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Commercial Truck Crops

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TRUCK CROP NEWS AUGUST 15, 1951

Commercial truck crops continued to make good progress in most areas during the first half of August the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. Weather was variable but in general promoted growth and harvest of vegetables.

New England vegetable crops made rapid growth during the first half of August and are supplying a heavy volume of produce of excellent quality. Ample moisture supplies in all areas and above normal temperatures at near mid-month have been favorable for all summer crops. Showers on August 11 and 12 covered most of New Jersey and relieved the drought in southern and central Jersey. However, some areas continue to need additional moisture. In the Great Meadows area heavy rains after the floods of late July caused some growers to give up hope of salvaging any of their crops. While there were some scattered showers over Pennsylvania during the first half of the month, the north central and southeastern areas were very dry. Crops without irrigation suffered considerable damage. Weather conditions have been favorable for growth and harvest of vegetables on the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula. In southwest Virginia rainfall has been normal since August 1 but more rain is needed in Smyth and Wythe Counties.

Hot, dry weather in Ohio retarded growth of vegetables. Illinois also had dry weather during the first half of August but temperatures were slightly below normal. Subsoil moisture in Illinois was adequate to offset the deficiency in rain. In Michigan, weather was variable and below normal temperatures retarded growth of some crops. Rainfall was light. In Minnesota temperatures were below normal and rainfall above average in most areas. While the soil is still too dry in Polk County, soil moisture is satisfactory in Clay County. In Wisconsin recent rains offset the dry conditions of late July and the first week of August and the general condition of truck crops is favorable in spite of abnormally low temperatures.

The marketing season of the few remaining crops in Texas is rapidly coming to a close. Progress of early transplanted fall-crop acreages, is generally satisfactory but the intense heat has made frequent irrigation necessary. Planting of fall-crop seed beds in the Lower Rio Grande Valley has been curtailed because of the uncertainty of sufficient water for irrigating. Considerable land is being prepared for direct seeding of winter-type vegetables if satisfactory rains occur. Conditions in the non-irrigated Coastal Bend are unfavorable and preparation of soils will be delayed until good rains are received.

In Colorado weather has been favorable for growth and harvesting of commercial vegetables, except in San Luis Valley where conditions remain critically dry and irrigation water is short. Colorado is entering the season of heaviest vegetable marketing but aggregate volume will not equal those of recent years. Drought conditions continue in Washington and Oregon. Condition of irrigated crops in these States is good to excellent as temperatures have been favorable and irrigation water adequate. Good supplies of vegetables and melons available. Conditions in California have been about normal. Peak of summer-crop harvest has been reached and shipments from California will decline during the next 30 days. About mid-September shipments will increase as harvest of fall crops becomes active.

DAMAGE FROM HAIL IN MICHIGAN: On the night of August 17 hail storms in Berrien and Van Buren Counties wiped out several hundred acres of tomatoes and cantaloups.

ARTICHOKES: Winter, 1952 Season (California) Growers in the Central Coast section are preparing fields for the fall harvest season. Vines are putting on good growth and have benefited from the recent cool weather. Although some fields were in production throughout the summer, it will be mid-September before supplies from new vines are available.

LIMA BEANS: Summer (N.C., Md., N.J., N.Y.) The North Carolina crop has been harvested and in Maryland only a limited supply of Fordhooks from late plantings continues to be available. Light supplies continue to be available in Cumberland and Burlington Counties in New Jersey. The Burlington County deal is drawing to a close but late planted fields are becoming available in Cumberland County. Recent rains were very helpful.

SNAP BEANS: Early Summer (Md., Del., N.J., N.Y., Pa., Ill.) Harvest of the early crop in the Del-Mar Peninsula is over, but movement to market continues from the producing area around Baltimore. The early summer crop in New Jersey is almost over. Late plantings in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania are making a good crop and many beans are going to freezing plants. Generous supplies in all areas of the State have resulted in lower prices but markets are improving for later crops. Growers in the major Union County area of Illinois are winding up harvest of this year's crop. In other areas of the State harvest is about three-fourths complete.

Late Summer: (Ala., Ga., N.C., Va., N.Y., Mich., Colo., Tenn., N.Eng., Wash.) Harvest in Southwest Virginia is at peak and good supplies will continue from Carroll and Floyd Counties until about September 5. Cannery are now taking a large percentage of the crop. Yields per acre are generally good and considerably above the average for the last ten years. Good yields are being realized in all areas of Michigan and harvest has reached volume proportions. In Colorado, good quality beans will continue in light supply into early September. In New England, fields in all stages of growth show excellent condition. Offerings in moderate volume are indicated during the balance of the season.

Early Fall: (N.J., Md., Va., N.C., S.C., Miss., La., Calif.) In New Jersey, a fairly large acreage of late beans has been planted in Cumberland County and is being planted in Burlington County. Recent rains were very beneficial as the ground was so dry that growers without irrigation could not prepare their fields for planting. First plantings of late snap beans on the Peninsula of Maryland are making rapid growth. Plantings will continue through the third week of August. In Virginia, planting of the fall crop in Eastern Counties is going forward. On the lower Eastern Shore, a few early planted fields are beginning to bloom and many fields are being cultivated. Planting has begun in the coastal area of South Carolina and will increase in the next few weeks. Production in Southern California is declining but supplies are still adequate. Production is increasing in the San Jose district and small quantities will continue to be harvested from San Diego and San Luis Obispo Counties. Quality and yields have been very satisfactory this year.

BEETS: Summer (N.J., Pa., N.Eng.) In New Jersey, bunched and topped beets continue to be available in volume in the northeastern market garden areas and in Monmouth County. Both bunched and topped beets are also in good supply from the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania. Crops sown for September and October sales in this area are making fair to excellent progress. Beets grown for local markets in other areas of the State are slow in maturing due to lack of sufficient moisture. In New England condition of beets remains excellent in all areas. Late planted fields are growing very rapidly and the present volume of supplies is expected to taper off only slightly during the next several weeks.

BROCCOLI: Summer (Pennsylvania) Supplies in the Bucks-Philadelphia area are currently light but are expected to increase slowly during late August and September. Later plantings are in satisfactory condition and a good fall crop is anticipated.

Fall: (California) Harvesting of the summer crop is continuing from the Castroville district where an occasional car is loaded. Some broccoli will continue to be available in the Santa Maria district also and supplies should show some increase during the next two weeks although total volume will remain quite light.

CABBAGE: Early Summer (N.J., N.Y., L.I., Ga., Ind., Ill., Iowa) In New Jersey, volume supplies continue to be available from the Budd Lake and northeast sections. Over one-third of the crop has been harvested in the major Cook County area of Illinois. Elsewhere in the State, approximately three-fourths has been cut. Yields have been very good.

Late Summer: (Colo., Utah, N.Mex., Minn., Ohio, Pa., Va., N.C., N.Eng.) Colorado is producing a good crop of excellent quality cabbage. A slow market continues to retard carlot billings, but truck and mixed car movement has been heavy. Supplies will increase through the last half of August as the San Luis Valley deal comes into production, but volume of marketings will be determined by demand. Harvesting of the summer crop in Minnesota will be completed during the last week in August. Supplies have been exceeding demand and some of the crop may be left in the fields. Hot dry weather in Ohio during the first half of August was unfavorable for cabbage growth. Heads are small but quality is still generally good. Early and mid-season supplies in most southern areas of Pennsylvania were cut short by dry weather but marketings from the northern areas should continue in fair volume. In southwest Virginia, yields are about average but below last year because of dry weather during most of July. Cabbage is now being harvested and a substantial quantity is going to kraut processors. Harvesting will continue into late September. Growing conditions during recent weeks have been very favorable in New England. Supplies continue seasonably heavy, with some increase in volume expected during the later half of August. Unfavorable market conditions, however, may limit offerings.

Early Fall, Domestic: (N.Y., N.J., Mich., Wisc., Wash.) In New Jersey, recent rains were very beneficial, especially in central and southern sections which were very dry. Stands are generally satisfactory and more rapid growth is now expected. Harvest has reached volume proportions in all areas of Michigan. Bay City growers were the first on the market, and all areas report a good quality crop with good yields. Early plantings in the Puget Sound area of Washington will soon be available. Some older plantings, (spring crop) remain with extreme variability in quality, and a wide range in size of heads.

Early Fall, Danish: (N.Y., Pa., Ohio, Ind., Mich., Wisc., Minn., Colo.) Rain is needed in all late Danish areas of Pennsylvania. Acreage is considerably lower than intentions in many western localities. Plantings in the Waterdord (Erie County) area are in good condition but growing slowly. Stands are spotty in the Ringtown Valley (Schuylkill County) area where moisture is badly needed as crops are beginning to head. A few early crops in the southern areas are beginning to mature and light supplies will be available during late August. Plants made very little growth in Ohio during the hot dry weather of the last two weeks. The Michigan crop is coming on very nicely. Harvesting in the main producing area of Minnesota, Freeborn County, will get under way during the next week or ten days. The crop looks good and favorable weather during recent weeks may narrow down the cutting period and bring on heavy supplies during a short period of time. The Carlton County crop has been delayed by cool, wet weather and is about two weeks later than usual.

CANTALOUPS: Mid-Summer (Calif., Wash., N.Mex., Texas, Okla., Ark., N.C., Md., Del., Ind., Ill., Iowa) In California, the San Joaquin Valley deal reached the peak of shipments on July 30 but volume supplies should continue to be available for about another 30 days. The Delano and Huron sections are practically cleaned up and supplies from Mendota north are expected to decline as remaining early fields are harvested. Mid-season acreage is light this year and shipments for the next two weeks are expected to be lighter than those for this period last year. Plantings in Southern California will keep local markets supplied. Quality of cantaloups continues to be excellent. Supplies of Persian melons during the past two weeks have been originating mainly from the Huron district. Early fields in the Turlock and Yuba City-Live Oak areas of Sacramento Valley should be into production very shortly. Harvest in the Yakima Valley of Washington will rapidly approach its peak in the next two weeks. Most pickings will grade medium size. Market conditions remain very favorable. The Spokane County crop is making good progress. Hot-dry weather in Texas has shortened the season in some of the late cantaloup areas. The deal is about over in the Salisbury area of Maryland. Low prices have discouraged continued harvesting in the later fields. Leaf spot and blight were also detrimental. Heavy supplies continue from other areas of Maryland and Delaware. Approximately half of this year's crop in the White County area of Illinois has been harvested to date. Less than a fifth of the crop in the Mason County area has been picked and in the Cook County area harvest has not yet begun.

Late Summer: (Ore., Wash., Colo., Kansas, Mich., Ohio, N.J., N.Y.) Harvest of cantaloups and spear melons for local markets got under way in Oregon during the week of August 6-11. Most of the local requirements are being handled by out-of-State shippers. Weather was generally favorable for Colorado cantaloups during the first half of August but the crop is late and local hail storm damaged some acreage in Bent County on August 10. Arkansas Valley melons will start moving by August 20 and should reach carlot volume late that week. Production will be significantly reduced this year as a result of sharply reduced plantings and severe hail and flood damage. Although growth of Michigan's crop has been good, prospective yields fell off somewhat during the cool weather of the past two weeks. While most areas in Ohio were supplying melons by August 10, harvest of some of the later fields will not begin until about August 20. Weather during early August was hot and dry and the vines are beginning to dry up. Melons are small and quality is only fair. Moderate but increasing volumes are moving in scattered south and central New Jersey areas with heaviest supplies being available in Gloucester and Burlington Counties. Movement is expected to reach peak about August 20. Quality is generally satisfactory as the dry weather increased the sugar content.

CARROTS: Spring (Calif., Ariz.) Production from the Salinas Valley in California continues in relatively light supply reflecting the smaller acreage planted there this year. Quality is generally excellent. A small volume of carrots is available from the Santa Maria area. Growers are well up on their fields and it does not appear that loadings will increase above present volume during August.

Summer: (N.J., N.Y., Ohio, Colo.) In the Great Meadows area of New Jersey production was sharply reduced by the late July flood. Light supplies of topped carrots continue to be available from this area. Moderate supplies of both bunched and topped carrots continue from the northeastern market garden section of this State. Hot dry weather during the first half of August retarded growth in Ohio but quality is generally good. In Colorado, quality is excellent and supplies are increasing but very few straight cars are expected before September

CARROTS: Fall (Calif., Ore., Wash., Utah, New Mex., Minn., Ill., Mich., Pa., N.Y.)

Local supplies in Washington appear to be adequate. Quality is good to excellent. Nearly one-fifth of the Illinois crop has been harvested and yields have been better than average. Carrots in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania continue in good condition where irrigated but others need rain. In New England, marketings of bunched carrots are about at the peak. Volume should continue heavy during the balance of August, with some tapering off of offerings during the latter part of the period. Condition of crops is excellent and quality unusually good. In the important Middlesex County area of Massachusetts, the crop is probably the best ever grown.

CAULIFLOWER: Late Spring (Washington) Late plantings in Washington are generally making very favorable progress. Present supply remains very limited.

Summer: (N.Y., Colo., N.J.) Production prospects in Colorado were reduced further by hot and dry July weather and the shipping deal has been slow getting under way. In the San Luis Valley, high temperatures and a shortage of water for irrigation has retarded growth. Carlot movement should build up to a relatively heavy volume by the end of August, with peak loadings about mid-September.

Fall: (N.Y., Mich., Ore., N. Eng.) The fall cauliflower crop in New England has made a very good start.

CELERY: Summer (N.Y., N.J., Ohio, Mich., Ore., Calif., N.Eng.) In New Jersey, local supplies were drastically reduced by floods at Great Meadows during late July. Only a fair recovery is being made in this area but moderate volume is available. Quality however is varied. In the Paramus section of this State, supplies are declining but are of good quality. Marketing of the Ohio crop is about completed. All areas in Michigan report good quality for both pascal and golden celery. Yields have not been as high in all areas as last year but the important Muskegon area reports a very good crop. The summer shipping deal in California is drawing to a close and the daily volume is expected to decline during the next two weeks. Shippers in the San Jose-Gilroy section should be through with the summer acreage by September 1. Harvesting has been delayed on some fields because of market conditions but it has been necessary for growers to step up harvesting the past few days because fields were becoming overmature. The New England crop generally continues to show excellent condition though blight has appeared in a few fields. A slight increase in offerings over current marketings is expected during the last half of August.

Early Fall: (N.Y., Pa., Ohio, Mich., Colo., Utah, Wash.) Pennsylvania celery is growing well and is in excellent condition as most growers have irrigation facilities available. Marketings of early crops, mostly hearts, is slowly increasing in up-State markets. Growth of celery in Ohio during the past two weeks has been slow and rain is needed to develop the crop. Marketing will begin around September 1. The late celery crop in Michigan has made good progress to date. In Colorado, quality is improving and carlot shipments are increasing as harvest gets under way in the early fields of the main shipping deal. A steady but moderate movement should continue through October. In Washington, supplies will generally increase during the next two weeks with many earlier fields in King and Pierce counties reaching maturity. Quality is good to excellent. Later plantings are showing good growth. Sprinkler irrigation is supplying adequate moisture.

CELERY: (Continued) Late Fall (Calif., N.J.) The bulk of the California late-fall celery had been planted by August 1 although some fields have been set during the last two weeks. Most acreage has made satisfactory progress. Some fields of field grown celery are being harvested in the Santa Maria area but the bulk of the early acreage probably will not be available for cutting until about the second week of September.

SWEET CORN: Summer (N.J., N.Y., Pa., New Eng.) The important Beverly, New Jersey deal is over. Light supplies continue to be available in the Hightstown-Freehold sections and in north Jersey Counties. The north Jersey crop has had ample moisture and is generally of good quality. Early marketing in Pennsylvania have met good demand and quality has been exceptional. Crops in the southeast have been very free of insects and yields have been good. Moderate supplies have been available in other areas of this State. Later fields in all areas are showing considerable damage from dry weather and many yields will be below normal. Late August supplies will increase and peak movement is expected during early September. New England growers are harvesting one of the largest and best quality sweet corn crops of recent years. Marketings are just over the peak, with volume now expected to hold steady during the next two weeks.

CUCUMBERS: Late Spring (7 States) Cucumber production in California continues in volume but the peak of harvest has probably been passed. The volume available during the remainder of August will be adequate for local requirements.

Early Summer: (Va., Md., Del., N.J., Ill.) The important Vineland-Landisville, New Jersey deal is over. Light, scattered supplies are available in central and north Jersey. Practically all of the crop in the Union County area of Illinois has been harvested. However, in the Cook County area approximately two-thirds remain to be picked. Quality and yield are good.

Late Summer: (N.Y., Pa., Mich., N.Eng.) Good but declining supplies of market cucumbers will be available during late August in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania. Harvest continues in Armstrong county and in western areas but is not expected to start in the northwest until late August. Most of these crops are used by processors. Harvest of the New England crop is just over the peak with marketings unusually heavy. The crop is generally in very good condition, but various diseases have appeared in some fields. Supplies during the balance of the season will depend partly on growers' success in checking the spread of diseases.

Early Fall: (La., Ga., S.C.) In South Carolina some early plantings are coming up in the Beaufort area. Planting continues in that area and is under way around Charleston and other coastal areas of South Carolina.

EGGPLANT: Summer (La., N.J.) In New Jersey volume supplies of the Black Beauty variety continue to be available in the Swedesboro, Glassboro and Pedricktown sections. Volume supplies of the Highbush variety are available around Vineland and Landisville. Monmouth County has a fairly large acreage of both varieties. Yields per acre have been low but recent rains should be helpful.

Fall: (Fla., Tex.) In Texas, progress of fall plantings is generally satisfactory considering the intense heat.

GARLIC: Summer (Calif.) Harvesting in California has started on a few fields of late plantings and will become more active during the month. Prospects appear to be very good. A few cars of early garlic are being loaded daily in the Salinas-Gilroy-Hollister area.

HONEY DEW MELONS: Summer (Ariz., Calif., Colo.) Production in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys of California is increasing and the crop has benefited materially from the past few days of warm weather. Daily loadings and the peak of shipments will be determined by prevailing temperatures. Quality and yields are good.

LETTUCE: Summer (Calif., Colo., N.Y.) Volume of California summer lettuce has increased the past few days due to the increased acreage available this month and to warmer weather. There is considerable variation in quality with some excellent lettuce available. Four dozen sizes have been in relatively light supply but is increasing with warm weather and as new fields come into production. Colorado lettuce shipments should be in peak volume during the second half of August as harvest is in full swing in the important San Luis Valley and cutting gets under way in the Northwest. The San Luis Valley has been finding a good market for their excellent quality lettuce, with shipments running heavily to L's. In Routt and Grand counties, dry and cool nights have delayed cutting but supplies will be on the increase.

LETTUCE: Fall (Calif., Oreg., Wash., Ida., N.Mex., N.J., Tex.) Most of California fall lettuce acreage has been seeded and harvest should begin on the earliest fields in September. Cool weather in coastal districts has benefited this crop and stands are even. Quality of lettuce being marketed in Washington has improved in the last two weeks as slime and tipburn are no longer prevalent. Condition of later fields is good. Local supplies will build up rapidly during the latter part of the month. Good supply should be available until late in the fall unless unseasonal early frosts occur. Idaho's fall lettuce crop is up and thinning has started. The bulk of the important Cedarville, New Jersey fall acreage will be seeded during the period August 10-25, although some fields were seeded in July and others will be seeded in September. Recent rains have been very helpful. A small fall-crop irrigated acreage has been planted in the Panhandle area of Texas and most of it is up to a good stand.

MINT FOR OIL: Summer (Ind., Mich., Oreg., Wash.) All areas have started distilling and there is a wide variation in reported yields. In Oregon, cutting and distilling are in progress and becoming more active daily. The distillation of peppermint is rapidly building up in the Yakima Valley of Washington. Harvest is generally two weeks earlier than normal for most areas. In Cowlitz County, distillation has already reached its peak and good yields were realized.

ONIONS: Late Summer (Mass., N.Y., Ohio, Ind., Ill., Mich., Wisc., Minn., Iowa, Kans., Colo., Utah, Nev., Calif., Idaho, Oreg., Wash.) With harvest of the Massachusetts set onion crop completed, movement has become light. Quality of the crop has been excellent. Weather in Ohio during the first half of August has been too hot and dry for onions and they are "drying up". Considerably over three-fourths of the Illinois crop has been harvested. Quality has been good and yields above average. The Michigan crop has been hit badly by mildew and yields in many fields have been reduced sharply. Maggots too, have taken a tremendous toll in some fields. Dusting has not been effective for controlling either mildew or maggots in some cases. There was too much moisture and cloudy weather during the first half of August for best development of the Minnesota crop. In the Moorhead area, some fields are starting to go down and harvest is expected to get under way in volume between September 1st and 15th. In Freeborn County too much moisture has damaged the crop and some fields are turning yellow and going down too early. Warm dry weather is badly needed in this area. The Colorado onion outlook did not change much during the first half of August. In the important Arkansas Valley, yield prospects are only fair with very poor yields expected from a considerable portion of the acreage. Thrip damage is very evident and some tip burn and pink root is also reported. In Northern Colorado and on the Western Slopes the crop is making fairly good progress. Some whites and a few yellows are being harvested but carlot shipments will be light until September. Harvesting of the late-summer onion crop is active in all major producing districts of California. Pulling and windrowing of Australian browns has begun on early fields in the Salinas Valley. Shipments of yellow onions are being made daily from Stockton and Sacramento. Much of the current production is moving by truck to Pacific Coast markets and a considerable tonnage is being delivered to dehydrators for processing. In Idaho, both white and yellow onions are being harvested. Condition of the crop is generally good and is from one to two weeks ahead of normal in both sizes and maturity for both white and yellow. Pulling of early onions continues in Oregon and preparation is under way for pulling of the late crop toward the end of August. The late summer onion crop in the Moses Lake district of Washington has made satisfactory development. Carlot shipments should begin about August 20. Sizes will generally run larger than usual, and well-above-average yields are now indicated.

GREEN PEAS: Summer (N.Y., Colo., Idaho) Colorado's green pea deal is expected to end before the first of September.

GREEN PEPPERS: Late Summer (N.J., Calif., N.Eng.) Heavy volume of the World Beater variety continues to be available in the Swedesboro, Glassboro and Pedricktown sections of New Jersey. Long hot, Cherry, White Cap, Bullnose, California Wonder and Cheese peppers are available in volume in the Vineland-Landisville area. The Cedarville section is supplying heavy volume of California Wonders. Lighter supplies of most of these varieties are becoming available in Monmouth County. Considerable blossom-end rot has occurred but recent rains should be very helpful in checking this disease. Supplies from California are plentiful with the bulk of the production coming from San Jose and some supplies from various other points in the San Joaquin Valley. Southern California supplies are coming from San Diego and Orange Counties. Condition of the crop in southern New England is generally excellent, especially in the important Bristol County area of Massachusetts. Supplies are currently moderately heavy and volume should increase gradually until about September 1. Supplies after September 1 will remain heavy until curtailed by frosts.

Fall: (Va., Fla., Tex.) In Texas, progress of early transplanted peppers is generally satisfactory considering the intense hot weather. Frequent irrigation has been necessary.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: (9 States) In New Jersey, rainfall generally averaging from one to two inches covered the major potato areas on August 11 and 12. However, the moisture came too late to help drought stricken unirrigated fields as most vines were dead. Many small sized potatoes are being dug. Harvesting of Cobblers is nearly completed while digging of Katahdins and Chippewas is under way. No data are available on the percent of the acreage that has been irrigated but according to a survey made last year, growers were equipped to irrigate 38% of the 1950 potato acreage.

OTHER EARLY AREAS: Market conditions are somewhat better than earlier in the season. Volume movement continues from Idaho with reds, whites and Russets all going to market.

SPINACH: Summer (N.Y., Colo., Wash.) Supplies of Colorado spinach continue to exceed the demand. Quality is very good.

SQUASH: Fall and Winter (New England) Condition of fall and winter squash in New England shows considerable variability but generally is very good. Growth in fields with heavy soils was slow during the first half of August due mainly to the absence of extended periods of high temperatures. Light offerings of turban and butternut squash are now available with volume increasing steadily. Production this season is expected to be unusually heavy.

STRAWBERRIES: Spring (Calif.) Strawberry harvest is continuing in coastal districts of California and daily loadings of 2 to 3 cars can be expected the next two weeks. Local market supplies continue from San Diego, Los Angeles and Orange Counties as well as from other coastal districts.

TOMATOES: Early Summer (Calif., Ark., Tenn., N.C., Va., Ky., Ill., Mo., Ohio, Md., Del.) Harvesting of early-summer tomatoes has been about completed in the central San Joaquin Valley of California and the bulk of the acreage remaining in this area is being diverted to canners. Production from fields in San Diego County is heavy at this time; and, although volume will decline, summer tomatoes will be available from this area into September. During the first half of August, Virginia tomatoes were being harvested in the Eastern Shore, Northern Neck

TOMATOES: Early Summer (Cont'd.) Counties and in the Bedford County Area.

Canneries are operating in all tomato producing areas and are taking practically all of the crop now being picked. Harvest has passed the peak and will gradually decline with the season expected to be about September 1. Marketing of early tomatoes in Ohio is practically finished. Quality of the crop was generally good.

Late Summer: (N.J., Wash., Pa., Ohio, Ind., Ill., Iowa, N.Y., Mich., Colo., Utah, Oreg., Ala., N.Eng.) Movement in New Jersey has held up rather well and heavy volume of fresh market tomatoes continues to be available in all south and central production areas. First settings were light in many fields and this prevented market-breaking quantities from appearing early in the season. Most processing plants are open and are attempting to obtain as many tomatoes as possible. A fairly large green tomato deal continues in the Cedarville and Swedesboro sections. Volume supplies of plum tomatoes are now available around Vineland and Landisville. Late blight has not been a factor, but anthracnose is appearing much earlier than usual. Southern and central Jersey fields especially the latter, were damaged by lack of moisture (resulting in blossom-end rot) but fairly heavy rains during the second week of August have been very helpful. The outlook for the Washington crop remains very favorable. The generally warmer weather has been very beneficial where adequate irrigation water has been available. Picking is near the climax in the Yakima Valley, with yield very satisfactory. Local supplies are becoming more plentiful in this State. In Pennsylvania market tomatoes were ripening slowly in all areas with present marketings being of high quality. Most crops look good but are in need of rain. The green tomato auctions in the northeastern counties are getting ready to open shortly after mid-August. Harvest of the canning crop will be under way in all Pennsylvania areas during late August. The hot dry weather in Ohio during the past two weeks was unfavorable for growth of tomatoes and has lowered quality. Harvest of the early crop in Illinois is nearly complete. In Cook County, the major late crop area, approximately one-tenth of the crop has been harvested. Green wrap tomatoes in Colorado are now available in carlot volume and shipments should continue in moderate volume through September. In Oregon, warm weather has been ripening tomatoes rapidly and picking of the Milton-Freewater crop should be about complete during the week of August 20-25 when the Willamette Valley crop should be at the peak of harvest. The peak of New England marketings is indicated for the week beginning August 19, and movement is expected to be exceptionally heavy during the next three weeks. Cool weather during the first seven days of August, followed by a week of above normal temperatures has resulted in very heavy picking. Quality is excellent. No serious blight situation exists.

Early Fall: (Calif.) In California shipping of early fall tomatoes began in the Watsonville district early this month but movement has been light so far. Production should increase during the next two weeks and by September 1 a fair volume of both pinks and greens will be moving from Watsonville and the Salinas Valley, although the deal is not large. Much of this production moves to Southwest markets by truck for repackaging. The fall shipping deal in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys does not become active until after September 1. Satisfactory stands have been obtained on fall fields and no disease problems are apparent at the present time.

Late Fall: (Tex., Fla.) Early transplanted tomatoes in Texas are making good progress in spite of the hot weather. Frequent irrigations have been necessary. Plants in the Laredo section have started growing.

WATERMELONS: Early Summer (Calif., Ariz., Tex., La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S.C., N.C., Ark., Okla., Mo.) Production in California is now originating in the Turlock and Manteca districts of the San Joaquin Valley. Some supplies are coming from Riverside County. Harvest has been completed in the Fresno-Tulare districts. Quality and yields are very good. Production during the remainder of August will probably hold at about present levels. In the Allendale-Barnwell area of South Carolina, a few late fields of watermelons are being harvested. Sales continue in the Chesterfield-Darlington area where supplies are expected to be available until about September 1.

Late Summer: (Va., Md., Del., N.J., Ind., Ill., Iowa, Oreg., Wash., Colo.) Harvest of the Virginia crop commenced about August 1 and shipments are heavy from the principal producing areas around Suffolk, Ivor and Smithfield. Yields per acre are average or better with quality of melons the best in recent years. The shipping season will end about September 1. Harvest is rather general on the Del-Mar peninsula. Moisture has been adequate and the fruit has sized well. No damage due to diseases or insects has been noted. Approximately one-fourth of the crop in the White County area of Illinois has been harvested. Elsewhere in the State harvest is just getting under way. In Washington, a few melons have already been picked from early fields in the Wapato area. The supply is generally plentiful and condition of the crop is satisfactory. Volume harvest will be under way by August 25.

LATE REPORTS FROM WISCONSIN, NORTH CAROLINA, UTAH

WISCONSIN: Growers are cutting DOMESTIC CABBAGE for fresh market in the southeastern part of Wisconsin and kraut packers have recently started operation. Very scattered cuttings for fresh market continue in the Brown-Outagamie region but no cutting for kraut has been reported. Generally quality is good but heads small. Market movement is somewhat slow. The late storage on DANISH TYPE CABBAGE continues to look very good and yields are expected to run fairly high. Harvest of ONIONS has begun and some are already on the market. The bulk of the crop will be ready in about two weeks.

NORTH CAROLINA: Dry weather in the West Jefferson area of North Carolina reduced quality of late summer SNAP BEANS. Some root rot has been reported, but losses have not been great. Peak harvest is past, but supplies will continue to be available until frost. Rains around August 12 were very beneficial and the vines are in fair to good condition in all areas. The late summer CABBAGE crop is beginning to move in volume. Dry weather earlier in the season retarded the crop about two weeks, but recent rains have been beneficial. Some plant lice damage has been reported, especially in Watauga County. Peak movement is expected the latter part of August. Harvest of the WATERMELON crop was practically completed during the first week of August. Melons were generally small in size due to dry growing season but quality was very good.

UTAH: An excellent crop of CABBAGE is expected this year. Heads are sizing well, insects are under control and water is adequate in all growing areas except Sanpete County. Fairly heavy truck movement will get under way first week of September and carlot movement about the second week of October. Market garden and small acreage CANTALOUPE production is coming on local markets. Carlot shipments are expected to start about September 1. Iron County CARROTS are doing well, and harvest will start about September 5. Sevier County carrots have suffered from lack of water and some stands are thin. Harvest should start September 3. Carlot movement will get under way right after Labor Day, with peak about September 20. CELERY is a week to ten days late this year. Carlot shipment will start September 1, and peak about September 27-30. Growing weather in August has

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LATE REPORT (CONT'D.)

UTAH: (Cont'd.) been excellent. Much of the LETTUCE ready or nearly ready for harvest during first week of August was severely damaged by unusually heavy rains. Some late plantings just coming up were bent down. Growing weather since August 4 has been ideal. Harvest on late plantings will start first of September. The heavy rains (up to 6 inches) that occurred July 19 through August 4, prolonged the period of maggot infestation of ONIONS. Harvest of the earliest field will start September 1 or sooner and carlot movement should start about September 15. Carlot shipment of green-wrap tomatoes should start about August 26 and reach peak about September 25. Ripe tomatoes gleaned from cannery acreages and from market garden patches are on local markets in substantial volume now and should continue until October 15.