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Conditions for development of spring vegetable crops improved considerably in most States the last half of April, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. Warmer weather during the last week of April in all Eastern and Central States helped to offset previous slow development and delays in planting. Showers in most areas of Texas and additional rains in California brought further relief to dry soil conditions. In Florida, however, locally heavy rains caused some damage to crops near harvest stage.

The overall effect of the locally heavy rains in Florida was a loss in potential production and a reduction in quality of such crops as tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, beans and squash. In spite of these losses, a good volume of shipments is expected to continue during the first half of May, with seasonal increases in sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes and watermelons offsetting seasonal declines in snap beans, cabbage and squash.

Prospects for spring vegetables in Texas improved in practically all areas as a result of warmer temperatures and showers in late April. The showers were especially beneficial to the north Texas onion crop and to east Texas tomatoes. South Texas onions matured rapidly with warm weather during the last week of April. Development of most early spring crops in Texas is still three to four weeks later than usual, but progress of mid-season and late spring crops is only slightly behind the usual schedule.

Cool weather in California during the last half of April retarded development of all vegetable crops, and resulted in relatively light marketings during the period. Crop prospects for non-irrigated vegetables in the coastal districts of southern California were substantially improved by late April rains. In Arizona, weather during the last half of April was mostly cool and cloudy with a sharp drop in temperatures at the end of the month. Vegetable crops generally are in good condition. Hard freezes in Washington around April 20 severely damaged spring vegetables, particularly carrots, cauliflower and spinach and some cantaloups under hotcaps.

Throughout the Eastern and North Central States temperatures rose sharply about April 26 to above normal levels which held through the rest of the month. The higher temperatures stimulated germination and development of early planted crops and helped to dry out wet soils which have delayed field work and planting in the North Central States. Soil moisture is adequate in the Atlantic States from New Jersey to Georgia.

ARTICHOKES: (Calif.) Supplies will remain light for the balance of the season. Growers will soon begin to cut their vines and cultivate fields in preparation for the 1951-1952 season. A light production from a few fields maintained for summer harvest will continue for several months. These supplies will be utilized locally for the most part and it will be September before new crop buds will be available in volume for the carlot trade.

ASPARAGUS: Late Spring (Calif., Oreg., Wash., S.C.) The shipping season in California has been practically completed and the balance of the crop will be utilized principally by processors. Supplies will continue to be available in volume for local markets for another 60 days. In Washington, freezing nights during the last half of April halted harvest in all producing areas for a week or ten days. By April 30 cutting had been resumed in most fields and production was gradually approaching normal volume again. The percentage of grass grading No. 1 has been less than normal to date, but quality will improve with consistent good weather. There has been no shortage of labor for harvesting the crop. In South Carolina, cutting is expected to be over by mid-May. Most of that now being cut is going to canneries.

Late Spring: (Md., Del., N.J., Pa., Mass., Mich., Ill., Iowa, N.Y.) A small amount of asparagus was cut for the fresh market in Maryland and Delaware during the last week of April--about the same time as last year. Favorable weather and soil conditions have resulted in good cultivation of beds. In New Jersey, the Swedesboro and Pedricktown Auctions opened on April 25th. This is about a normal date but is nearly two weeks earlier than that of last year. Supplies increased rapidly and heavy volumes are now available in all production areas of southwestern Jersey. Production prospects appear very favorable. Moisture is ample and processed asparagus is in great demand. A large increase in planting of new beds is evident this spring. In Pennsylvania, a light movement started at the end of April from the Bucks County acreage. The scattered beds in the southeast are pushing rapidly with the warmer weather and by May 10 harvest should be in good volume. In Erie county, beds are being prepared but spears are not showing yet. Condition of beds in Michigan is reported as good but spears are not showing. Harvest is not expected to begin until mid-May. In New York, light cuttings will be available on Long Island and in the lower Hudson Valley during the week of May 7, but most beds on the colder soils in other areas of the State have not broken ground. (See page 21 for late report from Illinois)

LIMA BEANS: Spring (Fla., Ga., S.C.) Supplies from Florida during the first half of May will continue to come from late plantings in the Pompano section and the spring acreage in the Everglades. Volume during this period is expected to show a further decline as these crops are picked out. A very small acreage of Fordhooks in the Plant City section will supplement this volume. In North Florida, the crop in the important Hawthorne-McIntosh-LaCrosse-Starke area is generally in fair condition having made considerable improvement in recent weeks. The first harvesting is expected around May 15, but it will be May 20-25 before any material volume develops with the peak shipments occurring around the first of June. The Georgia crop is about two to three weeks later than normal on account of the cold spring. There has been a slight improvement in the condition of the South Carolina crop. Shipments are expected to begin in early June, increasing in volume by June 15.

Summer: (N.C., Md., N.J., N.Y.) In Maryland, a few Fordhook limas broke through the ground when the first hot weather of the spring arrived during the last week of April. Cool weather prior to this hot spell caused considerable damage to seed and replanting became general. Conditions of soil and moisture are favorable.

SNAP BEANS: Early Spring (Tex., Fla.) In Texas, supplies are available in all areas of the Lower Valley. Movement is by trucks or in mixed cars. Crops in the later areas, practically all non-irrigated plantings, are in fairly good condition. Some of the earliest plantings will furnish a light harvest starting early in May. Supplies in Florida, which were rather heavy during the second half of April, are currently in good volume, but should decline rather rapidly as the month progresses with only light supplies available after the middle of May. Harvesting is completed in the Rompano and Homestead sections of south Florida. The important Everglades section reached its peak during the second half of April, but with favorable weather, will continue to be one of the principal sources of supplies during the first half of May. Harvesting in the Central Florida area, which is composed of the Sanford, Webster, and Plant City sections, has also passed the peak harvesting period, but these sections will continue to furnish some volume during the first half of the month. The crop in the Gainesville area of north Florida is generally in poor to good condition. Active harvesting of this crop started the last week of April and should be in its peak the first 10 days of May, with some shipments continuing until around the middle of the month. Harvesting of pole beans is near completion in Dade County. The heavy rains in the Plant City-Manatee area caused considerable damage by lowering yields and quality.

Mid-Spring: (Calif., La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S.C.) In California, cool weather during the last two weeks of April held back harvest in the Coachella Valley and snap beans are not yet in plentiful supply. During the past few days, harvest has begun on early bush beans in San Diego County. Both Coachella Valley and San Diego County will provide increasing supplies during the next two weeks providing temperatures are normal. During the first half of May there should also be a few fields of beans available for harvest in the San Joaquin Valley. Production from these various districts will be utilized almost entirely by California markets. Condition of the Louisiana crop has improved during the past two weeks, and a light harvest is expected to begin around May 10. Mississippi snap bean prospects improved with warmer weather during the last week of April. Advancement of the crop averages about two weeks later than normal, with picking expected to start about May 16, and peak movement probable during the week starting June 4. In Georgia, early plantings have made little progress in vine growth due to cold weather in the early spring. Very poor quality and yields will be harvested from this early planted acreage. Later plantings are looking good with much better yields and quality expected. South Carolina snap beans are in good condition. Shipments are expected to begin about May 10 and reach peak during the week of May 20.

Late Spring: (N.C., Ark., Va.) North Carolina's crop is up in all areas but condition is variable. Continued cool weather has retarded growth to some extent, especially in the northern part of the area. Some replanting was necessary due to seed rotting in the ground and stands generally are rather spotty. Harvest is expected to begin about May 20 in the Carteret area, with peak movement around May 30. In the Currituck area, picking will begin in a light way about May 28 and become general about June 1. In Arkansas, planting is just getting started in the Northwest and many areas are still not planted in the Van Buren Area. Few fields are up to a stand. However, with the turn to warmer weather and soil moisture generally sufficient, germination and growth should be fairly rapid. Early plantings in Virginia were coming up in the Eastern Shore and Norfolk sections on May 1. Unseasonably, cool weather during the second and third weeks of April retarded germination but warmer weather and rains during the last week of April greatly benefited the crop.

SNAP BEANS: (Continued) Early Summer (Md., Del., N.J., N.Y., Pa., Ill.) Early snap beans in Wicomico and Somerset counties and around Baltimore in Maryland were about all planted by the end of the month. First planted fields were above ground and ready for the first cultivation. High temperatures during the last week of April greatly improved conditions. The early crop on the Eastern Shore is about 4 inches high. In New Jersey, planting has been completed except in some north Jersey areas. The Burlington County fields are just beginning to break through the ground while some early plantings in Cumberland County are 2 inches high.

BEETS: Spring (La., S.C., N.C., Va.) Heavy movement of South Carolina's crop started around April 25; it was expected to reach peak about May 1 and be over by mid-May. Yield and quality are good. The crop in North Carolina is in good condition. While a very light harvest began the last week of April, it is not expected to become general until May 15, with peak movement around May 25. Virginia's crop made slow growth during the third week in April because of below normal temperatures but warmer weather and sufficient moisture during the last week of April improved prospects. Growers of transplanted beets on irrigated acreage expect to start pulling about May 14 and harvest of field seeded beets will begin around May 25. Most of the acreage is located around Driver and Churchland in Nansemond County, and around Craddock, Deep Creek and Fentress in Norfolk County. In New Jersey, growth was rather slow until the last week of April when warm sunny days arrived. The crop is in good condition with some fields in the Vineland area (Cumberland County) being 2 inches tall. Planting continues in the northeast Jersey market garden sections. Early beets are up and making good progress in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania. Later plantings are also in good condition.

BROCCOLI: Spring (Calif.) A moderate volume is being produced both in the Salinas and Santa Maria districts but the end of the season is drawing near and production during the next two weeks is expected to continue its seasonal decline. Broccoli plants in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania are in good condition.

CABBAGE: Winter (Calif., Ariz., Tex., Fla.) A considerable acreage planted for spring harvest in various southern California districts is now being cut and supplies are plentiful at the present time. While the bulk of the production is being consumed locally, several cars daily are being loaded principally in San Diego and Ventura Counties. Some cabbage is also moving in mixed cars. Production is not expected to show any particular change in the next two weeks. The acreage of cabbage remaining for harvest in Florida is generally in fair to good condition. Considerable abandonment has taken place due to market conditions and only the best quality is being harvested. During the second half of April the volume of shipments declined materially from the peak levels reached in late March and early April. This volume will continue to decline as the season progresses, but liberal supplies will continue available in practically all of the major producing sections during the first half of May, with light supplies expected to be available throughout the remainder of the month.

Early Spring: (La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S.C.) The Mississippi crop is now growing well, and yield prospects have improved. Movement began May 1, and is expected to continue through May. Peak movement is likely during the week starting May 21, although no period of heavy movement is expected because of the much smaller than usual acreage, and the more than usual variation in advancement of the crop. Harvest is underway in Mobile County Alabama. Yields are good but the acreage is small as a result of the February freeze. Cutting is expected to be completed in about 2 weeks. Cabbage of very good quality is being harvested in

CABBAGE: Early Spring (Con'd.) in southern Georgia areas, with volume movement expected during early May. Ample supplies of good quality are available in South Carolina, but movement has been lighter than anticipated because of recent market conditions. Shipments are expected to continue through most of May, but the quantity moved will depend upon market requirements.

Late Spring: (N.C., Va., Md., Tenn., Ky., Ohio, Mo., Wash.) Condition of North Carolina's crop is quite variable. About 10 percent of the crop is running to seed this year. In the Carteret area cutting of round Dutch began in a light way May 1, and will become general May 7, with peak movement expected around May 15. Condition and quality are excellent. Copenhagen cabbage is late and in poor condition with ragged stands. Harvest in the Pamlico-Carteret area will begin about May 25. In the Currituck and Weeksville areas cool weather has retarded growth and condition is only fair. Harvest will begin about May 14, but volume movement is not expected until May 25. The Virginia crop grew slowly during most of April due to unseasonably cool weather. The weather warmed up in late April and cabbage was growing rapidly around May 1. Cutting will begin somewhat later than usual, starting about May 14 in lower Northampton County and the Norfolk Sections, and about May 25 from Accomack, north. Warm, bright weather has improved Tennessee prospects considerably. Most growers have been able to give their fields a cultivation. Stands are none too good, however, and plant sizes are uneven. In Kentucky, plants are growing nicely after a late start. Transplanting to the fields in southeast Ohio was about completed by April 20 and the crop is about two weeks later than usual. Cabbage made rapid growth during the last week of April and generally looks good, in spite of the cold wet weather during the earlier part of the month. Frosts on April 21 killed some of the spring cabbage in the Walla Walla area of Washington and left the rest in poor condition. The most advanced plants in western Washington withstood the frost very well, but younger plants received a bad setback--with many leaves frozen and yellowed. Most of the plants are expected to recover, but harvest dates will be delayed.

Early Summer: (N.J., N.Y., Ga., Ind., Ill., Iowa.) In New Jersey practically all early fields have been planted except in the Budd Lake area (Morris County). Due to cool, cloudy days growth was slow until the last week of April. The Budd Lake area normally plants late because of its cooler climate. Early transplanted cabbage is now making good growth in the early areas of Long Island, New York. In the local-market areas of upstate New York transplanting was delayed by cold, wet conditions but became active during the last week of April. Some north Georgia cabbage is being set to the fields under favorable conditions.

Late Summer: (Colo., Utah, N.Mex., Minn., Ohio, Pa., Va., N.C., Ohio) Transplanting of early cabbage is well along in the Denver-Brighton section of northern Colorado and around Canon City in the upper Arkansas Valley. However, the weather has been too cool for normal growth. In Ohio, the early plantings in Lorain County made very little growth up until the last week of April and are two to three weeks later than last year. Most of the acreage of late summer cabbage for market will be in the fields by the middle of May. Some early cabbage was set out during the latter part of April in all areas of Pennsylvania.

CANTALOUPS: Spring (Calif., Fla., Ariz.) Cantaloup plantings in the Desert areas of California have been retarded by the cool weather that has prevailed during the past two weeks. Picking is continuing on the few brush covered plantings in the Imperial Valley but the production from these fields has so far consisted of small sized melons which have been put up in flats for coast markets. A few crates of melons will be picked from earliest paper covered fields around Brawley during the first week in May for coast markets but

CANTALOUPS: Spring (Cont'd.) it will be the second week of the month--possibly as late as May 10--before the first car will be loaded.

Normal temperatures during the next two weeks could bring on a heavy volume of melons for harvest during the last half of May but continued cool weather will cause volume to develop slowly. Crop prospects in the Imperial Valley are good at the present time despite the presence of some disease. Quality is expected to be better than in 1950. It is not likely that cantaloup harvest will begin at Blythe this year until after June 1. The spring cantaloup crop in Florida has made fair to good progress during recent weeks but is still somewhat delayed from the prolonged cool weather. The principal acreage of this crop is in the area around Oxford, Bellview, Ocala, Williston, and Newberry, with scattered plantings in Central, South, and extreme North and West Florida. Harvesting is just getting under way on the small acreage in the Immokalee section of South Florida and is expected to start in the area around Ocala during late May, reaching its peak during the early part of June. Most of the acreage is planted to Hale's Best and shipments will be made monthly in bulk. Spring cantaloups in the Yuma^{area} of Arizona are coming along nicely and first shipments are expected around the middle of May. Some of the vines were whipped by strong winds during the last few days of April, and had to be untangled by hand, but little actual damage has been reported.

Early Summer: (Nev., Ga., S.C., Ariz.) Progress of the Georgia cantaloup crop has been slow due to the unusually cool nights of mid-April. Stands are reported irregular and much replanting has taken place, with some fields abandoned and planted to other field crops. In South Carolina, planting of early summer cantaloups has been completed except in the Pageland area which is two to three weeks later than other areas. Stands are reasonably good but cool weather and wind has retarded growth. The early summer crop in the Salt River Valley of Arizona is developing well under generally favorable weather conditions although the cool weather during the last week of April may slow growth to some extent. Planting is practically completed in this area.

Mid-Summer: (12 States) In the San Joaquin Valley of California, weather so far this spring has benefited early planted cantaloup fields although temperatures have been cool during the last half of April. Early fields are up to stand and are reported to be making satisfactory progress. The absence of rains during March and in the first three weeks of April was beneficial as it enabled growers to obtain satisfactory stands in early fields without having to replant due to crusting which usually follows rains in the West Side section. However, rains which have fallen in that section during the past ten days are probably going to make it necessary to replant some of the mid-season fields. In Texas, cantaloup prospects improved in the second half of April, especially during the last few days of the month. Irrigated plantings in the Lower Valley, Laredo and Winter Garden sections have made splendid vine growth and were blooming profusely with conditions favorable for a good set. A few fields in the Winter Garden that escaped damage from the mid-March frosts are expected to furnish a light harvest around May 12-14, and a small acreage in the Valley will be in production around mid-May. Most of the Laredo plantings are not expected to be in production until the latter part of the month. Crops in the non-irrigated early areas, although about three weeks late, are improved. Considerable acreage in the mid-season area is well advanced and planting of the late crops was practically completed. In Arkansas, very few cantaloups have been planted but a considerable acreage will probably be put in during the first week of May. In Colorado some early varieties have been planted in the important Arkansas Valley but warmer weather and moisture are badly needed at this time for germination.

CARROTS: Winter (Calif., Ariz., Tex., La.) Harvesting of winter carrots continues active in the Imperial Valley of California where the deal is approaching the clean-up stage. Shipments are expected to begin their decline during the next two weeks and total loadings during May should be considerably lighter than in other years. Quality of tops in some fields has declined and this condition is reflected in the increased loadings of topped carrots. Fields which are suitable for bunching are producing good quality tops and roots. Sizes are running heavy to medium and large due principally to the advanced condition of the crop.

Spring: (Calif., Ariz.) Spring carrots in all districts of California have made satisfactory progress and are at a normal stage in their development for this season of the year. Salinas will probably have a few carrots at or near harvest stage shortly after May 20. However, volume of spring carrots produced in May in this and other districts will be limited. Plantings in the San Joaquin Valley, the area which has generally provided the bulk of the new crop carrots during May in past years, are very limited this spring. Volume supplies will originate from Salinas and Oxnard in June but production will be well under the levels of recent years due to the reduction in spring acreage. Only a few cars of spring carrots are moving from Arizona at present with Yuma out of the deal entirely. Volume movement probably will not start until around mid-month.

Summer: (N.J., N.Y., Ohio, Colo.) Growth of New Jersey carrots was rather slow until the last week of April. Fields in the Vineland area of Cumberland County are about one inch high. Planting still continues in the Great Meadows and Northeast Jersey sections. In Ohio temperatures and moisture conditions during the last week of April have been favorable for growth of the young carrot plants.

CAULIFLOWER: Early Spring (Calif., Oreg.) Production of spring cauliflower in California has shown a rapid decline during the past ten days due partially to cool weather and partially to the tapering off of the harvest season. Some further decline in production is anticipated during the next two weeks for the carlot trade is completed in the San Francisco Bay area. Most of the supplies during this period will be originating from the Santa Maria district. Quality is beginning to decline as it always does late in the season.

Late Spring: (Wash.) In Washington, cauliflower fields were hard hit by the freezing weather around April 20 in the Bothell-Woodinville-Redmond area of King County. A large part of the acreage in this area is being replanted. Growers report that there is danger of the remaining plants going to seed when they start to mature. In the Auburn-Kent district, plants were further advanced and damage was less. The ground is now in good condition for replanting and for setting out later plantings.

Summer: (N.J., N.Y., Colo.) In New Jersey, some "frame" cauliflower may be ready for harvest by May 20th. However the outdoor crop progressed rather poorly until the warmer weather arrived in late April. Good stands are reported by most growers. Practically all of the summer crop is grown in the northeast market garden section. In Colorado, some early transplanting is under way around Denver and Canon City. Plants for the principal Colorado deal in the important San Luis Valley will be set in May. Water shortage in the latter area is very critical and is expected to result in a reduction in the acreage planted this year in Costilla County.

CELERY: Spring (Fla., Calif.) The spring celery acreage remaining for harvest in Florida is generally in fair to good condition. A small percentage of the acreage is still showing some seeders, but the majority of the crop is free of this condition. The locally heavy rains during mid-April caused slight damage to the crop and some abandonment was necessary, but where these rains were not excessive, the yields were generally increased by this added moisture. Harvesting continues at a high level and the acreage remaining for harvest during the balance of the season is slightly more than at this time last year. Harvesting of the sand land acreage at Sanford is finished and practically complete at Sarasota. Cutting on the acreage in north Florida started the week of April 23. Supplies are now coming from the Everglades, Oviedo, Zellwood, and north Florida sections. Spring celery production in the Venice-Sawtelle district of California has not expanded as rapidly as normal due primarily to market conditions. Growers have been delaying harvest, hoping for some improvement in the price of this crop. The delay in harvest has enabled mature fields to take on more size and packs are running fairly large at the present time. Quality being produced from the Venice deal continues excellent.

Summer: (N.Y., N.J., Ohio, Mich., Oreg., Calif.) In Orange County, New York, warmer weather during the last few days of April speeded up development of early celery grown under sash, paper and cloth. Some celery was transplanted to open fields as early as mid-April and transplanting has continued with no interruption. About 75 percent of the total Orange County acreage was set by May 1. No frost damage has been reported to date. In New Jersey planting of the early celery crop has been completed in both the Paramus (Bergen County) and Great Meadows (Warren County) sections. Good progress was made during the last week of April. In Ohio, planting of the celery crop was general by April 25 and a good portion of the covered celery in Portage County was set by May 1. Planting of the early celery crop will be completed soon after mid-May. Field planting of early summer celery has begun in the Muskegon and southwest sections of Michigan.

SWEET CORN: Spring (Fla., Tex., Calif.) The condition of the spring corn crop in Florida is irregular with most of the acreage in the main producing sections in fair to good condition. The cool weather has generally retarded the growth of the crop, particularly in the Central and North Florida areas and harvesting has been delayed. In the important Everglades section, the peak level was reached during the last week of April, but a good volume is expected to continue from this section during the first half of May with harvesting on some late acreage continuing until early June. Harvesting is in progress in the West Coast and Wauchula-Plant City sections. Much of this acreage is showing the effects of excessive rain and yields are generally expected to be reduced. The earliest harvesting in the important Zellwood section is expected to start the week of May 7 with a fair volume developing around the middle of May, and the peak movement should occur during late May and early June. Light harvesting has started from a few early fields in the Winter Garden-Sanford-Leesburg area, but it will be around May 10 before any material volume develops from the Sanford, Winter Garden areas. The acreage in north Florida is expected to start around the week of May 21 with the bulk of this crop moving the last week of May and the first week in June. Prospective production of Texas sweet corn continues late in all areas. Crops in the irrigated Lower Valley section, usually in production starting in early April, have made slow growth and the acreage this year is very light. An occasional field may furnish a light harvest the early part of May, but most crops do not promise production until around the middle of the month. Under normal conditions, some of the early section outside of the Valley are in production by this time. Crops in these later areas have made slow growth as a result of cold weather and are not expected to be in production until the early part of June. Solid carlot movement is not expected to be heavy this year from

SWEET CORN: Spring (Cont'd.) any of the producing areas. A steadily increasing volume of sweet corn has been moving from the Coachella Valley of California during the last half of April, but cool weather during the period has delayed maturity in most fields and harvest schedules are behind those of last year. Harvest volume will expand materially during the first half of May but temperatures will govern the rapidity of increase. With normal temperatures, the Coachella Valley should begin producing a heavy volume between May 10 and 15. Limited supplies of sweet corn are also available from early fields in the Imperial Valley.

Summer: (N.J., N.Y., Pa., Va.) In New Jersey, early fields are 3 inches high in the Beverly area (Burlington County), but planting continues in north Jersey. Beverly growers report excellent stands. In New York, considerable sweet corn was planted during the last week of April in early areas of the Hudson Valley and in the local-market sections of the State. Field preparation is making good progress in the main-crop sections of the Hudson Valley. A few fields of sweet corn are planted in southeastern Pennsylvania where a sizeable acreage of this crop is expected to be planted this year. Planting of Virginia sweet corn acreage in the commercial producing Eastern Shore-Norfolk Section has been completed and corn is up to good stands in many fields. Preliminary indications are that sweet corn acreage will be slightly larger than in 1950.

CUCUMBERS: Early Spring (Fla., Tex.) Supplies of Florida cucumbers reached heavy proportions during the second half of April when practically all producing sections in south and central Florida started active harvesting. Heavy abandonment occurred in practically all areas and many fields were disced up or abandoned after one-fourth to one-half of the potential production was harvested. In the Wauchula, Palmetto, Plant City, and Fort Pierce sections, excessively heavy local rains caused extensive damage to fields on low and poorly drained land. Harvesting in the Fort Myers and Immokalee sections was generally discontinued around the first of May. This same condition prevailed in the Fort Pierce, Pompano, and Homestead sections, however, indications were that some harvesting would be resumed in the Fort Pierce and Homestead sections if market conditions warrant. Some fields have also been abandoned in the Palmetto, Ruskin, Wauchula, and Plant City sections, but harvesting is expected to continue from the better fields in these sections throughout the middle of May and possibly the entire month, depending on weather and market conditions. The Webster, Center Hill, and Winter Garden crops suffered some damage from rain, but the crops as a whole are generally in fair to good condition. Harvesting is now at its peak and will continue active during the first half of May. In north Florida, the crop is generally in very good condition with the first harvest expected around May 10 with a good volume around May 20. The acreage in the Blountstown-Althea section of west Florida is reported to be making fair progress and is expected to start light harvesting by May 15-20. In Texas most crops of spring cucumbers have shown considerable improvement the past two weeks considering effects of continued cool nights and strong winds. Crops have made fairly good vine growth as a result of warmer daylight temperatures and light showers, although all sections will need additional moisture to assure moderate yields. Stands are fairly good in some fields, but windbreaks have not been strong enough to prevent some loss of plants in all sections. A heavy bloom started the latter part of April. A small acreage in the Riviera section was expected to furnish some production starting the first few days of May, but harvest of the main crop is not expected to start until around May 10. Crops at Ingleside show promise of holding a good set but are not expected to be in production until about mid-May. Even with favorable conditions the remainder of the season, active rail movement from this year's acreage is not expected to last over two weeks. Supplies for local markets may continue into the early part of June.

CUCUMBERS: (Continued). Late Spring (La., Ala., Ga., S.C., N.C., Ark., Calif.)
The spring cucumber crop in Alabama will be late due to unfavorable weather conditions at planting time. Most of the fields were replanted and are now up to good stands. Harvest is expected to begin the latter part of May. The Georgia cucumber crop is reported to be later than normal. A late start and poor stands are expected to reduce yield prospects. The late spring crop in South Carolina has shown some improvement during the last two weeks and is now considered in good condition in most areas. Movement is expected to begin about May 21. Planting of North Carolina's fresh market cucumber acreage is virtually complete. Some growers had to replant due to seed rotting in the ground. Cool nights have retarded growth. Stands are generally good. Some damage has been caused by cucumber beetle but control measures are being used effectively. Some damping off has occurred but damage is not serious. Some cucumbers are up in southwest Arkansas, but many acres remain to be planted. Due to unfavorable prices in recent years and disease, growers in southwestern counties are losing interest in cukes and some are going to quit raising them. However, a number of farmers in Bradley County (southeast Arkansas) are planting cukes for the first time this year.

EGGPLANT: Spring (Fla.) Supplies of Florida eggplant increased materially during the second half of April as the spring plantings in the Pompano and Everglades sections came into active harvest. Most of the supplies during the first half of May will continue to come from these sections. The late plantings in the Pompano section are generally in fair to good condition. In the Everglades, the crop has been subjected to rather heavy rains with some hail, but with favorable weather, much of this setback is expected to be overcome. Very light harvesting has started at Plant City where the crop is generally in poor to fair condition due to the excessively heavy rains which have fallen in this area. It will be the middle of May before any appreciable volume develops from this acreage. The small acreage of north Florida is generally in fair to good condition, but retarded somewhat by the prolonged cool weather. Earliest harvesting is expected around the first of June.

ESCAROLE: Winter and Spring (Fla.) Movement of escarole and chicory from Florida declined slightly during the second half of April and is expected to continue in a seasonal decline during the balance of the season with only limited movement after the middle of May. Supplies during the first half of May will continue from the Everglades and Zellwood sections supplemented by small plantings in scattered areas. After the middle of May the acreage at Zellwood will be the principal source of supply.

LETTUCE: Early Spring (Ariz., Calif., Ga., S. C., N. C.) Shipments of Arizona lettuce from the Salt River Valley passed its peak during the first half of April, but have held up to a good volume during the last half of the month. Volume is expected to drop off rapidly with the deal practically completed by May 5, except for a small acreage that will not be ready to cut until the week of the 7th. The final wind up is expected around May 12. Harvesting of the early spring lettuce crop in California is being retarded by cool weather and the quality of current cuttings has also been adversely affected. Low temperatures have not permitted fields to mature on schedule nor attain normal sizes. Growers generally are well ahead on their fields. An increasing acreage will become available for harvest in the principal producing Salinas-Watsonville area during the next two weeks and some expansion in production is anticipated. However, the rate and extent of any production increase will be dependent upon temperatures. Harvesting of lettuce has been completed in the San Joaquin Valley. The bulk of the supplies are originating from the Salinas-Watsonville district; the Santa Maria and Oxnard districts are also providing lettuce at this time. The Georgia lettuce deal is in full swing with quality and yields above average. Some harvesting from late plantings is expected to last until around May 15. Shipments of South Carolina's lettuce are declining and the season is expected to be over by mid-May. Yields and quality are very good. North Carolina's Iceberg lettuce crop is in excellent condition. Harvest began on April 30. Heads are large (4 dozen per L. A. crate) and quality is excellent. Peak movement is expected during the week of May 7. Harvest of Romaine and Big Boston began the last week of April and reached peak during the first week of May.

Late Spring: (N.J., Pa., Idaho, Ore., Wash.) Some New Jersey hot house lettuce (a very small acreage) will begin moving by May 15 in the north-eastern part of the State. The first open field movement of importance will occur in the Vineland area (Cumberland County) and is expected to start by May 20th. Other areas of the State lying in Cumberland, Atlantic, Cape May counties and northeast Jersey will start soon after. The crop is generally in just fair condition due to cool weather until the last week of April. However, the recent warm sunny days have been very beneficial and the crop looks healthy in all areas. Plantings continue to be made in Great Meadows, while thinning of seeded lettuce

LETTUCE: Late Spring. (Continued) is being completed in the Cedarville area. In Pennsylvania much early field and head lettuce was transplanted during late April and has made a good start. Few lettuce plants in Washington were killed by the frosts around April 20 but nearly all fields were definitely set back. Plants recently set out in the field appear to have suffered more than those set out earlier. Most seeded fields were damaged only slightly.

Summer: (Calif., Colo., N.Y.) Early fields have been seeded in the Denver-Brighton section of northern Colorado and around Canon City in the upper Arkansas Valley. A small acreage has also been seeded in the San Luis Valley. Cold weather has retarded germination and very little lettuce will be on the market before June. Transplanting of early lettuce in the local-market sections of New York was delayed by cold, wet soil until the last ten days of April. Plantings are now getting off to a good start with ample soil moisture and warmer weather at the end of the month.

ONIONS: Early Spring (Texas) In south Texas most of the Raymondville crop is expected to be shipped by the end of the first week in May. Shipments from Laredo became active the week of April 23 and are expected to continue active through the first two weeks in May. Light showers over the weekend of April 29 caused only a slight interruption in field work and temperatures as high as 106 degrees were recorded on April 30. Onions were maturing fast but it was expected to take about two weeks to complete harvest. In the Winter Garden section, April shipments were limited mainly to a small acreage in the southern part of the area. Harvest at Carrizo Springs and Crystal City was starting May 1 and the La-Pryor-Uvalde section expected to start the second week in May. Production in volume from the Eagle Pass section is not expected until around the middle of the month. The small acreage in the Wilson-Karnes area is not expected to furnish enough production to be a factor in this year's carlot movement. With no weather interference, the crop in south Texas should be well out of the way before the north Texas crop comes into production. The quality of onions in the areas of harvest--Raymondville, Laredo and Winter Garden--is exceptionally good and crops in the Eagle Pass-Del Rio section also show promise of good quality onions.

Late Springs: (Calif., Ariz., La., Texas, Ga.) In California harvesting of onions has been active in the Imperial Valley for the past two weeks, but because of the limited acreage and the relatively light crop in that area, only a limited volume has been moving from this deal. Most supplies have been going into coast markets. While white onions have been the principal variety produced so far, some yellow Bermudas are beginning to make their appearance. In Kern County, harvest for the truck trade has begun in a small way on a limited early acreage of yellow babosas and granos and there will probably be a few white wax available there during the next two weeks. However, onions of suitable quality and in sufficient quantity for the carlot trade will not be available until the second week in May. A few onions are moving into California markets from the Coachella Valley. In the Merced and Stockton areas, transplanted onions for later harvest have made satisfactory progress during the past two weeks but crop prospects are still not good. It appears that these onions will mature late this year due to late planting and an adverse winter and that relatively light yields will be experienced. Harvest of late spring onions in Arizona will start about May 7. The crop is in excellent condition and a good yield is in prospect. Conditions improved during the last half of April in all north Texas onion areas. Most areas that were badly in need of surface moisture--particularly for young onions--got some good showers the week ending April 21 and fairly good additional rains were received the last week in April. There is considerable acreage of young onions in

ONIONS: Late Spring (Continued) the late areas of north Texas that had made very slow top growth. With the recent rains and better growing conditions these onions are now expected to make sufficient top growth to produce fairly good onions. There is a fair-sized acreage of older onions, some at Farmersville, part of the Ferris plantings, and a small irrigated acreage at Hearne that show promise of good yields and quality. These plantings may be ready for harvest by the latter part of May. Plantings in the usually early sections of north Texas--Taylor-Bartlett-Hearne-- were lowered materially this year. Therefore, the main movement will come from the heavily increased area around Dallas where shipments are not expected to be active until the early part of June. Harvesting of the late spring onion crop in Georgia is expected to get under way around May 5-10. More growers than usual will be grading this season and indications point to a high percentage of top quality onions.

Early Summer: (New Mexico, Wash., Iowa, Okla., Va., N. J.) In New Jersey growers generally report good stands and color on onions although growth was slow until the last week of April when warmer weather occurred. Moisture supplies are adequate and yield prospects are generally good. Planting operations are just winding up in Great Meadows but some early plantings in that area are 8 inches high. Some fields in the Cedarville area stand nearly a foot high. Virginia onions have not grown out as well as expected because of below normal temperatures and short rainfall around mid-April. Rains and normal temperatures during the last week of April have improved the condition of onions. Harvest of the acreage around Onancock and Cashville will start about June 15.

ONIONS: Late Summer (18 States) With little interruption by rains, planting of Orange County onions in New York was practically finished by May 1. Rainfall in this area has been light since the soil was soaked by heavy rains at the end of March. Some fields are now getting dry enough to blow if high winds occur. Early-planted set and seed onions have come up slowly and unevenly due to cold soil temperatures and crusted soil from the heavy rains earlier, but stands are generally satisfactory. With poor prospects for come-up on seed onions, some growers planted more sets than they planned earlier. Frequent rains have continued to interfere with planting in all other areas of New York State. About two-thirds of the acreage in the Elba area was planted by May 1. In the Canastota section, progress was slow until the last few days of April but planting could be completed with a week or ten days without interruption in May. In Ohio weather during the last week of April has been favorable for getting the crop planted and for growth of earlier plantings. Most Michigan areas have started planting but there are still a large number of fields that are too wet to work. Seeding was completed in all areas of Colorado in the usual time and many fields are up to a good stand, but germination and growth have been slow generally, due to cold weather.

GREEN PEAS: Early Spring (Calif., Miss., S. C., N. C.) The bulk of the spring pea crop in California has already moved. Kern County peas are about cleaned-up, but some late acreage remains to be harvested at Huron, and this section should produce a fair volume during the next ten days. Harvesting of peas will continue for another month in San Luis Obispo County, but total supplies are light and will be used largely locally or in mixed cars. A small acreage in San Diego County will be available for picking during the next two weeks and some cars may be loaded there. The Sacramento River district will come into production about May 10, and this section will be the principal source of California peas during the balance of the season. However, the acreage planted in the River district this year is 50 percent less than the acreage harvested a year ago and consequently it will not be as much a factor in the deal as it normally has been. A considerable acreage in the River district was planted late and shipments

GREEN PEAS: Early Spring (Continued) are expected to peak toward the end of May when these patches reach maturity. In South Carolina, practically all of the crop has been harvested and the season is expected to be over by May 10.

Late Spring: (N. J., Idaho, Wash., N. Mex., Ore.) In Washington growers have staked and are now stringing fields of market peas. Growth of the plants has been slowed by cold nights and frosts, but most vines appear vigorous, and a few early fields are showing some blossom.

Summer: (N. Y., Colo., Idaho) In New York some market peas planted in March on Long Island are now six inches high. Some fields on heavier soil were slow in breaking ground but development is somewhat ahead of normal. Early-sown peas in the local-market sections upstate have germinated slowly and unevenly. Very few were up by May 1. In the market pea and bean areas of central New York, very few peas were sown until late April. In Colorado a few early fields have been planted but germination has been slow because of low temperatures. June supplies will be light.

GREEN PEPPERS: Spring (Fla.) In Florida volume declined slightly during the second half of April as the important Pompano section passed its peak production. Locally heavy rains have caused some damage in this area particularly in the quality of the fruit. With favorable weather, this section will continue to be the principal source of supply during the first half of May, and harvest should continue through the rest of the month. In the Everglades, a good portion of the spring crop has been injured by rather heavy rains with hail in some localities. In the important Plant City section, the crop ranges from very poor to good depending on the amount of rainfall and the adequacy of the drainage. Fields on low and poorly drained land have suffered extensively and the average condition of the crop is much below normal. A light harvest is in progress, but it will be the middle of the month before any substantial volume develops. In the Webster section, the crop is generally reported to be in fair to good condition. A very light harvest is in progress from small seed bed plantings, but it will be May 15-20 before harvesting in volume takes place. The crop in the Sanford-Samsula section ranges from poor to good with earliest harvest expected around the middle of May. The crop in the Gainesville section of north Florida is generally in fair to good condition, but slightly delayed from the continued cool weather. Earliest harvesting is expected in late May with the bulk of the crop to be harvested in June.

Early Summer: (La., Miss., N. C.) Louisiana green peppers are looking good, and picking is expected to start about June 1 but will not become heavy before the second week of June. The Mississippi green pepper crop is responding to warmer weather, but plants are small and development averages about two weeks later than normal for May 1. Most of the North Carolina crop has been transplanted and is generally in good condition. Plants were very good this year and stands are nearly perfect, but the crop needs rain. With favorable weather, harvest is expected to begin around the third week of June.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: Early Spring (Fla, Texas) Growing conditions have continued favorable in the important Hastings section of Florida and the average maturity of the crop is somewhat delayed. The first two weeks in May will see the peak harvest of this deal with digging continuing throughout the month. Excellent yields are being obtained, but some trouble with immaturity was experienced in the early diggings.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: Early Spring (Continued) The small acreage of white potatoes at LaCrosse also shows good prospects with harvest expected to begin the week of May 7. In this area, digging of the small acreage of reds is in progress. The spring acreage in the Everglades is mostly harvested, but some digging will continue well into May. Yields and quality in this areas have been good. Harvest of the Texas Lower Valley crop was practically completed by May 1, and movement from that area is expected to be finished the first week in May.

Late Spring: (Calif., La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S. C., Tex, Okla., Ark., Tenn., N.C.)

Kern County, California's early Edison district has produced only a limited volume of potatoes to date as most growers are allowing tubers to mature and size properly so that maximum production can be realized. Also, the market has not been too strong and it is likely that higher prices would have brought out heavier movement. An increase in production, principally from the Edison district, is anticipated during the next two weeks as many growers intend to follow potatoes with cotton and fields must be cleared in order to plant the latter crop. The Edison district will continue to provide practically all of the new potatoes available from California during the next two weeks. It will be the second half of May before later producing districts of Kern County come into production. Quality of early potatoes has been generally good and most packs have consisted of well-sized, smooth tubers with well or fairly well set skins. A few potatoes were dug in Louisiana the last week in April, but they were found to be small. Peak movement from this State should be in the second week of May. The crop looks as though it may turn out better than expected following the mid-March freeze. The Mississippi crop is growing rapidly, and harvest is expected to start about mid-May. Very light digging began in southern Baldwin County during the last week in April. As expected, volume movement began in southwest Alabama on May 3. Peak movement should occur around mid-May. No appreciable disease damage has been reported and yield prospects are good. In north Alabama, potatoes are up to even stands. Potato prospects are very promising in south Georgia. Some harvest is expected about May 1 if weather conditions continue favorable. Crop prospects in South Carolina are unusually promising. Stands are regular and plants look exceptionally good. Digging is expected to get under way about May 15, and reach a peak during the last week of May. Crops in most late spring areas of Texas were improved by the late April rains and somewhat warmer daytime temperatures. Production in the early areas is expected to be ready for harvest soon after the middle of the month and the later areas in eastern and northeastern counties should have a light harvest starting the latter part of May. Yield prospects are good in all sections. In south Arkansas, most potatoes are up to a stand and are making good growth. Some late-planted fields are just coming up in the White County and Arkansas River Valley areas. Some early-planted fields in these two areas were frozen back by late April freezes but are now making growth. In Tennessee, planting is complete in Franklin County and nearly complete in Coffee County. Some early planted potatoes were in the ground a long time before coming up due to cool, wet weather in early spring. There was even a very small amount of replanting. A few fields are now up to reasonably good stands. The condition of North Carolina's crop is generally good. Stands are a little spotty due to the cool, damp spring, but growth during the past week has been very satisfactory. In the Carteret area, plants are beginning to bloom. Light digging will begin in this area the last week of May with movement becoming heavy about June 1. Harvest in Beaufort and Hyde counties will be under way about June 8. Digging in Currituck is expected to get under way the last week of May. The crop in the Elizabeth City area will be moving by June 1.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: (Continued)

Summer: (Va., Md., Ky., Mo., Kans., Nebr., Tex., Ga., N. J.) Virginia's Eastern Shore and Norfolk section potatoes are up to good stands and were making satisfactory growth as April ended. In the Norfolk section the acreage is planted mostly to the Cobbler and Sebago varieties with about the same acreage in each variety. On the Eastern Shore, the Cobbler is, as usual, by far the leading variety, but a larger percent of the crop is planted to other varieties than in former years. The Sebago matures 10 to 20 days later than the Cobbler. The major portion of the Kentucky acreage is just coming thru the ground. It is a little early yet to be certain of stands. Most of the Texas Panhandle crop is a little later than usual and was just coming up the latter part of April. The lateness, however, had some advantage as practically no damage resulted from the mid-April cold spell. Harvest usually starts the latter part of June, but very little production is expected this year before mid-July. The north Georgia crop is also later than usual due to the cold and wet weather this spring. Some acreage remained to be planted as April ended. Planting has been completed in New Jersey. Early Cobblers have appeared above ground in south Jersey and are beginning to appear above ground in central areas of the State. Most growers report the crop to be in good condition. However, some low spots drowned out and a few fields planted before April 1 show signs of rot due to the continued wet weather during the first three weeks of April. Several growers who normally plant a large acreage are not planting potatoes this year.

Other Early Areas: Most of the Cobblers on Long Island, New York were planted during the last ten days of March and most of the Katahdins and Green Mountains were planted during the first ten days of April. Some of the early-planted Cobblers are just starting to break ground. Katahdins are rapidly replacing Green Mountains as the main late variety on Long Island.

RHUBARB: Spring (Pa.) Marketings of field grown rhubarb are increasing from the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania. With conditions about normal, growth has been satisfactory in the southeast. In the northwest, and elsewhere in the State a few warm days are needed before the crop will be ready to harvest.

SHALLOTS: Spring (La.) Harvest of the spring shallot crop in Louisiana was heavy during the last half of April and the season is about over.

SPINACH: Spring (Wash., Va., Md., Mo., Ark., Okla., N. J., Pa., Ill.) In Washington, early spinach was frozen in Spokane and in some King County fields by late April freezes. Most such fields are being replanted. Other western Washington and Walla Walla plantings suffered varying amounts of damage, but local markets are being supplied with fair quality spinach. In Maryland, harvest, which started during the last week of March, is still under way. The plentiful moisture and cool temperatures have been extremely favorable for growth. In Arkansas, harvest of a heavy crop of good quality spinach is past the peak but marketings should continue through the first week of May. Wintered over spinach is being harvested in scattered areas of New Jersey. Stands are poor in many areas because of winter killing. The winter and spring sown portions of the crop are making good progress and the first harvestings are expected around Vineland next week. The warmer weather has brought rapid development of wintered-over spinach in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania and heavy supplies are now available for market and processing. Spring sown crops have shown much improvement too and some early planted crops are about ready to be cut. Volume of spring planted, however, will not be heavy until after mid-May. Some early spinach was planted in the Cobden area of Illinois about April 15, and in the Godfrey area about April 24. Some carryover spinach has been marketed recently but not in any volume.

SPINACH: (Continued) Summer (N. Y., Colo., Wash.) In New York marketing of wintered-over spinach from Long Island started about April 25, and light supplies are expected from most of the local-market sections upstate early in May. Most of the wintered-over spinach in upstate areas is in poor condition. Spring spinach in the local-market sections was sown later than usual and is slow coming up. In Colorado a small amount of spinach is being supplied local markets from early fields around Denver. Canon City will have a small acreage for truck movement in May. No carlot shipments are expected before June.

SQUASH: Spring (Fla.) The volume of squash from Florida during the second half of April showed only a slight increase over the movement of the previous semi-monthly period. This was due to a combination of market and weather conditions as prospective supplies for the second half of the month were very heavy, and heavy abandonment took place during this period. The locally heavy rains caused considerable damage in the important Plant City section. The crop in the important McIntosh section of north Florida has passed its peak, but should satisfactory market conditions develop, a good volume could be expected to continue throughout the first half of the month.

STRAWBERRIES: Early Spring (La., Ala., Texas, Calif.) The warm weather for the past two weeks has pushed the Louisiana crop and ripening has become much more rapid. It is thought that fresh market movement about reached its peak on April 30 with a shipment of the equivalent of 50 cars. Some processors made offers to buy stemmed berries on the last day of the month, but not many were sold for processing. Movement of strawberries in the Butler and Conecuh County area of Alabama has been light during the past two weeks. The crop continues to bloom heavily and, if weather is favorable for the next few weeks, movement should increase materially. Most of the crop is going to the fresh market from this area. Picking is in full swing in Chilton County and getting under way in the Cullman County area. Harvesting in California was rather slow to reach volume stage in southern sections but is now in full swing. While some early producing sections, such as San Diego County, will begin to show a decline in volume during the two weeks, increasing production from the heavy producing Santa Maria area and from fields in the Los Angeles and Orange County districts will more than offset this decline.

Mid-Spring: (S. C., N. C., Tenn., Ark., Okla., Kans., Mo., Ill., Ky., Va., Md., Del., Calif.) In South Carolina, shipments are now at their peak. The season is expected to be over around May 20. In North Carolina yields and quality are very good this year. Heaviest movement from the Tabor City and Chadbourn areas is expected during the first two weeks of May. In the Wallace area peak movement is expected about May 14. Cool nights have retarded ripening to some extent. Tennessee strawberry fields are white with blooms at this time. There are green berries of various sizes on the plants and a few ripe ones here and there. Quantity shipments are expected about May 7 from Madison County, later in the week from Crockett and Gibson Counties, and about May 14 from Weakley County (all these counties are in west Tennessee). Shipments are also expected from Portland in middle Tennessee about May 14. Arkansas strawberries were delayed by late frosts, but will soon be in production in all except northern areas. Harvest is already well under way in the Horatio-DeQueen area and light movement is starting in the White County and West Central areas. Some volume is expected in these areas by May 5, with heavy movement during the second week of May. Volume movement will probably not start until the week beginning May 14th in the northwest and Searcy County. A shortage of pickers is anticipated in all areas.

STRAWBERRIES: Mid-Spring (Continued) Plants are blooming in the southern two-thirds of Illinois, but earliest estimates of volume production are for May 10-15 in the Villa Ridge area. Condition is reported to be good. In Kentucky the season still was a little late because of the persistently cold weather. A frost the 3rd week in April nipped early berries downstate but resulted in only a small loss of early bloom and delayed the start of picking. Hardest hit were the Blakemores. The later bloom is coming along fine. Hot weather and sunshine during the last week of April speeded up growth and ripening processes. Movement is expected to begin in the Paducah-Mayfield and Bowling Green-Franklin areas about mid-May, but if this weather continues picking will no doubt be speeded up a bit. Continued hot weather could also lead to a heavy but short season as most bloom will come on during a short period of time. Picking further upstate in the Louisville and Bedford areas is now expected to begin around May 22. Virginia strawberry prospects continue good. Not only is the yield outlook good but quality promises to be among the best ever picked in the Eastern Shore and Norfolk sections. There has been no freeze damage to fruit and the crop has been exceptionally free of insect and disease injury. The almost total absence of red spider this year has made unnecessary the use of sulphur dusting which sometimes spots the fruit. A few growers plan to start picking May 2-5 but there will not be much picking until the week of May 7 when the strawberry auction blocks open. Fields in the upper half of Accomack County will hardly be ready for harvest before May 15. In Maryland and Delaware strawberries were in full bloom by the end of April on the Eastern Shore and around Baltimore. In north central and western Maryland they were just coming into bloom. Beds have made good development and bloom is very heavy. Only small damage occurred to early scattered bloom from frosts during the past two weeks. Strawberry fields in central California have been rather slow coming into production this year. The set of fruit from early blooms has been generally light but a profusion of later blooms indicates probable heavy mid-season production. Earliest fields in the southern San Joaquin Valley were about at their peak late in April when hard rains hit the principal producing berry sections. Considerable damage resulted from these rains and present supplies have been reduced as a result. In the Florin, Stockton and Modesto districts, rainfall was not quite as heavy and little or no rain damage is apparent at the present time. Plantings in interior valleys escaped injury from the frost which occurred on April 30. In the Central Coast section early fields have been producing a limited volume during the past ten days. Volume in this district will show some increase during the next two weeks. It appears likely now that the peak of the harvest season in this area, which produces over two-thirds of the California crop, will not occur until late May and early June.

Late Spring: (N. J., Pa., Ohio, Ind., N. Y., Mich., Wis., Iowa, Utah, Wash, Oreg)

Prospects appear excellent in all New Jersey areas. Moisture supplies are adequate and no frost damage has occurred. Setting has been heavy - some growers think too heavy for optimum production. Small berries have formed in a few beds in south Jersey while beds are in bloom in nearly all other areas of the State. Strawberries have greened up in most Pennsylvania areas and have made good growth. A good many buds are showing in the central and southeastern areas and a few plants are reported in bloom in the extreme southeast. Warm weather during the last week of April resulted in rapid development in Ohio. Strawberries are beginning to bloom in southern Ohio, and most beds in northern Ohio were uncovered by May 1. In New York development of strawberries on Long Island is slightly ahead of normal. With normal weather during May, picking should start about June 1, the usual date, but about ten days earlier than last year. With the shift to later varieties, the season peak in June will tend to be a few

STRAWBERRIES: Late Spring (Continued) days later, compared with the peak date for the Premier variety formerly grown. Strawberries in the lower Hudson Valley are starting growth and are in generally good condition with favorable soil moisture. In most other areas of upstate New York the winter mulch was not removed until late in April. The upstate season will probably be a little later than usual but not as late as last year. Transplanting of new beds for 1952 picking has been delayed by frequent rains. Reports indicate that the crop wintered very well in all Michigan areas. Red stele is at a minimum. However, growth has been retarded and harvest is expected to be late. The Washington strawberry crop is generally in fair to poor condition. Continued dry weather and cool nights have caused growth to be slow, but the recent rain will be of some benefit. The freeze of ten days ago was harder on new plantings than on old beds. Most of the first blossoms on all plants were killed and the start of picking will be delayed at least one week. Present indications are that picking will begin around June 5-10 and reach a peak quickly. There have been very few disease problems this season. The long period of dry weather this spring has allowed growers to keep well ahead of the weeds. In Oregon the combination of cool, dry weather has checked growth of strawberry plants for 1951 harvest. Many strawberry beds apparently are not adequately developed to bear a full crop. Further, a severe frost April 20-21 seriously damaged early bloom and buds of many lowlying beds with poor air drainage. Bloom of berries at the higher elevations was not far enough advanced to be seriously damaged. The date of active harvest has been delayed about one week until June 1 and there is a possibility harvest of lowland and highland fields will overlap seriously.

TOMATOES: Early Spring (Fla., Texas, Calif.) The spring tomato harvest in Florida is expected to be at a peak during the first half of May, but with favorable weather, a good volume is in prospect throughout most of the month. The locally heavy rains, which occurred in mid-April, caused extensive damage in some localities. Harvesting in Dade County and the Dania-Hallandale sections is practically over. The Innokalee-Fort Myers-Trail area is in its peak harvest and with favorable weather a good volume should continue during most of the month. The Fort Pierce-Vero--Okeechobee-Indiantown area is also in its peak harvest. Quality and yields were lowered considerably immediately following the recent heavy rains, but more favorable weather has brought some improvement. The Manatee-Ruskin, Wauchula, and Plant City sections are in active harvest at this time. Damage from the mid-April rains in this general area was variable, ranging from little or no damage to heavy, depending on the amount of rain and adequacy of the drainage. The over-all losses were probably greatest in the Wauchula and Plant City sections and among the smaller growers around Palmetto. The crops in the Webster-Oxford-Belleview and Lowell-McIntosh sections are generally in good to excellent condition with above average prospects. Harvesting is expected to start in the former area the week of May 14 and in the latter the following week. Development of tomatoes in the Lower Valley of Texas is still very late. Most crops made some improvement during the second half of April. A few scattered fields have plants that are holding a light set of fruit, but for the most part the main acreage was just starting to bloom the latter part of April. Should growers attempt to harvest the light early set there may be a little movement around May 15. Conditions on May 1 indicated that production in volume would not start until around May 20-25, with peak production not until the early part of June. Harvest of the "green wrap" deal in the Lower Valley usually ends around June 15-20 regardless of when harvest starts. In the Imperial and Coachella Valleys of California volume production is now available from fields planted for spring harvest and steadily increasing supplies are expected to be available during the next two weeks. Pruned winter vines in the Niland section of Imperial Valley are currently producing ripe tomatoes which are being utilized by processors. Condition of tomato fields in the Desert areas is reported to be good.

TOMATOES: (Continued) Late Spring (Texas, La., Miss., S. C., Ga., Ala.) Conditions improved materially during the last week of April in practically all late spring tomato areas of Texas. Plantings for late spring harvest in Texas extend from Falfurrias, about 60 miles north of the Lower Valley section, to the extreme northeastern counties. Considerable acreage over a wide area in the central and eastern counties was benefited by late April rains and by somewhat warmer daytime temperatures. Practically all sections except Falfurrias have shown an increase in plantings this year; the increase in the Yoakum area is especially significant. Plantings at Ingleside, Frankston and Marlin also show an increase. Some fields in these areas were holding a fairly good set the latter part of April. Some plant losses occurred in many fields in practically all sections as a result of strong winds and cool weather during the first three weeks in April. The Mississippi tomato crop is late because of unfavorable conditions at planting time. Plants are now all in the fields, and recent warmer weather has been favorable for growth, but few, if any, tomatoes are expected to be ready for harvest before mid-June. Tomatoes in South Carolina are in very good condition. Green wrap movement is expected to begin during the first week of June. The south Georgia tomato crop is making good progress and excellent stands are reported. Little or no disease is apparent to date, but the crop is late with harvesting expected to start around May 25. Plants are now making rapid growth in southern Alabama after getting off to a late start. In the northern areas of the State, setting is under way but is somewhat later than usual.

Early Summer: (Calif., Ark., Tenn., N. C., Va., Ky., Ill., Mo., Ohio, Md. Del.) Transplanting was practically complete in south Arkansas by May 1. Some early plantings were nipped by late April frosts making replanting necessary. Field setting of Tennessee tomato plants was in full swing the last week of April and well over half the expected acreage was set before the month was over. Setting is only a little later than last year. Most of North Carolina's tomato acreage has been transplanted. Some resetting was necessary due to wind damage, but most of this job has been completed. The crop is in very good condition and stands are excellent. Some picking is expected to begin in the Carteret area the second week of June reaching volume movement by June 25. Transplanting of Virginia tomatoes is going forward in all commercial counties; however, considerable replanting has been necessitated by loss of plants from freeze, frost and wind damage April 12-22. Some growers have experienced difficulty in securing plants but this situation eased up during the last week of April. First movement of Greens and Pinks usually starts around June 20. In Ohio some tomatoes were transplanted by April 24 and transplanting will be largely completed by the middle of May if favorable weather continues.

Late Summer: (13 States) Early tomato plants have made rapid growth in Pennsylvania and many are nearly ready to transplant. Ground preparation is in progress in the southeast. Small acreages of early tomatoes were transplanted under caps or tents in early sections of New York during the last few days of April. Some growers in the lower Hudson Valley plan to set tomatoes without protection starting the first week in May.

WATERMELONS: Late Spring (Calif., Fla.): Cool weather of the past two weeks has retarded the growth and developing of watermelons in the Desert areas of California and it appears likely that start of harvest on earliest fields in Calipatria will be delayed until after May 15. The Florida spring crop is generally making good progress but is slightly behind normal in maturity. The crop in the Innokalee section is now being harvested and quality is

WATERMELONS: Late Spring (Continued) reported fair to good. Early plantings in the Leesburg section are expected to start around May 10, but it will be the week of May 21 before much volume develops from this important area. In the area north of Ocala including McIntosh, Archer, Williston, Newberry, and Trenton, the earliest fields are expected to start June 5-10.

Early Summer: (Calif., Ariz., Texas, La., Miss., Ala., Ga., S. C., N. C., Ark., Okla., Mo.) The Arizona crop is making satisfactory progress and is in good condition in both the Yuma and Salt River Valley areas. In Texas areas growth was slow until the last week of April, when fairly good rains occurred over a large area and somewhat warmer temperatures developed. A small irrigated acreage in the Lower Valley and Laredo sections, and some of the early plantings at Falfurrias, started holding a set the latter part of April. Most of the **heavy** early plantings--all non-irrigated--average about three weeks later than usual and were just starting to make good vine growth the latter part of the month. Production, usually available in fair volume by May 25-30, is not expected until around June 10-15. Planting in the mid-season areas started about the usual time, but vine growth was retarded until the latter part of April. Production in the mid-season areas is not expected to be much later than usual if good growing weather prevails during May. Planting of crops in the late areas is well along and most sections have enough moisture for crops to start growing. Planting of Mississippi watermelons was delayed because of unfavorable weather at the usual planting time. Plants are just coming up in the main producing Smith-Simpson-Covington county area, and development is also later than usual in the more southern counties. The Alabama crop will also be late this year because of unfavorable weather, which necessitated much replanting. In the south, the crop has responded to the recent warm weather and is in good condition. Planting has not yet started in the northern area of the State. In Georgia watermelons are making slow progress this season with many complaints of poor stands because of the cold spring. Due to the adverse weather and other factors, some areas will not harvest the acreage intended earlier in the season. In the Allendale-Barnwell area of South Carolina, some replanting was necessary, but they are now coming up to a stand and the crop is in fair condition. Cool weather and wind have held melon plants back. Planting in other areas is expected to be completed by May 15. Planting of the commercial watermelon acreage in North Carolina is nearing completion. Early plantings are up to good stands and in good condition. In Arkansas only a limited acreage had been planted in northeastern counties and the Arkansas River Valley by May 1. There is also a large acreage to be planted in south Arkansas where some earlier plantings will have to be replanted.

LATE REPORT FOR ILLINOIS - ASPARAGUS: Late Spring Although cutting got off to a late start in Illinois, peak production was reached within a very few days. Cutting has been under way in the Cobden and Villa Ridge areas since April 26 and in the Godfrey and Springfield areas since April 30. Growers in the Hoopeston, Kankakee, and northern areas expect to begin cutting during the first week of May. Quality has been running above average.