

TC-51: 1101

Commercial Truck Crops

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Washington, D. C.

BAC

November 6, 1951

COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS FOR FRESH MARKET TRUCK CROP NEWS - NOVEMBER 1, 1951

TEXAS AND VIRGINIA FREEZE DAMAGE REPORT

Temperatures around the freezing point, with light to heavy frosts, were reported the morning of November 3 for all fall-crop and early winter vegetable areas of Texas, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Damage to tender vegetables is expected to be severe in the Laredo, Winter Garden and Eagle Pass areas, where snap beans, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes and squash were just coming into full production. Extensive damage to all tender vegetables is also likely in the west end of the lower Rio Grande Valley where temperatures were lower than in the east end of the Valley. In most sections hardy type vegetables are expected to come through without much damage.

Frost on November 4 and 5 seriously damaged fall crops of snap beans, lima beans and peppers on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. All snap beans and lima beans were killed north of Machipongo and all peppers north of Exmore. There was very little damage from Capeville south on the Eastern Shore and no damage is reported to the snap bean crop in the Norfolk section. In all, about 75 percent of the snap beans and 60 percent of the peppers were killed. Harvest of lima beans was nearly complete before the frost.

THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REFER TO CONDITIONS AS OF NOVEMBER 1 AND DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EFFECT OF LOW TEMPERATURES AFTER THAT DATE.

Weather conditions during the last half of October were generally favorable for plant growth and field operations in most vegetable areas of Florida. The principal exception to these generally favorable conditions is the Hastings area where excessive rains have caused a further delay in the planting of the winter cabbage crop. Vegetable supplies in many areas of the State are light and will be late due to the heavy rains of early and mid-October. Farm labor supplies are becoming short.

Normal temperatures prevailed in California the last half of October, with moderate to heavy rains in most areas on October 24 and 25. These rains brought needed moisture but they also interrupted harvesting operations and adversely affected the quality of some vegetable crops being harvested, particularly tomatoes. In Texas conditions were generally satisfactory during the last half of October. All vegetable areas have considerable land prepared and moisture reserves are satisfactory except in parts of the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass sections. Most Valley crops are later than usual. Arizona's vegetable producing areas received a fairly good rain at the close of October which caused some flood damage but this also provided much needed water for irrigation. Temperatures have been beneficial to crop development.

ARTICHOKES: Winter, 1952 Season (Calif.) Production stimulated by warm weather during the first part of October has increased and is expected to continue to increase during the first half of November. Quality generally is very good and cooler temperatures are allowing tighter buds to be formed.

LIMA BEANS: Winter, 1952 Season (Fla.) Planting has been in progress in the Pompano-Delray section since late September. Most of the early acreage was lost in the heavy rains of mid-October, but a good portion of this acreage has been replanted. Occasional early plantings which survived the rains are now ready to bloom. The acreage for winter harvest is expected to be materially reduced from last season.

SNAP BEANS: Early Fall (8 States) While the bulk of the early fall crop in North Carolina had been harvested, by November 1, light supplies will be available until frost. Most growers got two pickings and some three this year, resulting in good yields. Quality was fair to good. In some sections, storms damaged vines and reduced quality. Canneries took a greater share of the crop than usual since the cannery price was generally higher than the fresh market price. In South Carolina, the fall season is practically over, but small quantities are expected to be available in the Charleston-Beaufort area until around mid-November unless the crop is killed by frost before that time. In California, supplies are declining as fields in the San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast sections and Southern California have passed their peak. Frost can end production in Central California at any time now. Supplies are beginning to appear from Coachella Valley and this area will provide most of the snap beans during the month of November. Most of this acreage is poled and the crop appears to be in good condition. Acreage planted to snap beans in Coachella has been reduced.

Late Fall: (Fla., Tex.) Harvesting continues on the small acreage in Central Florida. Yields on the early plantings have been light but prospective yields on the acreage remaining for harvest are generally fair to good. Supplies should continue to be available from the Central Florida area until after mid-November if weather permits. In the important Everglades section light harvesting has just started on the early acreage which survived the early October storm. This acreage is expected to produce light yields and fair quality. Volume should increase materially the week of November 20 as plantings made after the early October storm come into production. Condition of these later plantings is very good and barring unfavorable weather, good yields are in prospect. In the Pompano section the condition of the acreage which survived the excessive rains ranges from poor to good. The acreage planted since mid-October is generally making rapid growth with light picking expected to start the latter part of the week of November 5. If weather continues warm, fairly active harvesting is in prospect from this section around December 1. Planting for winter harvest is expected to continue during the balance of the fall period. Light harvesting is in progress from the pole bean crop in the Manatee-Ruskin section and this deal should reach a good volume around the middle of November with harvesting continuing throughout most of December. In Dade County early plantings of pole beans are making fair to good growth with the oldest plantings beginning to run. Planting of snap and pole beans will be active in this section after the first of November. In Texas, growth was retarded in a few fields in the Lower Valley by water standing in the furrows. Acreage as a whole is in good condition and with favorable growing weather the early part of November a fairly good crop is in prospect. Should frosts hold off, production in fair volume should continue well into December. A light harvest is expected to start the early part of this month. A small acreage in areas outside of the Valley was furnishing some production starting the latter part of October.

BEETS: Winter, 1952 Season (Tex.) Plantings for early season harvest are light in all sections but growing crops are in good condition. A small acreage in the Valley, which made good growth the past two weeks, should be in production starting the last half of November. Considerable acreage was planted in the Valley the first half of October and additional acreage is expected to be planted starting the early part of November. Total plantings for the season are expected to be lighter than usual. The usual small acreage in the area adjacent to San Antonio and in the Winter Garden will furnish a light harvest starting the early part of November, most of which will go to nearby markets.

BROCCOLI: (Calif.) Production, originating in Santa Maria, Castroville and the Santa Cruz sections, is increasing. Most of the present supplies are being moved to quick freezers, although several cars are being loaded daily for out-of-state shipment and a little volume is being moved in mixed lots. Peak of the fall harvest season is expected to occur during late November and early December. Quality continues very good.

CABBAGE: Early Fall Domestic (N.Y., N.J., Mich., Wis., Wash.) Marketings from Long Island increased during the last half of October as late acreage came into production. In upstate New York harvest of domestic-type cabbage for kraut continued active with no interruption by bad weather during the last half of October. In Ontario County about 75 percent of the total acreage of domestic cabbage had been harvested by November 1. Some growers with uncontracted acreage have been delaying harvest hoping for some improvement in open-market demand for kraut cabbage. Some large cabbage for kraut is now moving by truck to kraut packers in other areas. Only scattered plantings remain for harvest in the Spokane Valley of Washington. Both yield and quality have exceeded early season expectations due to October rains. However, there has been some concern over splitting heads. In Pierce County, most of the kraut crop has been harvested.

Early Fall, Danish: (N.Y., Pa., Ohio, Ind., Mich., Wis., Minn., Colo.) Growers in central New York report one-half to three-quarters of the Danish acreage harvested by November 1. Some of the large Danish cabbage from central New York is moving to kraut factories. In the late storage sections of western New York harvest of Danish cabbage was just getting under way at the end of October. Warm weather for storage, shortage of labor and delay in the apple harvest tended to postpone cabbage harvest in this area. Market movement during the harvest season to date has been heavier than a year ago but relatively light compared with normal. In Pennsylvania most late plantings made good growth during October. The acreage of late plantings, however, was very small and very little is left to harvest in the main commercial areas. Relatively small amounts will be held in farm storages for winter sales. Although a good share of the crop has been harvested in Wisconsin, many fields remain flooded in the Brown-Outagamie area.

Late Fall: (Oreg., Va., N.C., S.C.) Continued wet weather has added tonnage to the Oregon crop. Cutting for market and kraut processors should continue through November. North Carolina growers are making good progress in harvesting the round Dutch crop. The harvest season will be longer than usual this year due to the prolonged planting season. Stands are irregular because of dry weather at planting time. The crop is in good condition but much later than usual. Some of the later plantings of Danish are just beginning to head and weather conditions from now on will determine whether much of this late acreage will reach marketable size. To date demand has far exceeded supply. In the Coastal area of South Carolina, light showers of the past several days have helped the fall crop which is now in good condition. Harvest started around October 25 and was getting well under way by November 1. Supplies are expected to be available through most of the winter.

CABBAGE: (Cont'd.) Winter, 1952 Season (Calif., Ariz., Tex., Fla.) In Arizona worms have caused some damage but otherwise the crop is making good progress. Light supplies will probably be available about mid-November. In Texas plantings are not expected to show much change from the intentions to plant report of September 1. Developments around mid-September were favorable in all sections, particularly in the non-irrigated Coastal Bend where production has been very light for the past few years. The acreage planted in the Coastal Bend, although larger than that of the past few years, is comparatively small and is practically all for mid-winter harvest. There will be very little production before the middle of January and few growers expected to have any late season production. Seed-bed plantings in the Lower Valley were light and the acreage for early season harvest is at a much lower level than usual. Direct seeding to the fields, however, was active the latter part of September and early October in the Lower Valley and conditions have been generally favorable for these plantings to come up to a good stand. Except for seed-bed thinnings and a small early transplant acreage in the Valley, most of the crop in this section will also be for mid-winter production. A light harvest is expected to start around the middle of December with volume production during January and February. The area around San Antonio and in the Winter Garden will have a light production, mostly for nearby markets, around the latter part of November. Moisture conditions are favorable in most areas. In Florida the heavy rains of early October reduced the supply of plants and generally prevented growers from getting as early a start as they had hoped. However, a considerable acreage has been seeded or set at this time. Many growers who lost their plants arranged to secure supplies for early setting from other States. In the important Hastings section, the frequent rains have damaged seed beds and that acreage which has been set to the field. Most of the acreage has been set to the field is from plants from other areas. If weather conditions are favorable, locally grown plants should be available for late November and December setting. The early acreage at Sanford is expected to show considerable increase over previous fall plantings and these early plantings are generally making fair to good progress. In the Everglades section, losses from the early October rains were fairly general, but most growers appear to have been able to save some of their early seedings. Reseeding was fairly active immediately after the rain and indications at this time are that there has been no great delay in the progress of this crop. The oldest acreage is expected to harvest in late November, but it will be late December before any material volume develops from this section. Seeding and transplanting is active in the Manatee area.

CARROTS: Fall (Calif., Oreg., Wash., Idaho, Utah, N.Mex., Minn., Ill., Mich., Pa., N.Y.) In California carrots are being harvested in all producing districts in the State but the bulk of the shipments are originating in the Salinas area. The Lompoc and Oxnard sections are contributing a light volume. The quality has been improving and is now generally good. An increase in the daily volume of shipments is expected during the first half of November, but the level will be dependent upon market conditions as well as the availability of labor. The Oregon crop continues to grow and add tonnage as a result of timely fall rains. However, frosts in low lying areas this past week burned tops. Pulling started this past week and will continue through November. All Washington districts are in the clean stage, with most late fields harvested, both in the Spokane district and in King and Pierce Counties. Quality remains good. In the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania the crop benefitted by rains and mild weather during October. Acreage is small and the amount for storing will be much less than usual. Harvesting in the muckland sections of western New York was slowed by lack of fresh-market and processing outlets during October. In the Elba section 15-20 percent of the acreage will remain to be harvested after November 1. Demand began to pick up a little toward the end of the month and most of the acreage is expected to be harvested.

CARROTS: (Cont'd.) Winter, 1952 Season (Calif., Ariz., Tex., La., Fla.) The crops in Imperial Valley and in Riverside County, California have made good progress to date. Early fields show only fair stands generally, due to high temperatures during the germination period. Yields from these early fields will be low as a result. Harvest is expected to begin early in December but production for that month will be light. Planting is continuing on late fields. The Arizona crop is in good shape and making good growth. Pulling will start about the second week of November. Crops in all areas of Texas made good growth during the past two weeks. Most of the Valley plantings are much later than usual, also lighter than usual for early season harvest. Little production is expected in the Valley until late December and early January. The Winter Garden section has considerable acreage that will be ready for harvest starting the latter part of November, with fairly active harvest expected by the early part of December. Growers in the Winter Garden continue to plan their operations for production this year to be about ended by late March. In past years production has been available through May. Plantings in the Lower Valley for late season harvest are also expected to be lowered materially. The non-irrigated Coastal Bend will have some carrot acreage this year, but plantings in this area will be a comparatively small part of the State total. The usual small acreage in the area adjacent to San Antonio will start harvest around the middle of November.

CAULIFLOWER: Summer (N.Y., Colo., N.J.) Marketing from late acreage in the Catskill section of New York was practically finished by November 1, with only a few growers still cutting. Marketing from Erie County was near the season peak by November 1 and will continue until Thanksgiving. In the local-market sections near Rochester, Syracuse and Albany, marketing is over the peak but will continue in gradually declining volume through most of November.

Fall: (N.Y., Mich., Oreg.) In New York marketings of Long Island cauliflower through the Riverhead and Southold auctions during the last half of October were about 50 percent greater than in the corresponding period a year ago. Cuttings to date show very high yields. There has been little need for irrigation. With a large late acreage in good condition, volume should continue near the late October level, or slightly higher, through the first three weeks of November. In Oregon cutting for processing is nearing completion but movement to fresh market will continue until freezing weather. Rains during the past month have aided in producing a yield and quality exceeding that of last year.

Winter, 1952 Season: (Calif., Ariz., Tex., Fla.) Harvest of Snowball cauliflower is continuing in the Central Coast and South Coast areas of California with supplies going to the local markets, quick freezers and in mixed cars for out-of-state shipment. An occasional straight car is being loaded from the Los Angeles district. Carlot activity will not increase greatly until December. The quality of stock currently being harvested is good. A good crop is in prospect in the Eagle Pass and Winter Garden sections of Texas, and plantings are now expected to be a little greater than indicated a month ago. Conditions in the last half of October were favorable for plantings of all ages. The Eagle Pass section expects to have production in fair volume by the latter part of November, and the Winter Garden will start harvest the early part of December. Plantings in the Lower Valley are lighter and later than usual. The condition of the Florida crop is generally fair to good. Setting to the field is active in the Manatee-Ruskin and Sanford-Winter Garden sections. The earliest production from the Manatee-Ruskin section is expected around the middle of December with the Sanford-Winter Garden crop slightly later.

CELERY: Early Fall (N.Y., Pa., Ohio, Mich., Colo., Utah, Wash.) Unsatisfactory prices to growers continued to slow harvest in Wayne County, New York during the last half of October. Some acreage went by harvest stage. By November 1, harvest was practically completed. Cold storage holdings continued to increase through most of October. In Pennsylvania the crop grew well in the central and southeastern areas during October. Harvest of the very small acreage is progressing normally with yields light due to the dry weather early in the season. The crop is of good quality and clean. Harvest will continue until Thanksgiving in Washington, provided severe frosts do not occur. Quality remains exceptional, but movement continues slow.

Late Fall: (Calif., N.J.) Harvest of the California crop is gaining momentum and carlot shipments are expected to increase during the next two weeks, with the peak expected around November 10. Supplies are moving from the Santa Maria-Oceano, Salinas, San Jose and Stockton areas. Quality is reported to be generally good.

Winter, 1952 Season: (Fla., Calif., Ariz.) In Florida transplanting continues active. It has been necessary to plow up and reset some of the earliest plantings damaged by the heavy rains of early October. The oldest plantings which survived this period of excessive rain are generally in only fair condition, but crops set since early October are reported to be making good progress. The earliest production is expected from the Zellwood section around the 20th of November and from the Everglades about the first week of December. The crop in Orange, San Diego and Tulare Counties, California has made good progress. Since growers followed a normal planting schedule, it is not expected that the crop will move in heavy volume early in the deal, unless extremely favorable weather occurs, as was the case last year. Harvest will begin on early fields late in November.

SWEET CORN: Fall (Calif., Fla.) Sweet corn from Coachella Valley California should be moving in fair volume by the week of November 4-10. The crop generally is in excellent shape although some growers have been troubled with worms. The Florida acreage is generally in poor to fair condition with occasional plantings showing good prospects. The acreage for early harvest is comparatively light. Light harvesting has started at Zellwood and in the Everglades. Some production is expected from the Ruskin section around November 10 to 15 and light supplies should start from Fort Myers around the middle of November. Plantings in the Fort Myers section were fairly heavy immediately following the early October storm and this acreage should be in good production during late December. Plantings for winter harvest has started in Dade County.

CUCUMBERS: Early Fall (La., Ga., S.C.) In South Carolina, the season is practically over. Small quantities are expected to be available for another week or so unless the crop is killed by frost.

Late Fall: (Fla.) Harvest in the Central Florida-Wauchula area has reached its peak. Younger plantings in this area and the acreage which survived the heavy rains in the Manatee-Ruskin and lower West Coast areas should continue to maintain a good volume from the State until the later plantings in the South Florida areas come into production in late November and December. Plantings in the Fort Myers-Immokalee-Punta Corda area were fairly heavy immediately following the early October rains and most of this acreage should be ready for December and early January production. Harvest has started in the earliest fields that survived the rains. Light harvesting has started on a small acreage at Fort Pierce. Plantings in the Fort Pierce and Pompano sections are comparatively light and the majority of this acreage will be for December and early January harvest.

EGGPLANT: Fall (Fla., Tex.) Harvesting from the small acreage in the McIntosh-Brooksville area of Florida is over the peak. Yields and quality are good. Production should continue until frost. Very light harvesting is in progress from the small acreage in the Wauchula-Manatee-Ruskin section. In the Fort Myers section, the crop is showing a fair recovery from the rains of early October. Very light harvesting is in progress and this area should be in good production after the middle of November. In the Pompano section, where growers had made an effort to get out a fairly large early acreage, the mid-October rains caused considerable damage and some acreage was lost. However, a good portion of these early plantings survived the excessive rains and are making a fair growth at this time. Occasional fields will furnish a light production around the middle of November, but most of the acreage which survived was retarded so that only a very light production can be expected until late December. Supplies have been available in all sections of Texas for the past two weeks with most of the production in the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass sections. Although a light harvest has started in the Lower Valley, most plantings are for later season harvest.

ESCAROLE: Winter, 1952 Season (Fla.) Early plantings appear to be in fair to good condition. Growers have attempted to get in a good acreage for early harvest. A light harvest has started at Zellwood, but it will be mid-November before any acreage of significance comes into production. In the Everglades, the earliest plantings are expected to furnish some production for the Thanksgiving market. The Manatee section should also have light supplies by late November and harvesting should become fairly general in all of the principal areas by early December. Plantings in the Sanford section are making favorable progress.

HONEY DEW MELONS: Summer (Ariz., Calif.) A few late fields in California are expected to provide limited supplies during the first ten days of November. Sizes are running small. Honeydew production has been heavy in California this year but the volume of shipments has dropped rapidly during the past two weeks.

LETTUCE: Fall (Calif., Oreg., Wash., Ida., N.Mex., N.J.) Rain on October 24 and lighter yields reduced the volume of California shipments for a few days. Production is not expected to increase above present levels and after November 10 an appreciable drop in the volume is expected. The bulk of the acreage in the Salinas-Watsonville district will be cut by that date. Some supplies will continue to be available from Salinas throughout November. Quality is generally fair. Only a light volume will be available from fields at Delano and on the Westside. Warm weather earlier in the season is causing slime and tip burn in some fields. Supplies in the Santa Maria area are declining and only a small carlot movement is expected from this section during the balance of the season although growers will continue to dry pack for the truck trade. Harvesting in the Oxnard area is just getting under way and will develop a fair volume during November and extending into December. In Oregon, about 200 acres of Malheur lettuce has been plowed under because of hail damage and because too much rain has softened heads of maturing fields, especially of the Great Lakes variety. Local lettuce from King and Pierce Counties of Washington is in the cleanup stages. Volume on the Seattle market is very light, with out-of-State shipments coming in. Quality of the Idaho crop has gone down with freezing weather. In Texas, conditions were favorable for harvest of the fall-crop acreage in the Panhandle section during most of October. Harvest in the Plainview section started a little later than in the Hereford section, but by late October a large proportion of most crops had been harvested. Freezing weather on November 2 probably will end shipments to distant markets.

LETTUCE: (Cont'd.) Winter, 1952 Season (Ariz., Calif., Fla., Tex.) In Arizona, stands are poor and worms have caused extensive damage, especially in fields near cotton. Cool weather has been favorable for development of heads and harvesting is expected to start November 5. Early fields planted in the Imperial Valley of California were damaged by heat and stands are spotty, ranging from poor to good. There was some replanting but not as much as usual. Condition is about normal for this time of year. Excellent stands were obtained on the mid-season fields which are now being thinned. There are a great many salt marsh caterpillars or "wooly worms" in Imperial but so far they have done little damage to lettuce. Some fields have been hit but growers have been able to stop them with various types of barriers. These "wooly worms" are still a threat and will be for several weeks since they are moving from the cotton fields to the lettuce fields. Cotton is still green and growing, so fields have not been hit as hard as at Blythe where much of the cotton has been defoliated for harvest. Harvest will start in Imperial around December 1 but volume during the first half of December is expected to be light. Early fields at Blythe, which were at a critical stage when high temperature of late September and early October prevailed, may bolt but this depends upon November temperatures. Cutting will begin about November 10 but due to spotty stands the volume of these early fields will be light. Rains at Blythe in late August kept growers out of fields for about two weeks making the fall deal somewhat later than usual. In Florida, condition of the early plantings is fair to good. Seeding and transplanting is in progress in the Sanford-Zellwood, Manatee-Ruskin, and Everglades sections. The earliest harvest of Boston type is expected around the middle of November in the Central Florida area, but it will be mid-December before harvesting of Iceberg begins in most areas. The Webster section expects a light harvest of Iceberg by mid-November. In Texas, the small acreage in the Lower Valley was planted later than usual, mostly for mid-winter harvest. The early crop in the Winter Garden was planted at about the usual time and has had very good growth. There is a small acreage in the Uvalde section that is expected to furnish some production starting the early part of November and most crops in this area will be ready for harvest around the middle of the month. Harvest for carlot loadings in the area around Carrizo Springs is not expected until late November or early December. Growers in the Winter Garden expect to continue the practice of planting for early and late season harvests, and there will be very little mid-winter production this year.

ONIONS: Late Summer (13 States) The majority of larger growers in Wisconsin report that the bulk of their crop is still in storage. Keeping quality is not as good as it was last year. The Idaho crop has all been harvested with a considerable amount going to storage. The quality was good when they went to storage. In Oregon unusually early and continuous rain in Malheur county has interfered with the field curing of much of the crop in that district. At the end of the month about 10 percent of the crop was still in field bags and crates. Most of the western Oregon crop was under cover before the field rains came.

Early Spring, 1952 Season: (Tex.) Some acreage has been seeded in the non-irrigated Coastal Bend and Raymondville sections and moisture conditions are favorable for additional planting which was expected to get started the early part of November. Planting through November will be on about the usual schedule of operations. Plant beds in the irrigated sections are in good condition and considerable land is prepared for planting to start the early part of the month. Plants are plentiful in the irrigated districts, but present plans do not indicate any extensive expansion in irrigated acreages and conditions in the non-irrigated areas continue to point to only moderate plantings as compared with average for these areas.

GREEN PEAS: Early Fall (Calif.) Harvest is in the cleanup stage in the Santa Clara Valley but a small volume is being harvested from fall fields in Kern and Tulare Counties. Some increase in supplies is expected during the next two weeks from the Kern-Tulare County area as more acreage becomes available for picking, but movement will not be heavy since the acreage available for harvest is greatly reduced. No peas were planted in Imperial Valley for late fall harvest.

GREEN PEPPERS: Fall (Va., Fla., Tex.) In Florida, supplies during November will be extremely light and most of them will come from the Wauchula and Manatee sections. Progress on the small acreage which survived the heavy October rains has been delayed but harvest should become fairly active in late November. In the Fort Myers section, possibly half of the original plantings were lost. Most of the lost acreage has been reset and there have been additional plantings. Light harvesting from the earliest plantings is expected in late November, but it will be well into December before any significant volume develops. In the important winter section around Pompano the heavy rains of mid-October caused extensive losses and the condition in this section is very spotted. Considerably less than half of the original plantings were saved. Reseeding was active immediately following the rains and it is expected that most growers will plant according to their original intentions. A few of the early plantings which survived the rains are in bloom or gave a light set of fruit, but the majority of this early acreage was set back considerably and recovery will be slow. Little production can be expected before December and then it will be very light until after the first of January. Under average growing conditions it will be after mid-January before this deal gets into full production. In Texas, all areas were in light production during the latter part of October. Supplies in the Lower Valley will continue light for another two weeks but both the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass sections expected to have volume sufficient for solid carlot loadings starting the early part of November. The quality following the first picking has been very good and, if frosts held off, there will be considerable production for November harvest. Most of the plantings in the Lower Valley were later than usual and this area will have production into December if weather conditions continue favorable.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: Winter, 1952 Season (Tex., Fla.) The small Texas acreage which is grown mostly in the eastern end of the Lower Valley was planted under favorable conditions and growing weather has been good. Harvest is expected to start about the usual time, around mid-December, and to be completed in early January. In the Everglades, which is the earliest winter producing section of Florida, about half of the original acreage was lost as the result of the heavy rains in early October. Most of the remaining acreage is in fair to good condition and growing nicely, but a few fields which were not completely lost are badly spotted. Planting in the Fort Myers area was practically completed by the first of November and the earliest acreages are up to a relatively good stand. Light planting started in the important Wade County section of this State during the last few days of October and should become general after the first of November.

SPINACH: Early Fall (5 States) Spinach grew well during October in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania and supplies are now at peak. Quality is excellent but market requirements are slow at present. Growers are expecting to move a lot of spinach during November, but future weather conditions and market requirements will determine this.

SPINACH: (Cont'd.) Winter, 1952 Season (Tex., La., Calif.) In Texas a small acreage is up to a good stand in the non-irrigated Coastal Bend and Raymondville sections and moisture is favorable for additional plantings to be made. Only a limited acreage was planted during the last half of October because of wet fields, but growers expected to be able to get into the fields by the early part of November. Although prospective production from these non-irrigated areas is much better than that of the past few years, the acreage will be on a lower level than usual and will practically all be for mid-winter harvest. Irrigated crops in the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass section made only fairly good growth during October. A light harvest is expected in the Winter Garden starting around November 25, but the Eagle Pass section does not expect to get started until the early part of December. Planting for later season harvest was fairly active in all irrigated areas.

SQUASH: Fall (Fla.) In Florida harvesting in the McIntosh area is over its peak. Light harvesting is in progress in the Plant City-Manatee-Ruskin area and scattered light plantings in the South Florida area are furnishing a small production at this time. Early plantings in the important Pompano section were damaged by the heavy rains of mid-October. Seeding since that time has been heavy and these young plantings are making very good progress. A light production can be expected from this area by mid-November with a good volume in prospect after the first of December.

STRAWBERRIES: Winter, 1952 Season (Fla.) The condition of the winter strawberry crop in the Plant City-Wauchula area is general in good condition with plants growing nicely.

TOMATOES: Early Fall (Calif.) Harvesting was interrupted by recent rains but now that fields have dried, picking is again becoming active and carlot shipments are continuing in volume. Many shippers will continue until harvest is terminated by frost or another rain, but some shippers have ceased operations already. Quality from all districts will be off as a result of the rain and an increasing amount of decay will develop. The volume of tomatoes moving from California, particularly in the Central and Northern districts, will decline during the next two weeks. A limited volume of greens will continue to move from all Southern California districts.

Late Fall: (Tex., Fla.) Conditions in all sections of Texas were favorable for development of the tomato crop during the last half of October. The set from the early bloom was light in the Laredo, Winter Garden and Eagle Pass sections, but conditions were favorable around mid-October for a good set to start holding and plants were still blooming freely the latter part of the month. Because of the light early set, production in volume is expected to be a little later than usual, especially in the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass sections. A light harvest was getting started the last few days in October as compared with harvest usually starting around mid-October, but volume production was not expected until the early part of November. The Laredo section expected to have a few fields in the northern part of the area ready for harvest starting November 5, but the main acreage was not expected to be in production until the week of November 12. The small acreage in Lower Valley made very good growth during the past two weeks but is much later than usual and is not expected to be in production until early December. In Florida, the extent of damage from the excessive rains of early October is still very much of a question, but grower's opinions at this time are in line with their earlier appraisals. The complete loss of acreage in the Fort Pierce deal is estimated to have been about 10 percent and in the Immokalee area at around 25 percent. Reported condition in both areas indicates a fair average yield, but yields will be light on the older plantings. Light harvesting is in progress in both areas. Quality has been

TOMATOES: Late Fall (Cont'd.) ordinary, but is expected to improve. Vine growth on the younger plantings is generally good but the set of fruit has been very light up to this time and this delay adds to the uncertainty of harvest. These sections should be in fair production during the second half of November, but it will be December before peak harvest levels are reached. In the Manatee-Ruskin section, there is a wide range in the age of plantings. Loss of acreage from drowning has been very small, but overall maturity of this crop has been delayed by the wet soil conditions which prevailed during the early fall period. Fair to good yields are in prospect. Very light harvesting is in progress but it will be late November before this deal gets well under way with the bulk of the production expected during December and early January. In Dade County, the early rock land deal was delayed by hot dry weather in September. Moisture conditions have improved and plantings since the first of October are making fair to good progress. However, very little of this acreage is expected to be harvested during the fall period. Transplanting on the "glades" land started in early October. Conditions have been favorable and growers are making very good progress in putting out their winter crop.

LATE REPORT FROM NEW JERSEY

No general killing frost had occurred to November 1 making this an unusually long fall growing season for summer vegetables. Temperatures at Trenton during the last half of October averaged 4° above normal, while precipitation was only about one-half of normal. However very heavy rains (totaling over 2 inches at Trenton) covered the State on November 1. Fall crops such as cabbage, cauliflower, celery, lettuce and spinach are generally in good condition.

Moderate supplies of both bunched and topped BEETS and CARROTS continue to move from the northeastern market garden section. The bunched deals will end with frost but topped supplies will continue to be available for several weeks as some of each crop is stored for later sale. Volume supplies of excellent quality CABBAGE, continue to be available in the Central and Northern areas. CAULIFLOWER is expected to move in moderate volume throughout November. Moderate supplies of CELERY will continue to be available until Thanksgiving in scattered areas of North Jersey. The Highbush variety of EGGPLANT continues to be available around Vineland. Quality of LETTUCE has improved and is generally very good, although favorable markets have caused growers to cut too early for optimum size of heads. Due to staggered plantings, a heavy movement is expected until Thanksgiving after which time supplies are expected to decline rapidly. Heavy volumes of PEPPERS continue to be available in Cumberland county. Movement however is expected to decline as a result of the heavy rains on November 1. Quality of SPINACH is generally very good. Moderate supplies will continue to be available until snow ends the deal. A portion of the acreage will be wintered over for sale early next spring. Light volumes of TOMATOES continue to be available in scattered Central and Northern sections. However supplies are expected to drop off sharply after the heavy rain of November 1.

LATE REPORT FROM VIRGINIA

Rainfall in the Eastern Shore and Norfolk Section since mid-October has been sufficient for truck crop needs. However, clear, mild weather during most of the last two weeks of October has permitted farmers to make excellent progress in the harvest of peppers, lima beans, and snap beans. Shipments of Fordhook lima beans, peppers, and snap beans continue in good volume and movement of kale is just getting under way. Shipment of spinach will start in late November.

Shipments of Fordhook LIMA BEANS were at peak during the last week of October. Harvest of SNAP BEANS has passed the peak but shipments continue in volume and supplies will be available until frost. Condition of the 1952 KALE crop is good and harvest started in a small way in late October. A few growers report stripping for cellophane packaging. Movement will likely continue light until around December 1. Shipments of PEPPERS are going forward in volume and supplies will be available until the first killing frost. The fall SPINACH crop is in good condition and growing satisfactorily, but very little spinach will be cut before December 1. Stands are good except in a few scattered early-planted fields. Fields are generally free of disease and insect damage. Harvest will be heaviest during the period of December 1 to January 20.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid
payment of postage \$300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

BAE-TC-51: 1001-11/51--2400
Permit No. 1101

M. P. RASMUSSEN
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
DEPT. OF AGR'L ECON.
6-23-49
ML-TCR
WARREN HALL
ITHACA, N. Y.