

TC-52: 401



Commercial Truck Crops

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Washington, D. C.

April 7, 1952

COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS FOR FRESH MARKET

TRUCK CROP NEWS

APRIL 1, 1952

Weather conditions the last half of March were generally favorable for truck crops in California and Arizona but mostly unfavorable in Texas, Florida and the South Atlantic States, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Frost the morning of March 24 resulted in an extensive loss of tomato acreage in the early sections of East Texas, severe losses in the Yoakum area and damage extending south into the Falfurrias section. There was some total loss of watermelon acreage in early areas and heavy leaf burn to cucumber and cantaloup crops on high land in all early non-irrigated areas with some total losses of plants in the low places. Most tender crops in the irrigated sections came through with very little damage but progress was retarded. The cold spell also retarded maturity of the South Texas onion crop.

In California warmer weather, starting about March 25, enabled plantings to make good progress, partially overcoming the retarding effects of earlier cool weather. Production of many mature crops--particularly asparagus, broccoli and cauliflower--was also stimulated. A light frost in the San Joaquin Valley the morning of March 21 caused only slight damage to early potatoes and tomatoes in the Cutler-Delano district. The warmer weather the last week of March hastened the maturity and improved the quality of lettuce and carrots in Arizona, as well as accelerating planting of cantaloups and watermelons which was nearing completion.

Moderate to heavy rains occurred over most of Peninsular Florida the last week of March with the heaviest fall along the central West Coast and lower East Coast. In general these rains were excessive and caused some damage to truck crops, particularly those nearing maturity. However, a few areas were in need of rain, especially the Everglades. In other South Atlantic States, from North Carolina to Georgia, and in Tennessee, heavy rains and cool weather have been unfavorable for planting and growth of truck crops. In Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama conditions have been more favorable, although progress of the Louisiana strawberry crop has been retarded by the cool weather. In New Jersey the season is slightly late.

ARTICHOKES: Winter (Calif.) Supplies are increasing because of recent warm weather and quality of buds will improve with continued good growing conditions. Some frost-damaged buds are still being harvested but this discoloration is not serious. Production is expected to increase during the next two weeks but will be influenced by prevailing temperatures.

ASPARAGUS: Early Spring (Calif., Ore., Wash., S. Car.) Harvest in California increased sharply last week, following a few days of clear, warm weather. Fields planted on lighter soils dried rapidly following the rains and have begun fairly heavy production while fields on heavier soils dried more slowly, allowing a more gradual increase in production. The present very good quality, with spears having a good green color, should continue through the season. While an increase in volume is expected during the next two weeks temperatures will govern the amount available for cutting. Market conditions and volume available for cutting will determine when processors will start operations. Fields in Washington came through the winter in very good condition due to a mild winter. In the Walla Walla area there has been considerable wind and moisture is somewhat deficient for early spring. In the Yakima Valley, March weather was generally favorable and moisture ranges from fair to good. Harvest should be underway in the Sunnyside district by April 20. South Carolina's small crop is in good condition and moving in light volume. Heaviest shipments will be made around mid-April.

Late Spring (8 States) In New Jersey, beds are being disked and cultivated but due to cool wet weather ridges have not been knocked-down yet. No tips are showing above ground, and date of first harvest depends upon weather conditions during April. Cutting usually begins about April 25-30. A considerable acreage of new beds is being planted this spring. In Pennsylvania, asparagus beds in the southern areas have been mostly cleared but plants are still dormant.

LIIMA BEANS: Spring (Fla., Ga., S.Car.) In Florida, supplies during April are expected to continue to be very light. Condition of the small acreage in the Pompano section is generally poor. This section will be the principal source of supply during the first half of April. Spring plantings in the Everglades are materially reduced from the small acreage of last year. This crop is making fair to good progress and harvesting should start around the middle of April. In the important Hawthorne area of North Florida, indications are that plantings have been reduced approximately 35 percent from last year. The crop is making fair progress with harvesting expected to begin in early May. Some lima beans have been planted in southern areas of Georgia but most of the acreage remains to be planted. In South Carolina, planting which was delayed by cool, wet weather is now underway with most of the acreage yet to be planted.

SNAP BEANS: Early Spring (Tex., Fla.) In Texas, crops in the early areas of the Lower Valley made satisfactory progress, especially those in irrigated areas. The cold spell the latter part of March resulted in some loss of acreage in the early areas outside of the Valley. Most of this acreage will be replanted. Conditions are favorable for planting and most of the late acreage is expected to be planted by the early part of April. In the important Everglades section of Florida, the acreage for harvest after April 1 is approximately 35 percent less than last spring. Yields on early plantings have been very light but considerable improvement is expected in production and quality after April 10. This deal should be in its peak during the last half of April. In the Pompano section, a large portion of the acreage intended for spring harvest is practically a failure because of adverse growing conditions. Light supplies are expected to continue until around the middle of April but there will be very little production after that time. Har-

SNAP BEANS: Early Spring (Cont'd.) vest of the remaining acreage in Dade County is also expected to be finished around the middle of April. There has been a slight reduction in acreage in the Central Florida sections which include Plant City, Webster, and Sanford. These crops are generally in fair to good condition except in poorly drained areas around Plant City. Light harvesting has started at Plant City and a very light harvesting is expected at Webster and Sanford the week of April 7. In the McIntosh-LaCrosse-Hawthorne area of North Florida, the indicated acreage is approximately 25 percent less than last year. The crop has been delayed by adverse weather conditions and while a few of the oldest fields are expected to be ready for picking around the middle of April it will be the second half of April before any volume is reached. The bulk of the crop will move in late April and early May. The pole bean crop in Dade County is in only fair condition, having been subjected to considerable wind and heavy rains. If conditions are favorable, harvesting will continue from this acreage throughout the month of April. In the Manatee-Ruskin-Plant City area, there has been a slight reduction in plantings. In the oldest fields harvesting has started and should be fairly active after the middle of April.

Mid-Spring (Calif., La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S.Car.) In California, recent cool, wet weather has retarded early fields in the Coachella Valley and in San Diego County and has delayed seeding of acreages in the Los Angeles area. Harvest is expected to start later in the month, with only a light volume moving by the end of April. Vines in San Diego County were damaged by winds during the last week in March but the extent of damage is not known. Planting in Louisiana was delayed by excessive moisture during February, but March was ideal for planting. The crop, as a whole, is late, but some fields will be ready for harvest in early May. Early plantings in Mississippi are now up to fairly good stands, but the bulk of acreage is just being planted. Planting is expected to be completed by April 12. Early plantings in South Georgia are up to good stands, but cold and wet weather is delaying growth. A small portion of the crop remains to be planted. In the Charleston-Beaufort area of South Carolina, snap beans are up to reasonably good stands. Growth has been somewhat delayed by cold, wet weather and a portion of the crop is yet to be planted. Comparatively new varieties such as Top Crop, Wade, and Contender are increasing in importance, especially in the Charleston area.

Late Spring (N. Car., Ark., Va.) A few snap beans have been planted in North Carolina and some are up. However, as soon as the soil conditions permit, general planting will get under way.

BEETS: Spring (La., S. Car., N. Car., Va.) The crop in North Carolina has had too much rain and cool weather to make much progress. Although the crop is a little late, condition is good. Harvest should begin around the middle of May in the Wilmington area. In South Carolina, beets are in good condition. Harvest started during the last week of March but little movement had taken place by April 1. Shipments will increase considerably during the next few days.

Summer (N. J., Pa.) Seeding of early acreage in the Vineland area of New Jersey is complete with plants just breaking through the ground on April 1. Sustained warmer weather is needed. Seeding was getting underway in the northeastern market garden areas of the State.

BROCCOLI: Spring (Calif.) Warmer weather during the last week in March resulted in some increase in supplies but there was some deterioration in quality. Quality is reported from poor to good at Santa Maria, where about half the rail movement is originating. Good quality is reported at Salinas and San Jose. Fields planted for later harvest benefitted from the higher temperatures and are showing good progress now, although lower yields are likely because of the recent cold, wet weather setback.

CABBAGE: Winter (Calif., Tex., Ariz., Fla.) An occasional car of cabbage is still being harvested from late fields in Imperial Valley of California but only a small tonnage remains to be cut. An increasing volume of cabbage is coming from Southern California sections where harvest has been restricted by market conditions. Heavier production is anticipated during the first half of April as more acreage becomes available for harvest. Only the better quality was being harvested. In Texas a light carlot movement is expected to continue through the first week in April, but most of the crop will be harvested by the middle of the month. Harvesting of Florida cabbage continued active during the last half of March although shipments during this period showed a slight decline from the previous semi-monthly period. Improved markets during the latter part of the month resulted in considerable harvesting from old fields and quality of shipments has been very variable. The continued warm weather during the winter period caused this crop to mature faster than is generally expected under normal growing conditions. In the Hastings section, harvesting is expected to be practically finished by the second week of the month. At Sanford approximately one-fourth and in the Everglades possibly 15 percent of the season's acreage remained for harvest after April 1. There is a small acreage of late cabbage in the Manatee-Ruskin section and scattered plantings in minor areas from extreme South Florida to North Florida. Shipments are expected to decline rather rapidly after the middle of April, but harvest of some late plantings will extend into May.

Early Spring (La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S. Car.) The Mississippi crop is growing well. Movement will probably start around April 25 with bulk of the shipments during May. Harvesting is nearing completion in the Baldwin-Mobile area of Alabama. Quality and yields have generally been good. Harvesting of the Georgia crop is just getting underway, with peak movement expected around mid-April. Wet fields are causing some delay in harvesting. Good yields and quality are expected from the reduced acreage compared with a year ago. The crop in South Carolina is generally in good condition. Light movement was underway by the end of March with peak expected around mid-April.

Late Spring (8 States) The North Carolina crop has been delayed further by rain and cold. A few early planted fields have been plowed up but this acreage is of little significance. Some of the earlier plantings were reset. Harvest of the crop should begin about the first week of May. Setting of Tennessee cabbage was nearly completed by the last week of March which is about the usual date. Torrential rains around March 22 caused some loss by flooding, and cultivation and growth has been retarded by wet soils. Most of the Kentucky crop is transplanted and growing nicely. Season is considerably ahead of last year. Ground has been in excellent shape for transplanting. Transplanting of the Ohio spring crop became general about March 15 and by April 1 practically all the acreage in Meigs County and 80-90 percent of that in Washington County was set. The supply of plants is considered adequate in spite of some loss by damping off. The last few days of March were mild and favorable for the plants to begin growing. Field planting of Washington spring cabbage from growers' hothouses was underway by March 15 in the Puget Sound area. By April 15 transplanting should be generally completed provided weather conditions are favorable for spring work in all localities. All transplanted fields are off to a good start with cool weather for transplanting and showers on March 27. Crop condition is very good at this time. At Walla Walla cool windy weather during March has slowed the growth of a limited acreage, but most plantings remain in satisfactory condition.

Early Summer (6 States) Most of the acreage in South Jersey had been set by April 1. Cool, moist weather was favorable for transplanting sets and growth was satisfactory. General planting will not start in North Jersey and the important Budd Lake section until about mid-April.

CANTALOUPS: Spring (Calif., Fla., Ariz.) Although cool weather in California during March slowed the development of cantaloups in the Desert areas, recent warm weather benefited the crop and satisfactory progress is now being made. The small acreage in South Florida is in fair to good condition. A light harvest should start in April with most of this production going into local consumption. The bulk of the Florida acreage is planted in Marion and Alachua Counties where a little increase in acreage over last year is indicated. Considerable replanting has been necessary due to cold damage. The oldest plantings have started runners while the younger plantings are just coming up. Planting in Arizona is progressing rapidly and will probably be completed by about the middle of April.

Mid-Summer (12 States) Planting of California cantaloups continues active in the San Joaquin Valley. Some replanting has been necessary due to crusting from recent rains. In other cases growers have been able to cultivate and break the crust sufficiently to let the plants through. Progress of Texas crops in the early sections was retarded by the cold spell of March 24 which resulted in frosts over a wide area. Some damage occurred in scattered sections of the non-irrigated areas. Plants on considerable dry-land acreage in the Coastal Bend and Falfurrias sections showed heavy leaf damage and some plants in low places were killed outright. Plantings in these areas received some badly-needed moisture the latter part of the month, and most of this acreage may be held even though stands are poor. Early plantings in the irrigated sections of the Lower Valley, Laredo, and Winter Garden, although retarded, are in fairly good condition. There is some capped acreage in these areas and plants were still covered during the March 24 cold spell. These crops will furnish production around May 15. Other irrigated crops should be in production around May 25. The usual early plantings in the later areas that were lost by the late March cold spell can be replanted without much delay in the usual harvest.

CARROTS: Winter (Calif., Ariz., Tex., La.) Shipments from the Imperial Valley of California increased substantially with an improvement in market conditions early last week. Shippers expect the increased volume to continue at least through the first week of April although prices have slipped back to the former levels. Quality has continued to improve and is generally good. Some supplies are available in Coachella Valley and light supplies are moving from Oxnard. In Texas, shipments were active from both the Lower Valley and Winter Garden sections and supplies are available for active shipments to continue through the first half of April. Most of the remaining production is in the Lower Valley and this area will have production through most of April. Although considerable movement has been of topped carrots most of these shipments have been for packaged carrots. The quality for shipping as bunched stock has been very good.

Spring (Calif., Ariz.) The bulk of Arizona shipments are coming from the Yuma area. The spring crop in the Salt River Valley is somewhat later than usual due to cold weather. Production is expected to increase moderately during April with volume movements not expected until about mid-May. Young stock looks good with uniform stands and excellent color.

Summer: (N.J., N.Y., Ohio, Colo.) Most of the early acreage in the Vineland section of New Jersey has been seeded but little activity has occurred in other sections of the State.

CAULIFLOWER: Early Spring (Calif., Oreg.) In California the effects of recent warm weather have probably been more pronounced on cauliflower than on any other vegetable crop, causing the production and shipments to increase substantially during the latter days of March. The bulk of the rail movement is originating in the Santa Maria area with the Centerville and Salinas-Watsonville districts contributing a light volume. Adequate supplies for local markets are available in the Los Angeles area. Some of the current production in all areas is moving to freezers but this volume varies according to the fresh market demand. Quality of the present supplies ranges from fair to good. Sizes of heads are currently good.

Summer In the Northeast market garden sections of New Jersey most growers are now transplanting to the open field and this operation should be completed the first week of April. Growth appears satisfactory.

CELERY: Winter (Fla., Calif., Ariz.) In Florida harvest of winter and spring celery was overlapping on April 1. Practically all of the winter acreage will be cut by mid-April. The winter celery deal is in the clean-up stage in all districts of California, and only a limited volume, which will go principally to local markets, will be harvested during the first half of April. The deal in the Salt River Valley of Arizona is about over.

Spring. (Fla., Calif.) The condition of the Florida spring crop is generally good except in a few poorly drained fields. The Everglades has a good spring acreage and harvest of the winter and spring crops will overlap. Cutting on the spring crop at Oviedo has started and will become active around the middle of April. At Zellwood cutting on the spring crop should also become active around mid-April. Light planting will continue at Zellwood during the first few days of April. Planting in North Florida sections has been completed. Spring celery in the Venice district of California has made good progress to date but has not sized rapidly, which may delay the start of carlot volume. A small volume for local markets is expected to be harvested the first week of April and first rail cars may be loaded about the 10th. Some celery is still being set to the field in southern Los Angeles County.

Summer (6 States) Growers in the Paramus area of northeastern New Jersey have finished transplanting celery to cold frames. Open field plantings are expected to start about April 21st in that area. In the Great Meadows of northwestern New Jersey area open field plantings are expected to start about April 10-14, depending on weather conditions.

SWEET CORN: Spring (Fla., Tex., Calif.) In Florida plantings of sweet corn for spring harvest are estimated at 26,000 acres, approximately 18 percent more than was harvested during the same period last year. In the important Everglades section, which has been harvesting some corn throughout the winter period, the total winter and spring plantings are estimated at 18,500 acres. Of this total, 15,000 acres remain for harvest after April 1. The condition of the crop ranges from poor to good depending upon the infestation of leaf blight. Earlier yields were reduced materially by this disease. The effectiveness of control during the remainder of the season will be one of the major determining factors on the yield of the spring acreage. Harvesting is now entering the active stage and the Everglades section will be the principal source of supplies during April and the first half of May with harvest expected to continue into June. In the Zellwood-Sanford-Winter Garden-Weirsdale area, approximately 5,300 acres have been planted, an increase of approximately 15 percent over last year's acreage for harvest. Harvesting from this acreage is expected to start in early May. In the Manatee-Ruskin-

SWEET CORN: Spring (Cont'd.) Sarasota-Plant City-Wauchula area, the acreage is estimated at around 2,000, a reduction of approximately 30 percent from last year. In the North Florida sections, the increase over last year's plantings is approximately 15 percent with most of the increase in Bradford and Union Counties. The crop in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas is, for the most part, in fairly good condition. Some damage occurred as a result of the February 27 cold spell that brought scattered frosts over the central and west end of the Valley. A few fields were abandoned but those that were held were making good growth the latter part of March. Plantings in the Valley that escaped frost damage in late February, and have had some irrigation, are in good condition and show promise of harvest starting around April 10. The acreage for early harvest, however, is comparatively light and the main crop in the Valley is not expected to be in production until the latter part of April or early May. Total plantings in the Valley are lighter than usual but indications point to considerable increase in the areas outside of the Valley. Planting is well along in most of the central and eastern counties of the State. Moisture conditions are generally favorable in most of the late areas but warmer weather is needed.

Summer: (N.J., N.Y., Pa.) Although the soil was cold and wet, planting was well underway on April 1 in the important Burlington County section and adjacent areas of New Jersey.

CUCUMBERS: Early Spring (Fla., Tex.) In Florida progress of the crop during February and March was retarded by strong winds and excessive rains. Very little loss of acreage has been reported, but yield prospects were affected. In the important Immokalee-Fort Myers area, spring plantings are making fair to good progress. Light harvesting is now being done, but it will be about April 10 before much volume develops from this area and after the middle of April before the area reaches full production. Light harvesting is in progress from the small acreage in the Fort Pierce area. This deal should get well underway around April 5-10. In the Wauchula section, harvesting from the covered acreage is in progress. It will be about the middle of April before harvest starts on much of the open field acreage. In the Manatee-Ruskin section, very little production is expected before early May. In the Webster-Center Hill section, harvesting from the covered acreage is now active. It will be late April or early May before the open field plantings in this section get into production. The spring crop in the North Florida section around Gainesville is making fair progress, but is somewhat later than usual. Prospects are poor in all sections of Texas except for a small irrigated acreage in the lower Rio Grande Valley. The Valley crop was retarded a little by the February 27 cold spell that brought scattered frosts and caused some plant damage, but no total loss of acreage occurred. A light picking in this area is expected around April 5-10, but most of this crop will move to nearby markets by trucks. The extensive acreage in the Ingleside, Sandia, Riviera and Falfurrias non-irrigated sections has been badly in need of moisture all season. The acreage in these areas is lighter than usual; some plantings failed to come up and stands are generally poor. Additional plant damage occurred during the March 24 cold spell. Leaves were burnt on crops in the higher land and plant losses were extensive in the low lands. Some moisture was received over most of the non-irrigated areas the last of March, but crops that will be held for production are not expected to furnish any harvest until around mid-May. Average yields will be very light because of the poor stands and shorter than usual harvesting season.

Late Spring (7 States) Planting was completed by April 1 in Baldwin County, Alabama. Some replanting was necessary because of cool weather. In South Carolina, cucumbers are just coming up. Condition is reported good.

EGGPLANT: Spring (Fla.) In the South Florida areas, weather conditions during recent weeks have generally been unfavorable for this crop. In the Pompano section, strong winds and dry weather prior to the recent rains materially affected production prospects, particularly on the older plantings. A fair acreage of younger plantings is making good progress. Recent rains should be beneficial to this acreage. The Pompano section will continue to be the principal source of supplies throughout April. At Fort Myers, there are a few late plantings and a few old fields which have been pruned back that will furnish a light production. The small acreage in the Everglades, which is in fair to good condition, is now being harvested. The crop in the Plant City-Manatee section is generally making fair progress with a very limited production in prospect before May. The small acreage in North Florida was mostly transplanted in early March and is making fair progress.

ESCAROLE: Winter (Fla.) The crop remaining for harvest is generally in fair to good condition. Indications are for a continued good supply throughout April, with some late plantings expected to provide production during most of May. The Everglades and Zellwood sections are the principal sources of supply at this time supplemented by light supplies from the Sarasota and Sanford sections.

GARLIC: Summer (Calif.) Early acreages were planted on schedule but the setting of late garlic was delayed by rains during the winter. The crop has made satisfactory progress to date but there is considerable variation in stands and condition of fields.

LETTUCE: Winter (Ariz., Calif., Fla., Tex.) Cold weather and poor market conditions have retarded Arizona production. Volume at Yuma is declining as the end of their season approaches. Lettuce from California is originating principally from the Blythe deal although a small volume is still being harvested from late fields in Imperial Valley. Shipments from Blythe are expected to decline rapidly after the first week of April. Recent warm weather was favorable for lettuce in the Desert areas and good size and quality is resulting. Lettuce shipments from Florida continued to show a seasonal decline during the second half of March. Recent weather conditions have not been favorable for late plantings especially those in or near the harvesting stage. Limited supplies continue in prospect throughout April with most of the Iceberg production intended for local consumption. Limited supplies of Boston are available in the Everglades, Zellwood, and McIntosh sections.

Early Spring (Ariz., Calif., Ga., S.C., N.C.) Shipments from the Salt River Valley of Arizona are increasing rapidly and will continue in heavy volume until the latter part of April. Yuma is expected to be out of the deal about the middle of the month. Quality is improving with better growing weather and sizes are shifting from mostly 5's to 4's. Harvesting of spring lettuce in California began in a small way at Oxnard about March 25 with production moving to local markets. The Delano deal opened March 31 and should be in good volume during the week of April 7. Stands generally look good at Delano and plants are developing well, having benefitted from recent warm weather. Harvest will get underway at Huron and Firebaugh during the week of April 7. Lettuce there looks good, with good sizes and firm heads in prospect. The first lettuce is expected out of Salinas about April 10 but volume will be light for another ten days after the start. Most early fields look good, have good stands and are making satisfactory development. In Georgia, prospects continue bright. Most of the crop is now in good to excellent condition. Light harvesting began the last week in March, with

LETTUCE: Early Spring (Cont'd.) peak movement expected around mid-April. In the Beaufort area of South Carolina, harvest started during the last week of March and was increasing in volume by April 1. Generally prospects continue bright with most of the crop in very good condition. Supplies of good quality lettuce will be available for several weeks. In both Georgia and South Carolina, some damage was reported to first cuttings due to heavy rains.

Late Spring (N.J., Pa., Ida., Ore., Wash.) South Jersey growers started seeding lettuce the last half of March and practically all the set acreage was completed by April 1. The important Cederville and Vineland sections planted increased acreages of Iceburg this season. Plants have made excellent growth to date but need some warmer weather. Seeded acreage is about completed in the Great Meadows area and transplanting has started. Open field plantings in other Northeast Jersey areas are finished or in the process of being planted. The spring acreage in Idaho this year will probably be too small to warrant an estimate. Transplanted lettuce seedlings in the Puget Sound district of Washington are making good progress under generally favorable but rather cool transplanting weather. Direct seeding operations will not begin for several weeks until soil temperature becomes more favorable. Early transplanted seedlings in the Bellevue district show fair to good color, but cool weather during most of March has retarded normal development. At Walla Walla most transplanted lettuce has been set out under fair but cool March weather. A limited acreage has been started in the Vancouver district, but early growth has also been poor under very cool weather.

ONIONS: Early Spring (Tex.) Although harvest had been in progress over much of the south Texas onion area the last week in March, growth of the later plantings and maturity of advanced crops was retarded. There is considerable acreage of both whites and yellows with bulbs sufficiently large to harvest but with tops that have remained green. There was a brief period of good maturing weather with temperatures above 100 degrees at several points, but this was followed by temperatures at frost levels the morning of March 24 with cool weather and light showers over most of the area the remainder of the week. Field work was practically stopped most of the last week in March in the Laredo and Winter Garden sections, much of the Coastal Bend, and part of the Raymondville area. A large part of the movement the past week was from shed stocks. Most sections were expected to resume field work starting April 1. Prospective production is lighter in the Raymondville section than earlier conditions indicated but prospects continue favorable in other areas. Harvest of the Raymondville and Lower Valley acreage is expected to be over by April 10-15. The Coastal Bend expects production through April. Most of the Laredo crop will be harvested during April, but a small tonnage may be available in the early part of May. Most of the Winter Garden acreage will be harvested in April. Very little tonnage is expected from the Eagle Pass section until the week starting May 5. Prospects now point to most of the early spring crop being harvested about two weeks before the late spring crop comes into production.

Late Spring (Calif., Ariz., La., Tex., Ga.) Harvesting of early California onions is expected to begin in Imperial Valley about April 10. Many of the onions harvested during April will go to western markets. There will not be a substantial volume of California onions for eastern shipment until the Kern county crop comes into production about mid-May. Conditions are generally favorable in most late spring onion areas of Texas. Most crops were set at about the usual time but with limited moisture reserves. Moisture conditions are now favorable in most areas and the crop is developing nicely. Because of the unfavorable moisture outlook earlier and the disappointing experience many growers had with last year's crop there was a smaller acreage planted than had been indicated earlier. Plants were plentiful but favorable moisture did not develop in time

ONIONS: Late Spring (Cont'd.) to create much grower interest and the earliest sections did not get any rain until it was too late to plant. The main acreage this year is in the older established north Texas area—Ellis County north to Collin and Fannin counties. There is practically no acreage in the Taylor and Hearne sections. Although crops are now making good growth and are in good condition in most areas, very little production is expected from the north Texas area until early June. A light harvest usually starts in the Ferris section around May 25, but movement of the main crop is not expected until early June. Present conditions point to fairly good yields. The outlook at present for Georgia is for a better than average crop this year. Little or no disease damage had shown up to April 1. Harvesting is expected to begin around the third week in April.

Early Summer (6 States) Planting of the South Jersey acreage, consisting mostly of set onions, was completed in early March and plants have rooted well as a result of the cool damp weather. Warmer weather is now needed to promote fast growth. Plants are about 2 inches above ground. Moisture conditions are favorable in the Great Meadows area, and onion sets are in as well as most of the seeded acreage.

Late Summer (19 States) Planting of the Idaho crop was delayed by a cold wet spring, probably 10 days to two weeks late. However, April 1 plantings were being made under favorable conditions. Seedbeds were in good shape.

PEAS: Early Spring (Calif., Miss., S.C., N.C.) An occasional car of California peas has been moving from a small acreage in Imperial Valley but that deal is about completed. The first car of peas from Oceano went out on March 25 but the light volume harvested since then has gone to local markets. Harvest is expected to start this week on early fields of peas in Kern County and about April 15 on fields in the Huron area. Plantings in the River district appear to be in good condition with harvest starting there after mid-month. The small crop of green peas in South Carolina is in good condition. Shipments are expected to begin around mid-April and increase in volume during the last half of the month.

Late Spring (5 States) The Idaho crop was being planted two weeks or more late, planting being delayed by a wet cold spring. Early transplanted peas in the Auburn-Kent district of Washington are off to a good start and limited field setting is continuing. However, grower interest in raising green peas is reported very limited this year. Crop condition on April 1 was generally satisfactory.

GREEN PEPPERS: Spring (Fla.) Because of relatively adverse growing conditions and above normal temperatures, the pepper crop in South Florida passed its peak production earlier than generally anticipated. Supplies continued to decline during the second half of March and that portion of the crop left for spring harvest in this area is considerably lighter than usual. The younger plantings in the important Pompano section are only in fair condition, but this section will continue to be the principal source of supplies during April. At Fort Myers, a few fields are still in fair condition although most of the acreage has been picked out. In the Everglades, peak harvest has been passed, but supplies are expected to continue throughout April and into May. In the important Plant City area, light harvest is in progress, but it will be mid to late April before any substantial volume develops. In the Webster section light harvesting will start in early April, but it will be late April before any substantial volume develops. In the Sanford-Samsula section, the crops are generally in fair condition. In North Florida, the crop is making fairly good progress.

GREEN PEPPERS: Early Summer (3 States) Mississippi pepper plants appear in good condition and transplanting to fields is now underway.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: Winter (Tex., Fla.) Harvesting in Dade County, Florida is expected to be largely completed by the first week in April.

Early Spring (Fla., Tex.) Florida's spring crop has generally made fair to good progress and indications are for good yields, but below last year's excellent yields. In the important Hastings section, harvest did not get started as early as was anticipated, but digging is now in progress and volume production should be reached by mid-April. At LaCrosse, the crop is making very good progress with digging expected in late April or about the first of May. In the Everglades, a good crop is in prospect with active harvest expected to commence about April 10. Light harvesting is in progress at Indiantown and the Balm-Plant City section of Central Florida. Harvest of the Texas Lower Valley crop started in the Raymondville area the latter part of March and a few solid cars have been shipped. The San Benito-Brownsville area expected to start harvest April 1. Acreage is small this year and most of the crop is expected to be harvested by April 15-20.

Late Spring (Calif., La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S.C., Ariz., Tex., Okla., Ark., Tenn., N.C.) Harvest is not expected to begin in Kern County, California until about April 20. In recent years, many Edison fields have been dug early, sacrificing maturity and yield for favorable early market prices. However growers are expected to allow tubers to mature before digging this year. The crop generally is in good condition although scattered light frosts occurred on March 21 and a strong, warm wind whipped vines in the Edison district on March 27. Potatoes in later districts are making satisfactory progress and good stands have been obtained in most fields. A few fields at Delano and at Fresno were planted as late as April 1, but should produce satisfactory yields barring extremely warm weather later in the season. Progress of the Louisiana crop was retarded by cool, damp weather in February, but most of it is in fair condition. Earliest harvest is expected during the last week of April. Conditions in Alabama have been very favorable for this crop and excellent yields are in prospect. Growth has been rapid and there has been no serious disease or insect damage. Some minor harvest is expected about April 15, with movement in volume the last week in April. Irish potatoes that were planted early in Georgia are up to good stands, but growth has been retarded by cold, wet weather. Weather conditions have hindered field operations. In South Carolina, the crop showed some improvement during the last two weeks and as a whole is in reasonably good condition. Stands are a bit irregular due to some loss by rot, but damage was not as severe as first indicated. Conditions are favorable in most late spring areas of Texas and planting has been active the past 10 days. Most crops were not far enough advanced to be hurt by the late March cold spell. Scattered crops in the earliest sections were cut back to the ground but most of these plantings will make new growth. Most of the later areas have ample moisture to complete planting and for crops to get a good start. Planting of the Arkansas crop was less than half complete on April 1. Cold weather and cold rains have delayed this operation. Too much rain delayed planting in Tennessee. On April 1 this operation was practically completed in the Franklin, Coffee area, but had hardly begun on the Cumberland Plateau. The Tennessee potato crop is a week to 10 days late but not as late as in 1951. Discouraging prices of recent years, shortage of labor and high-priced seed have all contributed to a drastic reduction in acreage for 1952. Planting of the North Carolina crop has been delayed considerably by heavy rainfall. Some growers have not finished planting yet. Replanting is general throughout the potato producing areas with perhaps more replanting being done in the Elizabeth City area than in other areas of the State. The North Carolina crop will be late this year.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: Summer (Va., Md., Ky., Mo., Kans., Nebr., Tex., Ga., N.J.) Most of the Kentucky acreage has been planted. Seed was high-priced and more than the usual percentage of the acreage in this State was planted with home-grown seed. Planting of the Texas Pan-handle summer crop was delayed by cold windy weather and frosts. This operation was in full swing the last week of March, and is expected to be completed early in April. Cool weather and excessive moisture delayed planting in the important Central Jersey Counties about a week, but planting in South Jersey is about on schedule. As of April 1, planting of a reduced acreage in Central Jersey was in full swing.

SHALLOTS: Spring (La.) Harvest of the Louisiana spring crop is in full swing. Cool nights during the past month have been ideal for shallots. Condition of the crop was also improved by the rains the end of March.

SPINACH: Winter (Tex., La., Calif.) The acreage in the Eagle Pass section of Texas that was planted for early April harvest, will not be utilized for fresh market shipment. Most of the acreage was being harvested the latter part of March for local processors. A light movement for fresh market has continued from the Winter Garden, but most of the production from this area will be harvested by the early part of April.

Spring (9 States) Spinach seeding in Washington was underway during the last two weeks of March, although wet fields from recent rains hindered operations in the Puget Sound district. A few fields are now well established and making fair progress but growth was generally retarded by cool March weather. Some acreage of spinach for processing has been planted at Walla Walla for trial purposes. In the Vancouver district early spinach seeding is underway, with many fields just beginning to germinate. Generally speaking, March weather has been very poor for seedling germination in western Washington. Heavy movement of spinach continues from the Van Buren area of Arkansas and this spring's crop of fresh market spinach has promise of being the largest since the World War II period. Moisture supply is ample and movement should continue until hot weather. In New Jersey wintered-over spinach looks fairly healthy as a result of the generally open winter. The last week of January which brought extremely low temperatures caused some winter-kill but this was confined to low spots and poor soil. No cuttings in any volume are expected for another 3 or 4 weeks. The spring-seeded crop is breaking through the ground in South Jersey, but seeding operations will continue throughout the growing season in North Jersey, particularly in the Budd Lake area. Wintered-over spinach in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania came through the open winter in only fair condition. Acreage for harvest is small and yield prospects are not encouraging. Light harvest of these fields is expected about April 15. Early spring seedings and the few winter sown crops made good progress in late March and some acreage will be ready to harvest by May 1. A limited acreage of spring spinach was planted in Illinois in late February and early March and is now coming up. A small acreage of wintered-over spinach will also be harvested. The cold winter and wet spring have not been favorable for this crop.

SQUASH: Spring (Fla.) Late plantings in the South Florida areas are in poor to fair condition and most of this acreage is about picked out although a light production is in prospect for several weeks. In the important Plant City section, the crop is mostly in fair condition with some setback from the recent heavy rains. Harvesting is now in the active stage and supplies will continue to increase from this section as the month progresses. In the McIntosh section of North Florida, the acreage is much reduced from last year and the average maturity of the crop is slightly later than usual. Light harvesting is expected to start in early April with active harvest during mid-April and early May.

STRAWBERRIES: Winter (Fla.) The rains during the last week of March brought the harvest of the crop in the Plant City-Wauchula area practically to a close. Very light harvest will continue for a few weeks with most of the production going to processors. In the Starke-Lawtey section of North Florida, harvesting was interrupted by the rains during the latter part of the month. This small producing section should resume active harvest in a few days and continue to be a source of light supplies throughout April.

Early Spring (La., Ala., Tex., Calif.) Because of cool nights, advancement of the Louisiana crop has been very slow. With needed rains the last two days of March followed by warm weather, volume of shipments should increase. Development of the Alabama crop has been slowed by the cool weather. Movement is fairly heavy from Conecuh County with minor harvesting underway in the Butler County area. Movement from Chilton County is expected to start in mid-April with the peak about May 1. A light but increasing volume is moving to local markets from patches in all Southern California districts. A considerable increase in volume is looked for during the next two weeks as harvest becomes general.

Mid-Spring (13 States) In South Carolina, strawberries are in good condition and prospects continue bright for a good crop. Harvest is expected to begin around April 15. Cool rainy weather has retarded the growth of Tennessee berries which on April 1 had very little foliage. The 1951 drought severely reduced stands of new plantings which has resulted in a much smaller percentage of one-year old fields than usual. Unless April is unusually favorable the Tennessee yield of berries will be only moderate. Shipments are expected to begin the first week of May in West Tennessee, and about a week later in the Portland area of Middle Tennessee. Beds did considerable blooming in Arkansas throughout the unusually mild winter and it is too early to tell what effect this will have on the crop. An early harvest was in prospect a few weeks ago but cold weather the latter part of March delayed the crop somewhat and it is unlikely that volume movement will get underway much before May 1 in the White County and Crawford-Sebastian areas. The season is usually somewhat later in Searcy County and Northwest Arkansas. In the latter part of March blooms were killed as fast as they came out in the White County and Crawford-Sebastian areas. Fields in these areas were white with bloom on April 1 and there were many small berries. Old beds have been neglected and are quite grassy and prospects are not promising. New beds which have had good care could produce a fairly large crop of berries if conditions from now on are favorable. For the State as a whole prospects at this time are just fair. Growers are very much concerned over being able to obtain labor to pick the berries. Plants in the Cairo and Union County areas of Illinois have started to bloom. As of April 1, growers in the Centralia area, where the crop is usually 10 days to 2 weeks later were busy uncovering beds. Most of the new 1951 plantings show poor stands and weak growth of plants that survived the winter. Old beds are in just fair to average condition. Kentucky acreage is likely to be down from last year, especially in western and southern sections, where picking labor has been an important factor. A much larger than usual portion of the acreage this year is made up of old beds. Weather has been favorable this spring--no long warm spells to bring berries along too fast. Plants have started blooming in southern counties. New beds appear vigorous but many of those carried over look thin and scrawny. Winter damage was light but lack of care and dry weather damage is reflected in the old beds. Production of mid-spring California strawberries is expected to begin in the San Joaquin Valley about April 10. Acreages in the Fresno area escaped recent light frosts although temperatures dropped to 32 degrees there on March 21. Warm weather after that date has encouraged a heavy set of blooms and large yields are in prospect. Harvest is

STRAWBERRIES: Mid-Spring (Cont'd.) expected to begin about mid-month on acreages around Modesto. Although a few crates of berries are expected from the Florin district of Sacramento County about April 21, no volume is expected until after the first week of May. The cyclamen mite has been troublesome in that area. General conditions in all districts are good, however,

Late Spring: (11 States) It has been too cool and wet for this crop in all sections of New Jersey. On April 1, beds in the southermost parts of the State were beginning to show a little leaf growth. New plantings are now underway. Moisture supply is adequate and winter-kill at this date appears to be at a minimum. Strawberries wintered well in Pennsylvania. Many beds still remain mulched but those uncovered in the southern areas are beginning to show some color. Premier, the leading variety a few years ago, is rapidly being replaced by newer varieties. In Ohio, even though the winter has been mild, alternate freezing and thawing has caused a considerable amount of heaving of the soil. Plants are still dormant in northern Ohio. Dry weather last summer retarded growth and unprotected beds in northern Ohio suffered some winter injury but mulched beds are in good condition. There is little evidence of injury in southern Ohio. With normal weather conditions plants will bloom during the first half of May. Strawberry fields in Western Washington began their spring growth with the mild weather of late March. Growers generally have discovered very little winter damage but in Western Washington considerable loss of plants is reported from last summer's drought where irrigation facilities were not available. The generally dry winter has reduced the occurrence of root rot considerably. Present crop prospects are good where irrigation was possible last summer, but only fair on non-irrigated plantings.

TOMATOES: Early Spring: (Fla., Tex., Calif.) Considering the cumulative effects of the adverse growing conditions in Florida since the spring tomato crop was planted, the bulk of the acreage is in fair to good condition. Late plantings in Dade County (set after January 1) were damaged severely by heavy rains during the last few days of March and quality has run down considerably. Harvesting will be finished on most of this spring acreage around mid-April, but with favorable weather will continue on some of the better drained fields throughout April. In the Immokalee section, harvesting of the spring crop is well advanced and production should be at its best during April. In the important Fort Pierce area, harvesting has started on a crop in fair to good condition but it will be after the middle of April before this deal gets into full production. In the Manatee-Ruskin and the Wauchula-Plant City sections the recent heavy rains retarded progress temporarily and caused some loss in prospective production. Most of the acreage is still young enough to make a good recovery under favorable growing conditions. Very light harvesting has started, but it will be late April before volume production is reached. Slightly increased plantings in the area extending from Webster to McIntosh are in fair to good condition. There has been some increase in irrigated acreage, but the majority of the plantings are not irrigated. Earliest harvesting is expected to begin during the last few days of April and reach peak volume after May 10. Progress of the Lower Valley, Texas, crop was seriously retarded by the late February cold spell and considerable damage occurred in the older plantings. Although frosts in the Valley were scattered, damage was extensive, and recovery has been slow because of high winds and lack of water for irrigation. Prior to the late February cold spell, irrigated areas showed promise of early March production. Many of the advanced plantings were cut back severely by frosts and some damage occurred in the intermediate plantings, but the younger plantings came through with less damage. Stands were thinned and some acreage was abandoned. By the end of March most of the older plantings that were held for production had made new top growth and had started to put out a new bloom. Plantings of all ages were having difficulty holding a

TOMATOES: Early Spring (Cont'd) bloom because of lack of water. Light rains were received over most of the Valley the last of March with a few scattered sections receiving fairly good rains. This relief is only temporary and provided very little water reserve for irrigation. A light harvest started the latter part of March from plantings that escaped damage in February. Solid carlot movement is expected in light volume until around April 21-26. Most of the early harvest will furnish production of only fair quality and additional rains will be needed to improve quality and yield prospects. Production of tomatoes from Imperial Valley, California continues at a low level, with the bulk of the crop moving to Southern California markets. It will be late April before substantial production is realized from Imperial Valley plantings. In Coachella Valley, plants are making good growth and light production is expected shortly after mid-month.

Late Spring: (Tex., La., Miss., S.C., Ga., Ala.) Early plantings in the late spring areas of Texas received a severe setback by the March 24 cold spell which caused heavy but scattered frosts over part of east Texas and extended into the Yoakum and Falfurrias areas. Damage was most severe in the Yoakum area where the crop was well advanced. Total plant loss was greater in these older plantings, and it is too late to replant in this area. Total loss of acreage was heavy in the Marlin and Milano sections and there was some loss in other east Texas sections. Plants in most of the east Texas areas, however, were in cold frames and were protected from the low temperatures. Growers in the Marlin and Milano sections were trying to get plants to replant most of their acreage. Conditions are favorable for setting of plants to the fields and transplanting is expected to start in the Avery section around the middle of April. Most of these later areas have a good moisture reserve and with favorable growing temperatures crops should get started at about the usual time. Production from the early sections is expected to be later than usual and a much lighter acreage is now in prospect. In Mississippi, plants are being transplanted to fields. Transplanting started around March 15 and was about 90 percent complete by April 1 in the Beaufort-Charleston area of South Carolina. The crop is in good condition. Transplanting continues in other areas of the State. In Georgia, some tomatoes have been set to the fields and good stands are reported. The shortage of good plants is becoming acute, but it is hoped this situation will clear up in time to get the acreage set.

Early Summer (11 States) Early summer tomatoes in the San Joaquin Valley of California made satisfactory progress during March. Light frosts occurred in the Cutler district on March 21 but most fields were still capped and since temperatures were low for only a short period it is not likely the crop was seriously damaged. Transplanting of the early shipping acreage at Merced began about March 25 and is now active in other early districts. In Tennessee, transplanting of plants from hotbeds to cold frames is practically completed on schedule. Plants are growing satisfactorily and should be set in field during the last 10 days of April.

WATERMELONS: Late Spring (Calif., Fla.) Watermelon plantings in California generally are in good condition but growth has been retarded by cool weather. Some replanting has been necessary. Harvest is not expected to get under way in the Desert areas until after mid-July. The condition of the watermelon crop continues very irregular in Florida as the result of the adverse weather during February and March. Stands are uneven and the average advancement is behind that which is generally considered to be normal for this time of the year. Soil moisture is generally adequate at this time and with favorable temperatures for a few weeks, crops could show considerable improvement. Current opinions are that the below normal condition of the crop will more than offset the increased planting. In

WATERMELONS: Late Spring (Cont'd) the Immokalee-Fort Myers section, the first car was shipped on March 29. This deal should be in active harvest by mid-April. In the Central Florida area (Ocala to Bartow) the crop ranges from poor to good. The first shipments from this area are expected about May 5 to 10, but the average advancement of the crop is later than usual. In the Ocala-Gainesville-Newberry-Fronton-Chiefland area, there is also a wide range in the progress of the crop--from running to just coming up. First shipments are expected the last of May with most crops starting after the first of June. In the Live Oak area, the crop is not as much delayed as in the earlier areas. However, there is some irregularity in stands due to replanting. Earliest shipments expected around June 10 with most fields starting to harvest after the middle of June.

Early Summer (12 States) Considerable acreage in the early non-irrigated sections of Texas is expected to be replanted as a result of damage from the March 24 frosts that reached as far south as the Falfurrias section. Damage to plants in the Falfurrias section was extensive, but total loss of acreage from these frosts was light. Moisture in this area, however, has been very limited all season and progress of melons has been retarded more by the high winds and lack of moisture than by the late March cold spell. Some replanting is necessary--on a light scale in the Sandia section but quite generally in the Stockdale and Pleasanton sections. Fairly good showers were received in these areas the latter part of March and if good growing weather prevails these crops are not expected to be much more than a week later than usual. Fairly good showers were received in these areas the latter part of March and if good growing weather prevails these crops are not expected to be much more than a week later than usual. Fairly good rains were received in the Pearsall section and conditions are now favorable for the planting of melons in many of the mid-season areas, mainly around Elgin, Lockhart and Taylor. A fairly good-sized early acreage is in good condition in the irrigated sections of the Lower Valley, Laredo and Winter Garden which should be in production about the usual time, starting in late May, but most of this early production will move by truck. Planting in the later areas is expected to start the early part of April, depending on suitable moisture as some of the late sections are in need of additional moisture. Watermelon plantings in South Georgia is being delayed due to wet weather conditions now prevailing. No planting has taken place in Central Georgia to-date. Watermelon planting in South Carolina is expected to begin during the week of April 6. Intended acreage is about the same as that harvested last year.

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