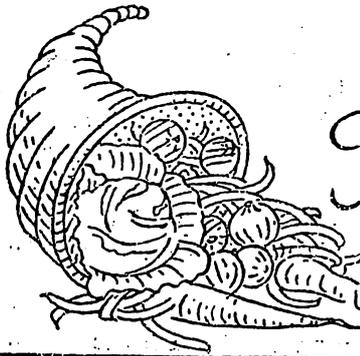


TC-52: 501

# Commercial Truck Crops

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Washington, D. C.

BAC

May 6, 1952

## COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS FOR FRESH MARKET

### TRUCK CROP NEWS

MAY 1, 1952

Weather conditions for the development of spring truck crops were generally favorable in most sections of the country during the last half of April, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics announced today. Temperatures were above normal most of the period in the Eastern and North Central States and rainfall was ample to excessive. In the South Atlantic and South Central States conditions were highly variable. The nights were generally cool and during the last week of the month much-needed rains fell in most of these States.

Progress of commercial vegetables in Texas was generally satisfactory during the last half of April. However, hail on April 30 damaged onions in the Eagle Pass area and hail again on May 2 caused spotted damage to the Lower Valley tomato crop. Transplanting of the late spring tomato crop was delayed in the extreme northwestern counties of Texas and progress of some of the early plantings was retarded by cool nights.

Temperatures varied considerably in California's vegetable producing sections the last half of April. Rains that began April 25 resulted in a sharp drop in temperatures in all sections of the State, and the growth of truck crops was retarded. The production of spring vegetables increased sharply during the past two weeks and further increases are anticipated during the first half of May.

Most Florida truck crops continued to make fairly satisfactory progress during the second half of April. Temperatures were generally favorable and rains during the latter part of the month were sufficient to maintain adequate soil moisture.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE

These national semi-monthly Truck Crop News Reports are being discontinued after this issue. Hereafter the monthly Acreage and Indicated Production Reports will include, to the fullest extent possible, pertinent information concerning the nature of the season, crop advancement and progress of harvesting and marketing truck crops. While the Truck Crop News Reports are also being eliminated in most of the States, they will be continued on an individual State basis in certain of the most important truck crop producing States. California and Florida will continue to issue semi-monthly reports. New Jersey will maintain regular weekly truck crop news reports. In Maryland and Delaware the Weekly Weather-Crop report will emphasize truck crops. In most other States the Weekly Weather-Crop reports will generally carry some comments on truck crops where important.

ARTICHOKES: (Calif.) Artichoke supplies have been plentiful during the past two weeks but production is beginning to decline as the harvest season nears an end. During the next two weeks growers will begin to cut vines and cultivate fields in preparation for the 1952-53 season, and a considerable acreage will go out of production. By late May, harvest will be confined to a few fields that will be held over for summer production, but these supplies will be absorbed locally. The present quality of artichokes is excellent, but the buds tend to be loose, a characteristic of late season supplies.

ASPARAGUS; Early Spring (Calif., Oreg., Wash., S.C.) A few cars of California asparagus are still being shipped to out-of-State markets, but for all practical purposes the 1952 shipping season has ended. Supplies are still being packed for local markets in the State but the bulk of the production is now being delivered to canners. Cool weather and frosty nights in Oregon during the last two weeks of April slowed growth and cutting. The harvesting of Washington asparagus moved ahead rapidly during the last two weeks of April. Reports indicate that cutting is considerably ahead of last year's schedule in spite of generally cool early spring weather. High winds during the period caused scattered damage to grass in the Yakima Valley, and frost on April 28 temporarily stopped cutting. With favorable weather, cutting should hit its peak during the second week of May. Quality is good to excellent, with some growers reporting as high as 90 percent No. 1. In South Carolina, shipping is nearing the end and will likely be over by May 10. Movement was light all season.

Late Spring (Md., Del., N.J., Pa., Mass., Mich., Ill., Iowa, N.Y.) Cutting started about April 19 in the Baltimore area of Maryland and about April 23 on the Delmar Peninsula. Rains during much of the period were beneficial to growth. In New Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania active cutting got under way during the week of April 21, but the continued cold rain of April 24 to 26 inclusive halted cutting completely. Beds now need sustained drying wind and sunshine to promote growth. About half of the Bucks County, Pennsylvania acreage is in old beds and yields are expected to be light. In Erie County the crop had made little progress to date. The first asparagus was cut in southern Illinois the third week of April. In the central part of the State growers have been cutting since April 29. The Cook County area reported that asparagus has been cut in quantity there since May 1. Quality has been running average or better.

LIIMA BEANS: Spring (Fla., Ga., S.C.) Supplies of Florida lima beans are expected to continue very light during early May with harvesting in the important Hawthorne section starting about May 10. This deal should reach its peak around May 20 to 25. The small acreage in the Everglades and Pompano sections, from which light supplies are now coming, ranges from poor to fair condition. Light harvesting from this acreage should continue for another 2 weeks. Active harvest of butterbeans is now in progress in the Plant City area and will become general in North Florida around May 15. Poor stands are reported in southern areas of Georgia due to the prolonged cool nights in early spring. Good progress has been made in planting beans in the central areas of the State. In South Carolina, late plantings of lima beans are about complete. The crop improved with recent rains and is in good condition. Shipments are expected to begin in early June.

Summer (N.C., Md., N.J., N.Y.) Cold weather and heavy rains during April caused some farmers on the Lower Delmar peninsula Pennsylvania to replant their Fordhook beans three times, but most plantings were up and showing good growth by the end of the month. Most of the acreage in Burlington County, New Jersey, and areas south had been planted before the April 24-26 rains, but the most recently seeded acreage will require replanting.

SNAP BEANS: Early Spring (Tex., Fla.) Supplies of beans are available in Texas from the small acreage in the Lower Valley, and all sections are in production. Some of the acreage in the early areas outside the Valley had to be replanted following the late March cold spell but these plantings made very good growth during the past two weeks. Early plantings in the later areas that escaped damage will furnish production starting the early part of May. Harvest of the spring snap bean crop is well over its peak in Florida and supplies will decline rather rapidly during the first half of May with prospects of a light volume continuing into the second half of the month. Current supplies are coming from an area extending from the important Everglades in South Florida to the McIntosh-La Crosse section of North Florida. If weather conditions are favorable, late plantings in the Everglades will continue to furnish some production until around the middle of May. In the Central Florida sections, the bulk of the production has been harvested, but this area will have light supplies for another two weeks. In the North Florida area, light harvesting is now in progress with the heaviest movement from this section expected during the next two weeks and with very light supplies after the middle of May.

Mid-Spring (Calif., La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S.C.) Harvest has been under way on early fields of snap beans in California's Coachella Valley for about two weeks; but, since the crop is later than usual, only a light volume has been moved so far this season. A considerable acreage should reach maturity during the next two weeks causing production to show a marked increase during that period. Crop prospects on early fields of snap beans in San Diego County are below average due to the adverse effects of cool weather and winds. No supplies are expected to be available there until the last half of May. A few Louisiana beans have been harvested, but volume movement from the major producing area, St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes, will not begin before May 10. Although the crop was planted late and held back by cool weather, it is now in good condition, and with a little rain during the first week of May good yields can be expected. Mississippi snap beans promise fairly good yields but progress has been retarded somewhat by cool nights and it is now getting too dry in some areas. Advancement of the crop averages a little later than usual. Shipments should start about mid-May and continue through much of June. Some picking is taking place from early plantings in Georgia with satisfactory prices being received. Better yields and quality are expected from later plantings. Snap beans in South Carolina are in good condition. With ample soil moisture and warmer weather around May 1, the crop will likely make further improvements. Light harvest is expected in the Charleston-Beaufort area by May 10 with peak movement during the last ten days of May.

Late Spring (N.C., Ark., Va.) Planting of North Carolina's snap bean crop is about complete in all areas. Condition varies considerably between localities. Cool damp weather has caused poor stands in the Faison area. Some replanting may be necessary. In the northeastern section, stands are good and the crop in general looks good; harvest should begin the last week of May. Planting was delayed in Arkansas by cool, wet weather. Some growers did not plant a sizable acreage of beans this spring for fear that they could not obtain help for harvesting the crop.

Early Summer (Md., Del., N.J., N.Y., Pa.) In western Maryland, snap bean planting got under way about April 19 and was about 50 percent complete by the end of the month. On the Delmar Peninsula, earlier plantings were 6 inches high and were cultivated for the first time by the end of the month. <sup>In New Jersey,</sup> plantings of early snap beans has been completed except in some northern areas. Planting in Cumberland County are about 2 inches high and are well developed. This crop made growth during the cool rainy spell. Plantings in the Burlington County section are now breaking through the ground. Late plantings, made just before the April 24-26 rain, and not through the ground, will require replanting.

**BEETS:** Spring (La., S.C., N.C., Va.) In South Carolina, the bulk of the beet crop had been harvested by May 1, but shipments of good quality beets will continue until about the 15th. Late plantings are in very good condition and yield prospects are good. The crop in North Carolina is in good condition. In the St. Helena section, harvest is under way and will reach the peak about May 10. In the Wilmington area, harvest will begin about May 5 and reach the peak about May 15.

Summer (N.J., Pa.) The crop in the Vineland New Jersey area (Cumberland County) made excellent growth during mid-April, and 3 days of rainfall at the close of <sup>the</sup> month did not slow down growth. The crop is in good condition with most fields showing about 2 inches growth. In the northeast market garden section, the earliest plantings are above ground. Planting continues in this area. Beets are coming up slowly in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania. In other sections of the State early beets have just been seeded.

**BROCCOLI:** Spring (Calif., Pa.) The California production of broccoli is declining as the spring season draws to a close. Limited supplies will continue to be available from both the Santa Maria and Salinas sections during the next two weeks, but the carlot loadings of this commodity will remain at relatively low levels. On the whole, weather has been favorable and quality is generally good. In Pennsylvania early planted broccoli in the Bucks-Philadelphia area is making good growth.

**CABBAGE:** Winter (Calif., Ariz., Tex., Fla.) Cabbage is in generous supply in Southern California but production there should begin to decline early in May as the acreage available for harvest decreases. A limited volume of cabbage is being loaded for rail shipment in Southern California and this movement will likely continue. In Florida, cabbage shipments declined sharply during the second half of April, and the season is rapidly drawing to a close. However, a few late fields, most of which are in the Everglades and Sanford areas, will furnish production well into May if market and weather conditions are favorable.

Early Spring (La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S.C.) Cabbage shipments are now under way in Mississippi and will continue through most of May. The crop has the best yield prospect in several years, but soils are getting too dry. Only a very small amount was harvested in Alabama during the latter part of April. The sharp increase in price during the month extended the harvesting season. Harvesting is well under way in Georgia with some local areas about through cutting. No abandonment of acreage is expected. Some north Georgia cabbage has been set to the fields under favorable conditions. The cabbage deal in South Carolina is nearing the end, but shipments are expected to continue until mid-May.

Late Spring (N.C., Va., Md., Tenn., Ky., Ohio, Mo., Wash.) The condition of North Carolina's crop is variable. In the Carteret area, the crop is a week to 10 days late, but some cutting is already under way. Stands are irregular and cutting will extend over a longer than normal period. In the Currituck area, stands are poor and early freeze damage has caused a small amount to run to seed. Harvest is expected to begin around May 15. Generally, heads are expected to be smaller than normal this year. Setting of early cabbage was completed in Western Maryland by April 25. On the Delmar Peninsula the crop made good growth during the period. Weather conditions were very favorable for Tennessee cabbage during the last 2 weeks of April. The plants have a good color and are making good growth. Shipments will probably begin during the last 10 days of May. Plants in Kentucky are making rapid growth, have good color, and are cleanly cultivated. Heads are just about ready to start forming in some early patches. With sufficient

**CABBAGE:** Late Spring (Cont'd.) moisture and the warmer weather prevailing during the last half of April, Ohio cabbage grew rapidly and prospects are very good at this time. The progress of Washington spring cabbage in the Puget Sound district was relatively slow during April because of cold nights, but the condition of most plantings is satisfactory at this time. General rains that fell on April 30 should be very beneficial. At Walla Walla first cuttings should be ready by about June 15 if growing conditions remain favorable.

Early Summer (N.J., N.Y., Ga., Ind., Ill., Iowa) Plantings in southern New Jersey were all completed in early April and the crop is off to a good start. Warm weather in mid-April pushed growth and there is an abundance of moisture. Some leaching of fertilizer due to excessive rainfall was reported. Most of the early crop is planted in central New Jersey and the northeast market garden section. Planting continues in the Asbury and Budd Lake sections. Transplanting of New York early cabbage on Long Island started early in April. Plants were generally good and conditions have been favorable for an early start.

Late Summer (9 States) Weather conditions in Ohio during most of the last half of April were favorable for field work. Most of the acreage was set in the fields by May 1 and is starting nicely. Early crops are looking good in the southern and southeastern sections of Pennsylvania. Elsewhere transplanting was just getting well under way by the end of April.

Early Fall (Domestic) (5 States) In the local-market sections of upstate New York a few fields of early cabbage were transplanted during the week of April 7, and transplanting became active about April 16. Soil conditions and temperatures have been favorable for starting seed beds for the main-crop acreage.

**CANTALOUPS:** Spring (Calif., Fla., Ariz.) A few crates have been harvested from small brush-covered fields in the Imperial Valley of California during the past week and production there during the next two weeks is expected to be confined to this kind of acreage. The commercial carlot shipping deal is not expected to begin before May 15 and it may be May 20 before carlot supplies are available. It is not likely that there will be volume supplies in the Imperial Valley before June 1. Cool weather is partly responsible for the late season. In addition, the bulk of the acreage has been planted to the sulphur-tolerant No. 91 strain, which is later maturing than the No. 6, the strain that formerly provided the early season supplies of cantaloups during the past several years. The harvest season at Blythe is also late, and shipping is not expected to begin there before June 1. At the present time, the spring crop appears to be in a satisfactory condition but it is still somewhat early to appraise the probable effects of cucumber mosaic which has caused so much damage in the Imperial Valley in recent years. The crop in North Florida, particularly in Alachua and Marion Counties (the main producing sections), is generally in fair to good condition. There is a wide variation in the age of the plantings, but most growers report generally good stands. The progress of the crop has been delayed by cool weather. Earliest harvesting is expected around May 20 with active harvesting expected to begin around June 1. The small, widely scattered plantings in central and south Florida are variable in their condition with most of these plantings showing rather poor prospects. Light harvesting is now in progress from the earliest south Florida acreage.

Early Summer (Nev., Ga., S.C., Ariz.) Progress of the Georgia crop has been slow due to the unusually cool nights around mid-April. Poor stands are reported in some areas and much replanting has taken place. South Carolina's crop got off to a slow start but is in good condition. Recent rains were beneficial and plants are now making good growth.

**CANTALOUPS:** Mid-Summer (12 States): Prospects in the early sections of Texas continued to improve and production is now expected to be available at about the usual time despite the late March cold spell and continued cool nights. A fairly good-sized covered acreage in the Lower Valley is expected to furnish production starting May 1 and open acreage in this area is expected to be in production around May 15-20. The Laredo irrigated acreage is expected to furnish a light harvest starting May 25 and active harvest by June 1. A small non-irrigated acreage in the Sardia area of the Coastal Bend will furnish some production around May 25 and considerable acreage in this area will be in production around June 1. Crops in other areas are in generally good condition and most sections have favorable moisture supplies. Planting in the late areas continued active during April. Some replanting was necessary in scattered areas of east Texas where rains the last week in April were excessive. Very few cantaloups had been planted in Arkansas by May 1. Cantaloup planting got under way on the Maryland Peninsula during late April and some fields were showing first leaves by the end of the month.

**CARROTS:** Winter (4 States) Harvest in the Imperial Valley of California had been curtailed because of market conditions until this week when an improvement resulted in a sharp increase in loadings there. There is sufficient acreage remaining in the Valley to enable carrot shipments to remain at high levels for two or three weeks more if market conditions warrant. An increased percentage of carrots are being packed as topped carrots which is a normal late season trend in that area, particularly in those years when harvests are delayed by market conditions.

Spring (Calif., Ariz.) The California spring crop, which is grown largely in Coastal Areas from Oxnard to Salinas, is behind in its development because of the cool weather during the past two months. No supplies are in prospect from these districts until early June.

Summer (N.J., N.Y., Ohio, Colo.) Growth of carrots in New Jersey was about normal until the cold rainy spell the last week of April but this halted growth only temporarily. Fields in the Vineland area are about 1-1 1/2 inches high. Planting in the Great Meadows area was delayed by rains and flooding, but is now underway again. In the north east market-garden areas planting continues.

**CAULIFLOWER:** Early Spring (Calif., Oreg.) Cauliflower is in short supply in most of California's producing sections and, although there may be some increase in production in the Santa Maria Area during the next two weeks, supplies will remain at sub-normal levels. Lighter than normal supplies are a result of smaller plantings made for spring harvest and abnormally heavy production early in April which was caused by warm weather. Supplies in the San Francisco Bay Area apparently have been nearly exhausted and current production is confined largely to the Santa Maria and Los Angeles Areas.

Late Spring (Wash.) Most plantings of the early crop are now well established in the Auburn-Kent area and are in good early season condition.

Summer (N.J., N.Y., Colo.) The open crop in northern New Jersey made slow progress in mid-April. The first plantings of April 1-5 look good but plantings a week later are uneven and not too strong. Strong dry winds April 17-22 hold up planting. Recent general rains helped this crop. Covered cauliflower looks good and some may be ready to harvest about May 25.

CELERY: Spring (Fla., Calif.) The spring acreage remaining for harvest in Florida is mostly in good condition and shipments are expected to continue on a fairly even level during most of May. Recent cool temperatures have been favorable for this crop, but occasional plantings have suffered from excessive local rains. The Everglades will be a source of good volume throughout most of May. The Oviedo-Zellwood spring crop continues in active harvest with good yields reported. Harvesting is well under way at Island Grove and is just getting started at Oklawaha. The Weirsdale area should start harvesting around mid-May. If weather conditions continue favorable, shipments from the State will continue into early June. Spring celery supplies from California during the first half of May will be lighter than normal. However, the crop is generally in good condition and younger fields generally are making good progress. In the Venice section of Los Angeles County present production is relatively light. This resulted from inability of growers to set acreage in January when rains were heavy and many fields flooded. Setting of acreage was resumed in early February and these plantings will be reaching maturity during the next two weeks.

Summer (6 States) Frequent heavy rains have delayed transplanting of New York open-field celery in Orange County. Some plants are getting too large to transplant. Planting of the New Jersey early crop is now under way in both Paramus (Bergen County) and Great Meadows (Warren County). The sash grown celery and that grown under cloth are in good condition. Setting of covered celery was nearly completed in Ohio by May 1. Planting of the early crop will be completed between May 10 and 15.

SWEET CORN: Spring (5 States) The condition of the sweet corn crop remaining for harvest in Florida is mostly in fair to good condition. In the important Everglades section, prospects have generally improved under more favorable growing conditions and current prospects are much better than two weeks ago. There is still a wide variation in the quality of the harvestings, but with continued favorable conditions, the average quality should improve. This section is expected to continue in heavy volume during the first half of May with some production in prospect until mid-June. The crop in the Zellwood-Sanford-Winter Garden area is generally making fair to good progress. An occasional sand-land field has been abandoned and some replanting has been necessary on the muck-land. Very light harvesting has started in this area and shipments will show a very gradual increase during the first half of May. This area should be at its peak level of production during the last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June with the heaviest volume moving around June 1. In the North Florida area, where the production is centered mostly around Starke, Brooker, and LaCrosse, the crop is generally in good condition although slightly delayed by the cool weather. Pulling is expected to start in a few early fields by the week of May 12, but it will be around the first of June before this section gets into full harvest. Supplies of sweet corn from the irrigated plantings in the Lower Valley of Texas showed a substantial increase the latter part of April. This increased production came from areas that were favored by local showers and a few fields near the source of the limited irrigation water supply. The acreage in the Valley is much below average and shipments are not expected to be heavy at any time, although movement should continue through most of May. Prospects in the areas outside the Valley--practically all non-irrigated--are very favorable. Cool nights have held back growth in some of the later sections. Moisture is generally ample in all areas with scattered sections of east Texas reporting excessive rains. Some harvest in the early sections outside the Valley is expected around May 10-15, and most of the later areas will have production during most of June. A small amount of California sweet corn has been harvested in the Cochemille Valley. Picking will become more active there during the next week and will also begin in Imperial Valley. However, no substantial volume is expected until the week of May 11

SWEET CORN: Spring (Cont'd.) and production until May 25 will probably be lighter than normal. Three weeks of cool weather during March and short periods of cool weather in April have retarded this crop. June production is expected to be heavy. This crop is generally in good condition in Alabama although cool weather at planting time slowed germination and growth. There will probably be very little movement before June 1. Acreage is down slightly from last year. Sweet corn in South Carolina has shown some improvement during the last few days and is making reasonably good progress. Harvest is expected in early June.

Summer (N.J., N.Y., Pa., Va.) Early planted fields in New Jersey made good growth during the latter part of April. The cool rainy weather at the close of the month caused wire-worms to become active in Burlington County but the clear warm weather which followed should clear up this situation shortly. Most fields in this important area show a good stand and healthy vigorous growth. Planting in north Jersey continues as fields become dry enough. Frequent rains in New York during the first half of April delayed the start of sweet corn planting in the early sections of the Hudson Valley and on Long Island. Planting became active in all early sections of the State during the week of April 21. In the main-crop section of Ulster County in the Hudson Valley, a few plantings were made during the week of April 21, but field work was interrupted again by rains April 25-28. In Pennsylvania a few fields of early sweet corn were planted in the southeastern counties during late April.

CUCUMBERS: Early Spring (Fla., Tex.) Indications are for a continued good volume of cucumbers from Florida during the first half of May with shipments coming from widely scattered areas. In South Florida, most of the acreage has been harvested but a few late fields will continue to furnish a light volume during the first half of May. In the important Wauchula section, harvesting reached its peak during the last week of April, but with favorable weather, harvest in this section is also expected to continue until around the middle of May. The situation in the Manatee-Ruskin section is about the same. In the Webster-Center Hill-Winter Garden section of Central Florida, harvesting of the covered acreage reached its peak during the second half of April. Harvesting on the open field crop has begun and this section is also expected to be a source of supplies until after May 15. The condition of the acreage remaining for harvest in the Central and South Florida areas range from poor to good. In North Florida, current prospects are generally considered to be average or above. Recent high winds have lowered the prospects somewhat, particularly on the higher lands. Light harvesting is just getting started and it is expected that this area will get into volume production around the week of May 12. In Texas production prospects improved in only part of the early spring area. Harvest of the Lower Valley crop started the latter part of April. A light picking has started from a small irrigated acreage in the Riviera section, but production from non-irrigated plantings in this area is not expected unless rains occur soon. Truck movement has started from the Sandia section and fairly active harvest is expected in this area the early part of May.

Late Spring (La., Ala., Ga., S.C., N.C., Ark., Calif.) Alabama cucumbers will be late because of unfavorable weather conditions at planting time. At present crop is generally in good condition although additional moisture would be beneficial. Little harvesting is expected to take place before June 1. The Georgia crop is reported to be making fair progress, with some harvesting expected around May 10-15. Cucumbers are making good progress in the Charleston-Beaufort area of South Carolina where plants are beginning to run. Plants in the Blackville area are not as far advanced as normal but are overcoming some of the earlier slow growth. Shipments are expected to begin the last week of May. Planting of North Carolina's fresh market acreage is virtually complete. Some of the early

**CUCUMBERS:** Late Spring (Cont'd.) plantings are up to a fair stand but growers fear that poor stands in later plantings may result from the cool damp weather which caused some of the seed to rot. A few cucumbers are available from a small acreage in the Coachella Valley of California and production there and in Imperial Valley should increase during the next two weeks. Supplies during that period will be quite limited.

Early Summer (Va., Md., Del., N.J., Ill.) In Maryland planting got under way the last half of April and some fields in the Lower Delmar Peninsula were showing leaves by the end of the month.

**EGGPLANT:** Spring (Fla.) The younger plantings in the South Florida area will continue to be the principal source of supplies during the first half of May. These younger plantings are generally in fair to good condition and with favorable weather and market conditions, harvesting is expected to continue throughout May. Light harvesting is also expected to continue throughout May from the small acreage in the Everglades. Harvest has just started on the small and widely scattered plantings in the Plant City, Manatee-Ruskin, and Webster sections, but it will be after May 15 before most of these reach full production. It will be after June 1 before any significant volume develops from the small acreage in north Florida.

**ESCAROLE:** Winter (Fla.) Indications are for a continued good supply of escarole and chicory from Florida throughout most of May and possibly into early June if weather conditions are favorable. Most of the remaining acreage is at Zellwood and in the Everglades. The condition of the crop is variable with escarole generally being in better condition than chicory.

**LETTUCE:** Early Spring (Ariz., Calif., Fla., Ga., S.C., N.C.) The production of early spring lettuce in the Salinas-Watsonville District of California increased rapidly late in April. Production is expected to show a substantial increase during the next few days. Cool spring weather prevented early planted acreage from maturing on schedule and both early planted and mid-season planted fields are expected to reach maturity during the first half of May, resulting in a period of heavy supplies. Lettuce quality has shown considerable variation to date but it is improving as the season advances. Lack of solidity and small sizes have been apparent in many fields. Lettuce production will also increase during the next two weeks in the Oxnard and Santa Maria areas, but supplies from these districts are expected to move largely to local markets and only a limited volume will be shipped. The bulk of the spring lettuce acreage in the San Joaquin Valley has been harvested and this deal should be cleaned up during the next few weeks. Some harvesting continues from Georgia fields, with late movement expected to continue until around mid-May. In the Beaufort area of South Carolina, the deal was practically over by May 1, but movement continues from the Charleston-Colleton and Sumter sections. The season is expected to be over by May 15. In the Wilmington area of North Carolina the Iceberg crop is in excellent condition. Cutting is now in progress and will reach peak about May 5-10. In the St. Helena section condition of the crop is good despite inadequate rainfall. Iceberg harvest will reach peak in St. Helena around May 5. Harvest of Big Boston and Romaine began the last ten days of April and reached its peak about May 1.

Late Spring (N.J., Penn., Idaho, Ore., Wash.) Transplanting of the crop in northern New Jersey was late but the plants stood transplanting exceptionally good and at the close of the month were making good progress. That part of the crop grown under sash is in excellent condition and cutting should start about May 8. Growth of the crop in the important Atlantic and Cumberland

LETTUCE: Late Spring (Cont'd.) County area made good growth during the latter part of April. The heavy rainfall the last week of the month halted development only temporarily. In some low fields water stood on the ground several days rotting some plants and causing poor stands. The soil in this area, however, will respond quickly to the present drying weather and with the ample soil moisture this crop is expected to develop rapidly from now until first cuttings which are now expected around May 20. Seeded lettuce is making satisfactory progress although the sustained rainfall packed the soil and held up thinning operations. Planting in the Great Meadows section is completed with the exception of some acreage still too wet to work. In Pennsylvania, weather during late April favored growth and crops in the southern and southeastern counties are looking good. The Idaho acreage is very small and probably all will be used for local consumption. Practically all of the crop was planted in the fall and it has come through the winter in fairly good condition. The late spring prevented very much planting this spring. Weather has favored seedbed preparation and growth of local-market lettuce in Oregon. Little has been planted for shipment. All transplanted fields in western Washington are now well established and soil moisture is very satisfactory after recent rains. Earliest cuttings from the South Park and Bellevue districts should be ready by June 1. Most fields show good color and are in generally satisfactory condition.

Summer (Calif., Colo., N.Y.) Long Island growers began transplanting late in March and continued through most of April. Some lettuce was also transplanted in local-market sections of upstate New York during the first week of April. Except for an interruption in planting by rains at mid-April, conditions have been favorable for an early start. Most of the early acreage on the Orange County mucklands has been sown. Many fields were damaged by water during April.

ONIONS: Early Spring (Texas) Good progress was made in harvesting the south Texas crop and conditions were favorable for rapid maturity of the late crops in this area. Field work in the Coastal Bend was interrupted by rains on two occasions the past two weeks, but most matured crops in this area were out of the fields and these rains improved yields of the acreage that remains to be harvested. Development of late crops in other areas was generally satisfactory. Hail on April 30 damaged onions from Eagle Pass to El Indio. Blight was also evident in some fields in the Eagle Pass section. The small acreage in the Wilson-Karnes area is now expected to furnish fairly good yields. Shipments from south Texas will continue fairly active the first 10 days in May. A fairly good tonnage still remains in the Coastal Bend. Laredo will be shipping through the first week of May. Some acreage still remains in the Winter Garden. Harvest of the Eagle Pass, Del Rio and Uvalde crops was expected to start May 1. Some acreage at Wilson-Karnes was ready for pulling the latter part of April. However, most of the Wilson-Karnes acreage, mainly the Creole plantings that will be used for shipment is not expected to be ready until around May 10.

Late Spring (Calif., Ariz., La., Texas, Ga.) To date California's new crop supplies have been originating from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys and these sections will continue in production for about two more weeks. These supplies have moved by truck to Coastal markets and are of exceptionally fine quality, running heavy to large sizes. Harvest will begin on the earliest fields in Kern County the week of May 4 but it will be about May 15 before a general harvest is under way in that section. Rail shipments will develop in volume from this deal. Quality and yield prospects are excellent. In the Stockton and Merced areas harvesting of red onions may begin late in May but the pulling and topping of yellow onions will not start until after June 1. Stockton onions have made satisfactory progress during the past two weeks. Because of the light acreage planted in

ONIONS: Late Spring (Cont'd.) Kern County this year and the lateness of Stockton crop, California production in May will be substantially below normal. Conditions have been exceptionally favorable for development of onions in all north Texas areas. Most of the acreage this year is in the usually later areas --extending from Ferris north to the Farmersville. However some areas are reporting progress about two weeks ahead of usual with good yields in prospect. Recent reports indicate that earliest pulling in the Ferris section will occur about May 19. Some fields in the Wylie and Princeton sections are expected to be harvested around May 20-24. However, some Panhandle acreage remained to be transplanted the latter part of April. Production from the Panhandle section is not usually available until after mid-July and harvest usually extends through August. In Georgia weather conditions have been favorable for harvest, which is getting well under way. Present indications point to top quality.

Early Summer (N.M., Wash., Iowa, Okla., Va., N.J.) In the Great Meadows area of New Jersey too much rain and cool weather during the last half of April retarded growth and caused some rot. Planting and seeding operations have been resumed and there has been some replanting. In the Cedarville section the crop generally stands about a foot high. Plants have a good color and the additional rainfall was timely for this area.

Late Summer (18 States) Planting of the important Orange County New York onion acreage was completed a little earlier than usual. Heavy rains April 5-6 and 16-17 caused spotted stands in many fields and a few fields were resown. A smaller percentage of the acreage was planted with sets this year. Set onions in the Canastota section were planted under favorable conditions and were more advanced than usual by May 1. Most of the acreage in the Elba section was planted by April 25 and the earliest fields were coming up by May 1. Rain is needed to reduce the danger of wind damage. Weather in Ohio during the last half of April has been favorable for getting the crop in the field and for growth of the young plants. Because of excessive rains and wet fields growers in many localities of California were unusually late in seeding their late summer onion crop. In the central part of the State, planting has just been completed during the past two weeks. To date the crop has made satisfactory progress. The Idaho crop was planted about two weeks late. Seeding of Oregon onions has been generally completed under favorable conditions.

PEAS: Early Spring (Calif., Miss., S.C., N.C.) Although the harvesting of peas in Kern County California was slow to get under way this year, production has been unusually heavy during the last week. The peak of the harvest season has passed in Kern County and production there should fall off sharply during the next two weeks. Limited supplies of peas have been coming from San Luis Obispo County and harvest there will continue at about present levels for two more weeks. A considerable acreage in the western portion of Fresno County, around Huron and San Joaquin, will be available for harvest through about May 20 and, if growers decide to pick and ship, a considerable volume can move from this section during the next two weeks. The Sacramento River District will not have any peas until around May 10 and no significant volume is expected from there during the next two weeks. Generally cool weather and the absence of high temperatures have been favorable for the growth and development of peas in all areas. South Carolina's small crop has been pretty well marketed except for some late acreage around Holly Hill where sales are expected to continue through the first week of May.

**PEAS: Late Spring** (N.J., Idaho, Wash., N.H., Ore.) The Idaho crop was planted later than usual but weather has been favorable for growth. Most fields have good stands. Harvest is expected to start between June 7 and 20. In Washington, earliest pickings will probably be made about June 10-15.

**PEPPERS: Spring** (Fla.) Indications are for a fairly stable movement during the first half of May. Late plantings in the important Pompano section will continue to be the major source of supplies during this period. However, the volume from this section is on the decline and harvestings will be largely influenced by weather and market conditions. Light volume also continues in prospect from the Everglades and Fort Myers sections of South Florida. Harvesting in the important Plant City section of Central Florida should show some increase during early May as younger fields come into production. Light harvesting has been in progress at Webster since mid-April and this acreage should reach full production during the first half of May. It will be the latter part of the month before any volume production can be expected from the North Florida acreage.

**Early Summer** (La., Miss., N.C.) The Louisiana crop is later than normal with earliest harvest expected around June 1. The condition of the crop is reported fair to good. Most of North Carolina's green pepper crop has been transplanted and generally is in good condition. The cool, cloudy weather that prevailed during the last week of April was favorable for transplanting and good stands have been obtained.

**COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: Early Spring** (Fla., Texas) During the last half of April digging of the Florida crop was unusually heavy as growers endeavored to harvest as much of their acreage as possible before the drop in price ceilings on May 1. This acceleration of harvest has resulted in some loss of yield and lowering of quality due to immaturity. Despite a heavy movement during the past month, harvest is expected to continue throughout most of May but at a reduced level. The Hastings area will be the principal source of supply during this time. Harvesting of the West Florida acreage is in progress and digging of this small acreage is expected to continue throughout most of May. Harvest of the Texas Lower Valley crop was completed about mid-April.

**Late Spring** (Calif., La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S.C., Ariz., Texas, Okla., Ark., Tenn., N.C.) General harvesting of early potatoes in the Edison District of Kern County, California began April 21. While the trend/shipments during the next two weeks will be up, there may be a temporary lull in harvest during the first few days in May as growers allow fields to take on additional tonnage. Production of potatoes during the next two weeks will be confined to early fields in the Edison District and a limited acreage in the Arvin District. Harvest will not become general in other sections of Kern County until about May 25. The delayed digging of early potatoes in Kern County should improve quality of early-season potatoes. Rain which fell in rather generous amounts in the Southern San Joaquin Valley on April 25 and 26 was generally beneficial. Early potato yield prospects are considered satisfactory at this time. Harvest of the Louisiana crop has passed its peak and should be practically complete by May 10. Better-than-average yields and good quality tubers have been dug. Condition of North Carolina's crop is quite variable. Some of the crop is beginning to bloom while part of it is just breaking the ground. Digging of early Cobblers will begin about May 25 in the Carteret area. In the Currituck area, the crop is about ten days later than usual and the variable planting dates will prolong the harvest season. In Weeksville area, harvest will begin about June 15. Carlot movement is under way from Baldwin County, Alabama and good yields are being realized. Digging has been rather slow to-date, but is expected to increase rapidly. Peak shipments from this County

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: Late Spring (Cont'd.) are expected during the week beginning May 12. Very few fields have been dug in Mobile County. Digging should start in Escambia County about the second week of May. Blight has shown up in some local areas but control measures have generally been effective. Prospects are very promising in South Georgia. Stands are even and the crop is making satisfactory progress. In South Carolina, recent rains have improved the condition of Irish potatoes and prospects are for good to excellent yields. Stands are even in most fields but very irregular in some fields. Reports indicate growers will leave potatoes in the ground until they are fully matured. However, digging is expected to become general during the week of May 18 with heaviest movement occurring during the last week of May. During the last half of April progress of the Texas crop was satisfactory, especially in the early sections. Production from some irrigated acreage in the San Antonio area is expected about mid-May and harvest of the non-irrigated crops is expected to start about the usual time, or the latter part of May. In the later areas moisture is ample. Scattered areas of east Texas have had excessive rains but no serious damage has occurred to date. Night temperatures have been a little too cool in some of the late areas but conditions around May 1 were generally satisfactory. Planting of the Arkansas crop was late because of too much rain and cool weather. Potatoes were just coming up in many fields by May 1. Growth has been good since it turned warmer. The Tennessee crop is generally up to even stands and making satisfactory growth. In the Franklin-Coffee area, plants average about 6 inches high. Marketing is expected to begin in this area about mid-June, which is about the usual date but earlier than in 1951. Acreage in this area was reduced sharply this year and shipments should not be very heavy at any time.

Summer (Va., Md., Ky., Mo., Kan., Nebr., Texas, Ga., N.J.) Most Kentucky fields seem to be coming up to regular stands. Weather has been ideal for rapid growth and part of the acreage has been cultivated. The Panhandle crop in Texas is up to a good stand and was making good growth as April ended. With continued good growing weather, harvest is expected to begin at about the usual time --late June or early July. The north Georgia crop is off to a late start, due to the cold, wet spring. Some acreage was being planted on May 1. The New Jersey crop was planted earlier than usual this year. Most of the early-planted fields were beginning to break ground when the continued rainfall the week of April 20-26 fell and practically covered the fields with water. Water stood in low spots several days resulting in rot and poor stands. Some growers plan to replant these spots. More than one-half the Missouri acreage was lost by recent floods but the Kansas crop escaped damage.

Other Early Areas Planting of Long Island, New York potatoes started a little later than usual and was interrupted by several heavy rains during April. However, the average date of planting was near normal for the principal varieties. With above-average temperatures during April, germination was more rapid than usual and development was a week to ten days ahead of normal by May 1.

SHALLOTS: Spring (La.) With the coming of hot weather, harvest of the Louisiana spring crop is quickly coming to an end. Cool nights prior to the end of April prolonged the crop resulting in high yields.

SPINACH: Spring (Wash., Va., Md., Mo., Ark., Okla., N. J., Pa., Ill.)

Although the growth of Washington spinach was quite slow during April because of cool nights in the Puget Sound district, most fields are in satisfactory condition. At Walla Walla the processing crop should be ready by June 1 and contracted acreage in western Washington should be ready by June 10. In Maryland spinach made excellent growth during late April. Earlier plantings in Somerset County will be ready for picking in heavy volume about May 10, although light cuttings have been under way for three weeks. In New Jersey most of the wintered-over acreage was cut by the end of April. First cuttings of winter and spring-seeded spinach are expected around Vineland the first week of May. In Pennsylvania spring-seeded spinach in the Bucks-Philadelphia area is progressing well and a few early fields are nearly ready to cut. Movement from the wintered-over crops is well under way with yields only about half of what the spring crop is expected to average. Some wintered-over spinach was marketed in southern Illinois during late February and early March, but the volume was small. The spring-planted crop is growing well.

Summer (N. Y., Colo., Wash) In New York marketing of wintered-over spinach from Long Island started about April 25. With favorable growing conditions, development of spring plantings is ahead of normal in all areas of the State.

SQUASH: Spring (Fla.) Production from the spring crop reached a peak during the second half of April and volume will decline rapidly during the first half of May. Supplies are now coming from a widely scattered area extending from North Florida to South Florida.

STRAWBERRIES: Early Spring (La., Ala., Texas, Calif.) Production of Louisiana berries has passed the peak, and shipments are now on a decline. Movement from southern Alabama has been light, but plants are blooming heavily and good supplies are in prospect from now on. Most of the crop is going to fresh markets. Harvesting has been active in central Alabama and is getting under way in the north. Production in California has been much lighter than normal but has picked up in all sections during the past few days and a heavy volume is expected during the next two weeks. Supplies will be moving into fresh markets and to freezers.

Mid-Spring (S. C., N. C., Tenn., Ark., Okla., Kans., Mo., Ill., Ky., Va., Md., Del., Calif.) The South Carolina crop is in good condition with movement under way and peak expected about May 10. North Carolina's crop was in good condition until the rains and cool weather of April 24-29th. Many of the berries ready for picking were damaged by rot and yields and quality will depend on how soon the rotting clears up. There is still a good set of berries and a fair crop is expected. Cool weather around April 24 retarded the development of Tennessee berries. A few berries moved by express during the last week of April. Volume shipments are expected from West Tennessee the week of May 5, and about 10 days later from Central Tennessee. The outlook for Arkansas strawberries is more favorable than a month ago. Cool, rainy weather had slowed ripening but with recent warmer weather there should be good volume moving from the White County and Crawford-Sebastian areas the week of May 5. Harvest will follow about one week or ten days later in Searcy County and Northwest Arkansas. Harvest is expected to begin in southern Illinois between May 10 and 20, in central areas by early June and in northern districts about June 10-15. Condition has improved. In Kentucky growing conditions have been favorable. Harvest is expected to begin during the first week in May and shipments should be well under way by May 10-12 in the Paducah-Mayfield and Bowling Green-Franklin sections. In other areas bloom is heavy and picking is expected to begin around May 20th. Old patches

STRAWBERRIES: Mid-Spring (Continued). have thin rows but new plantings look good. Blooming of strawberries in the important Salisbury and Pittsville areas of Maryland was about half over by April 30. Harvesting on the Lower Delmar Peninsula is expected to start about the middle of May.

Late Spring (N. J., Pa., Ohio, Ind., N. Y., Mich., Wis., Iowa, Utah, Wash., Ore.) Prospects in New Jersey are only fair. Moisture supplies are adequate in all areas but root diseases have affected many fields particularly in low elevation spots. Cool rains during the last week of April slowed down the crop just as blooming got under way. Most fields show poor stands which are attributed to the dry weather last year. In southern Pennsylvania, strawberries are blooming. In Erie County a few beds were still under mulch in late April while others have started buds. Strawberries generally came through the winter fairly good but in a few localities some damage from spring heaving is reported and some report damage due to the dry fall of 1951. Plants are blooming in southern Ohio, and a few scattered blooms were beginning to appear in northern Ohio by the end of April. Setting of new beds has been delayed by wet soil in some areas. Development of strawberries in New York was considerably ahead of normal by May 1. Beds came through the winter with very little damage but needed rain at the end of April to continue good growth. Soil conditions during April have been unusually favorable for transplanting new beds for picking in 1953. Frosts on April 19 and 28 did considerable damage to early blooming strawberries in southwestern Washington. In northwestern counties, frost damage has been spotted, but there has been considerable loss of early blooms. Weed control is generally satisfactory but weevil damage is more widespread than usual. A series of light frosts in Oregon during the first week of April, and generally severe frosts the mornings of April 20 and April 29, have almost destroyed the early set of Oregon strawberries. Frost injury was most severe in eastern Willamette Valley counties where there is still considerable snow in the mountains. On the other hand, there were relatively fewer early blooms and fruit to incur frost damage in western Willamette Valley counties where vigor of plants was weakened most by the extended drought of 1951. There are enough active fruit spurs left to produce a good crop. Date of harvest has been delayed by loss of early blooms until the first week of June.

TOMATOES: Early Spring (Fla., Texas, Calif.) The spring crop in Florida continues to make fair to good progress. The important Fort Pierce section, with the peak movement from April 28 to May 10, will continue to be a principal source of supply until late May. The Manatee-Ruskin and Wauchula-Plant City areas should reach peak level the week of May 5, with good volume through most of May. Shipments in the Immokalee section are declining rapidly, but harvest will continue through May. Light <sup>harvesting</sup> has started in the Webster-Oxford-Belleview-Ocala-Lowell area, with <sup>pick</sup> volume expected around the middle of the month. The crop in the Lower Valley of Texas was injured by hail on May 2. Damage was spotted over an area from Weslaco west to Donna and north to Edinburg and was most severe in the center of the Valley. Prior to the hail light rains and day time temperatures had benefited part of the Lower Valley, Texas, tomato area and yield prospects had improved. Supplies had increased substantially since the latter part of April and recent harvestings had shown a material improvement in quality. Supplies from fields in Coachella and Imperial Valleys of California have been increasing steadily during the past two weeks and a further increase is expected for the first half of May.

TOMATOES: (Continued) Late Spring (Texas, La., Miss., S. C., Ga., Ala.) Progress of the late spring crop in Texas has been delayed by unusually cool nights in all areas and excessive rains in parts of east Texas and the extreme northeastern counties. Plants were set to the fields in east Texas at about the usual time under fairly favorable conditions, but many fields have been too wet to work and the cool nights have slowed plant growth. Transplanting of the Avery crop (northeastern counties) was interrupted by hard rains and the early plantings are getting a slow start. Some of the acreages in the Yoakum and Marlin-Bremond areas that were lost by the late March freeze were replanted and are making fairly good progress. All sections need warmer weather. Advancement of the Mississippi crop is about normal and a few tomatoes may be ready for harvest the last week of May. South Carolina, tomatoes are in good condition but stands are broken in some fields. Recent rains stimulated growth and the crop is making good progress. Green wrap movement is expected to begin during the last week of May. The south Georgia crop has had sufficient moisture and is in good condition with light harvesting expected May 20-25. The Alabama crop is late because of low temperatures early in the season and setting has not been completed in the northern areas.

Early Summer (Calif., Ark., Tenn., N. C., Va., Ky., Ill., Mo., Ohio, Md., Del.) Transplanting to fields is about complete in South Arkansas. Growth was slowed by cool weather but conditions are now favorable. A heavy infestation of vegetable weevils and cutworms is reported in Bradley County. The transplanting of Tennessee tomatoes into the field was about finished by the end of April. Cool north winds have caused some loss of plants. Most of North Carolina's acreage has been transplanted, the crop is in good condition and stands are good. In southwesterly Ohio, some plants were set to the fields as early as April 18. Setting was general the last few days of April and is expected to be completed early in May.

Late Summer (13 States) Active transplanting started in southern New Jersey during the week of April 20-26 but was held up due to the continued rainfall the last part of the week. As the rains ceased during the week of April 27-May 3 farmers went back into the wet fields and started "hand planting." Early transplants in Pennsylvania have started well. Some acreage has been planted in the southern counties for canners. Ground preparation is in progress in all canning crop sections. An increased "open market" acreage is expected in Lancaster County as growers are planning to reduce tobacco this year. In New York, a few small fields were transplanted under caps during the last few days of April in the local-market sections. Transplanting of early acreage under protection will become active early in May.

WATERMELONS: Spring (Calif., Fla.) The spring crop in California is later than usual this year. Harvest in Imperial Valley will depend upon temperatures during May but it is not expected to begin until after May 15. At Blythe, picking will not begin until early June. Progress of the Florida crop is behind normal having been delayed by below normal temperatures and more than the usual amount of high winds. Yield prospects range from poor to good. In the South Florida area where about 7 percent of the acreage is located, the condition ranges from poor to good. Harvesting will continue active during the first half of May and then decrease during the second half of the month. In the Central Florida area (Ocala to Bartow), crops also range from poor to good. Slightly better than 40 percent of the State acreage is in this area. Earliest harvesting in the south end of the district (Polk County) is expected the week of May 5 with the Leesburg section starting the week of May 12. Peak movement should occur during the last week of May and the first two weeks of June. In the Gainesville area, with about 31 percent of the acreage, earliest shipments are expected the last week of May with peak occurring June 10 to 20. In the Live Oak-Monticello and West Florida

WATERMELONS: Spring (Continued) area with about 21 percent of the acreage, earliest shipments are expected June 5-10 with peak June 15-30.

Early Summer (Calif., Ariz., Texas, La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S. C., N. C., Ark., Okla., Mo.) Prospects for the Texas

crop have improved although production from open-field plantings in the early sections will be a little later than usual. Some "capped" acreage in the Lower Valley is expected to be ready for harvest by the early part of May and some "capped" acreage in the Pearsall-Millet area is expected to be in production around May 25. Earliest production from open acreage comes from the Falfurrias section, where crops are much later than usual. Other early sections are also later than usual because of early weather conditions and considerable replanting. Mid-season and late areas have had ample moisture but need warmer weather. Some areas of east Texas have been too wet and some replanting has been necessary. Production in the mid-season and later areas is not expected to be much later than usual. The Mississippi crop is a little later than usual in the Smith-Simpson-Covington County area because of difficulty in getting early stands. The crop is further advanced in the extreme southern counties where first melons are expected about June 15. Cool temperatures delayed germination and growth in southern Alabama and planting is just getting started in the northern areas. The crop is about two weeks later than usual. The Georgia crop is later than usual, due to the lateness of planting and much replanting. Because of adverse weather conditions and other factors, some areas will not harvest the acreage intended earlier in the season. In the important Allendale-Barnwell area of South Carolina, plants are not as far advanced as normal due to weather conditions. Some of this slow growth is expected to be overcome as a result of recent rains and warmer weather. Planting is nearing completion in the Chesterfield-Darlington area where first plantings are in fair to good condition. Planting in North Carolina is nearing completion. Some of the earlier plantings are up but as yet stands on these are rather spotty since early dry weather delayed seed germination. Planting was late in Arkansas and a sizable acreage was still to plant by May 1. The soil is in good condition for growth of plants.