in the Wauchula, Manatee-Ruskin, and Fort Myers sections has been set to the field. A small early acreage in the Immokalee section is making good progress. Seeding direct to the field in the important Pompano section is now in progress and seed beds in this section are also in fair to good condition with some transplanting being done.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: Summer (8 States) Harvesting is nearing completion, in New Jersey although volume supplies will continue to be available through most of September.

Winter, 1952 Season: (Fla., Tex.) Planting of a small early winter acreage was getting started in the Florida Everglades at mid-September. In the Fort Myers section, planting is expected to start about the first of October.

SPINACH: Early Fall (Md., N.J., Pa., Ill., Mo., N.Eng.) Dry weather has delayed the Maryland crop. The rains on September 14 should result in a pick-up in production next week, as plants that made a poor start will be recovering. In New Jersey, supplies are becoming available in central and northern areas. The crop is generally in only fair condition but should improve with cooler weather. Irrigated spinach in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania is making good progress but germination was very poor in non-irrigated fields. In some localities in the southeast fields sown three weeks ago are not up. Rain is badly needed. The fall crop in New England is making excellent growth in all areas and liberal supplies are currently available. Offerings during the balance of the season will depend upon market conditions.

STRAWBERRIES: Winter, 1952 Season (Fla.) Transplanting is just beginning. The principal planting dates of this crop are from the last week of September to the middle of October.

SQUASH: Fall and Winter (N.Eng., Fla.) Condition of fall and winter squash in New England is generally very good, although many fields will mature later than usual. An unusually large crop of all varieties is indicated, but a killing frost during the next ten days would reduce yields in some fields of blue hubbard, especially in the important Middlesex County, Massachusetts area. Seasonally heavy supplies of turban, butternut and acorn squash are currently available. Harvest of some fields of blue hubbard squash is

SQUASH: Fall and Winter (Cont'd.) also under way, although practically no movement of the crop has occurred to date. Planting of the fall crop in Florida started around the first of September except for the acreage which is grown principally for local consumption. Conditions have been favorable for germination and early plantings are making satisfactory growth.

TOMATOES: Late Summer (N.J., Wash., Pa., Ohio, Ind., Ill., Iowa, N.Y., Mich., Colo., Utah, Oreg., Ala., N.Eng.) In New Jersey heaviest movement continues from Burlington, Monmouth and north Jersey counties. Condition and quality are very good in north Jersey but the crop is deteriorating in central Jersey because of hot weather and lack of rainfall. Light supplies of plum tomatoes continue to be available in the Vineland-Landisville section. In Washington harvest of the Yakima crop has been finished. Local producing sections in the Spokane and Puget Sound districts are now in full production. The crop is only fair at Spokane, but very good in King and Pierce Counties of western Washington. Quality is good in western districts. Hot, dry weather during August caused a short crop of tomatoes in the western counties of Pennsylvania. In Erie county blossom-end rot damage and dry weather cut yields severely. In the northeastern green tomato area tomatoes ripened rapidly during early September and movement to canneries is more than one-third over. Green tomato auctions are still moving a fair volume of tomatoes. Peak of the harvest is past in Ohio and supplies will diminish rapidly during the next two weeks. The Illinois late crop is moving at a rapid pace. Prospects are for harvest to be completed by the first part of October. Quality has suffered slightly from excessive rainfall. Harvest in Michigan has passed the peak for both fresh market and processing. Late blight has appeared in many fields and has reduced supplies. Shipments from Colorado should continue near the present level through the remainder of September unless terminated by a freeze. A light frost has already caused some damage in the Denver-Brighton area. Picking in the late summer areas of the Willamette Valley in Oregon is going into the final stages and is expected to be completed during the next two weeks. In New England blight damage has become quite serious in many tomato fields. In most fields planted for late harvest, however, a rigorous spraying schedule has been followed and blight has been effectively controlled. Marketings continue seasonally heavy and offerings in moderate volume will be available until frost.

Early Fall (Calif.) In response to a demand for green tomatoes, primarily from Southern markets, many California shippers began operations the second week in September and are now moving a fair volume of wrapped and bulk fruit. The deal is geared to supply an increasing volume from mid-September on and carlot shipments should expand materially during the next two weeks. All districts are now in production and increases in volume will be general throughout the State. The crop has made excellent progress and quality is good.

Late Fall (Tex., Fla.) The fall crop in Florida is making fair to good progress in spite of the fact that some plantings have experienced excessive rains and replanting has been necessary while other plantings have not received enough rain to germinate the seed. For the most part the excessive rains have occurred in the Fort Pierce area while the drought has been more dominant in the Immokalee section. Recent rains have been most beneficial to the crop in the Manatee-Ruskin section. The earliest fields are expected to start a light production in late October.

WATERMELONS: Late Summer (Va., Md., Del., N.J., Ind., Ill., Ia., Oreg., Wash.)
 Although two weeks ago it appeared that harvest of the Maryland and Delaware crop was almost over, some vines have held on and harvest is still in progress and will continue the rest of the month. A moderate movement is under way in Gloucester, Burlington and Monmouth counties of New Jersey. Harvest is over in the White County area of Illinois but will probably continue through October in the Mason County area due to the lateness of the season. Quality continues very good. Harvest has passed its peak in the Wapato section of Yakima County, Washington. Supplies from the Spokane Valley are very short.

LATE REPORT FROM NEW YORK

GENERAL: Temperatures were unseasonably low during the first week in September. However, the following week brought warmer weather. Rains during the week September 3-9 furnished moderate amounts of moisture to most of the State. The heavier rains of September 13-14 were general and brought relief to drought areas in western New York. Additional rain is needed in some parts of western New York and on Long Island. Most vegetable crops in western New York however are too near maturity to benefit fully from these rains.

LIIMA BEANS - Summer: Marketings of Long Island lima beans continue in fair volume but supplies are expected to decrease after mid-September.

SNAP BEANS:- Late Summer: With the exception of some late planted fields, the harvest of snap beans is over.

CABBAGE:- Early Fall, Danish: Dry weather and insect damage have reduced prospects in the important late area along Lake Ontario. Soil moisture has been adequate in most central New York fields and good yields are expected. Limited quantities of Danish cabbage are now moving to market.

CANTALOUPS - Late Summer: Quality has been good. The season is about over and only light supplies will be available after mid-September.

CARROTS - Summer: Light volumes of topped carrots have continued to move from the Orange County muck area, but the season is nearly over and supplies will diminish rapidly.

CARROTS - Fall: A light volume is moving, primarily from muckland areas of central and western New York. Recent rains have improved prospects on upland soils in western New York.

CAULIFLOWER:- Summer: Liberal supplies of cauliflower from the Catskill section were available during the first half of September. However, harvest is nearly completed and volume will decrease during the latter half of the month.

CAULIFLOWER - Fall, Long Island: Long Island cauliflower is now moving in fairly heavy volume with marketings expected to increase.

CELERY - Early Fall: Harvest has reached the halfway point in some areas. Volume is not expected to be heavy at any time but light supplies will be available for the remainder of the season.

LATE REPORT FROM NEW YORK, (Cont'd.)

SWEET CORN - Summer: Harvest is nearly finished with some scattered late fields remaining. Supplies from the Hudson Valley continued good up to mid-September but are expected to decline rapidly.

LETTUCE - Summer: Supplies continue liberal with some decline in marketings since September 1. The increased acreage of second-crop Boston lettuce in Orange County should provide moderate supplies during the rest of the month.

ONIONS - Late Summer: Harvest is well under way in all important areas. Movement to market has been light, but liberal supplies are available.

TOMATOES - Late Summer: Early fields have been harvested and harvest is now under way on late planted fields. The late set is light, however, and supplies will be limited during the remainder of the season. Weather conditions have been unfavorable for growth and ripening, but conducive to the spread of blight which caused severe damage in some areas.