



# Commercial Truck Crops

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## COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS FOR FRESH MARKET TRUCK CROP NEWS - OCTOBER 15, 1951

Excessive rains the first half of October delayed production of fall vegetables in Florida so that only a light movement is expected from that State until mid-November, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. During the same period unseasonably high temperatures damaged truck crops in the Coastal, Desert and Southern San Joaquin Valley areas of California. In the Northern San Joaquin and Southern Sacramento Valleys, where a record tomato crop is being harvested, temperatures were about normal. In Texas conditions were favorable in most of the fall and winter commercial vegetable areas.

The October 1 and 2 tropical storm, accompanied by very heavy rains, caused extensive losses in the Fort Myers, Immokalee, Okeechobee, and Fort Pierce sections of Florida. On October 13 and 14 a very disastrous rain, unofficially reported at 7 to 8 inches, fell in the Pompano-Delray area along the lower East Coast. At Fort Myers the heaviest losses occurred to cucumbers, peppers, and sweet corn. At Immokalee and Fort Pierce the fall tomato crop suffered heavy damage. In the Everglades section the most extensive losses were to the fall snap bean crop which was approaching the peak planting period. In the Pompano section early reports indicate extremely heavy losses from the heavy rains of October 13 and 14, but the extent of damage cannot be determined for several days.

The non-irrigated Coastal Bend of Texas has a good moisture reserve and some planting was getting started around mid-October. The early planted crops in the Lower Valley are making good growth. Fall-crop tender vegetables in the irrigated Laredo, Winter Garden, and Eagle Pass sections are also making very good growth, and early-planted hardier type vegetables are in good condition.

In Arizona the fall and winter truck crops got off to a poor start with delayed planting and poor stands because of unfavorable weather conditions. Recent weather has been more favorable and at mid-month crops were reported making good progress.

In Louisiana, all truck crops suffered from lack of moisture during the first half of October. Rainfall since October 1 in the Eastern Shore and Norfolk Sections of Virginia has been ample for truck crop needs. In North Carolina, weather conditions were favorable for the rapid growth of fall cabbage in the Currituck-Weaverville area. Open weather in South Carolina was ideal for harvest of beans and cucumbers, although soil moisture is generally deficient in that State.

Heavy rains on Long Island and in eastern upstate New York, eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey were particularly beneficial to late crops in these areas. In Colorado and Utah weather conditions were generally favorable for the conclusion of the 1951 harvest.

ARTICHOKES: Winter (Calif.) Production which has increased substantially during the past two weeks is expected to continue to increase during the balance of October. Straight cars of good quality artichokes are now moving. Most fields are producing buds free from insect damage. High temperatures early in the second week of October caused some spreading of buds but this defect is not serious.

LIMA BEANS: Fall (Va.) Shipments of Fordhooks are nearing peak and will continue in heavy supply into early November. The shipping season usually ends around mid-November. Quality is good but yields are below earlier expectations due to the effects of dry weather in September.

Winter, 1952 Season (Fla.) Planting has been in progress in the Pompano-Delray section since late September. Extent of damage from the heavy rains of October 13 and 14 is not known at this time, but is expected to be very heavy.

SNAP BEANS: Early Fall (N.J., Md., Va., N.C., S.C., Miss., La., Calif.) In New Jersey, available supplies continue to be moderate in Cumberland County and light in Burlington County. Fall supplies for fresh market are considerably below average as the October rains came too late to help the drought stricken Burlington county crop and many Cumberland county growers are contracting their crop with processors. The Virginia crop is now at the most active harvesting period and should continue in good supply into early November. Mid-October supplies are of better quality than late September and early October pickings. Dry weather during most of September reduced prospective yields of the crop harvested around the first of October. Heaviest movement of the North Carolina crop was reached around mid-month. Storms the first part of October damaged vines and cut quality to some extent in Currituck County. Supplies are expected to be available until frost in Currituck, but volume is expected to decline rapidly. Harvest is about complete in the Weeksville area, where most of the production went to canneries. Recent rains prevented picking on schedule and beans got too large for the fresh market trade. In the Coastal area of South Carolina, beans are in very good condition and producing good yields. Movement has reached the peak and will start tapering off next week, though the season is expected to continue into early November. Growth of the Louisiana crop has been retarded by lack of moisture and shipments have been very light. Unless ample rainfall is received during the next few days, the crop will be very short. Snap beans are in relatively light supply in all California areas at the present time. Harvest has begun and will increase in Tulare County but this area will not provide enough volume to offset a decline in the Central and Southern Coast areas. Some additional supplies will be available late in October when harvest begins in Coachella Valley.

Late Fall: (Fla., Tex.) In Florida, the comparatively small acreage in north and central areas is in poor to fair condition due to the excessive rains in late September and early October. Very light harvesting is in progress with no significant volume expected to develop before November 1. In the important Everglades section, the loss to early plantings was extremely heavy. Some damaged fields have been left with the hope of producing a partial crop, but most of the acreage which was severely damaged has been replaced. These damaged fields are expected to furnish a light and scattered harvest beginning around the first of November. Planting has been very active in this section since the period immediately following the heavy rains and if no further setbacks occur, a fair volume should develop shortly after the middle of November. In the Pompano section, light planting got started in late September and was fairly active during the first two weeks of October. Early reports indicate that the heavy rains of October 13 and 14 left most of the fields in this area in a flooded condition and it is very probable that general replanting will be

**SNAP BEANS: Late Fall (Cont'd.)** necessary. The pole bean crop in the Manatee-Ruskin section is generally in fair to good condition with light harvesting expected in early November and peak movement from the middle of November to the middle of December. The small acreage planted in the Winter Garden area of Texas is expected to be in production by late October. In the Lower Valley, the main area of production, planting was later than usual but crops made good progress during the past two weeks and are expected to be ready for harvest early in November.

**BEETS: Summer (N.J., Pa., N.Eng.)** A moderate volume of bunched beets continues to move from the northeast market garden sections of New Jersey. A killing frost may be expected at any time after which only topped offerings will be available. Both bunched and topped beets continued moving in steady volume from the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania. Movement is expected to continue steady with an increasing volume of topped marketings available. Some quantities, as usual, will be stored for winter sales. The condition of the late New England crop is excellent. Supplies are expected to be adequate for trade needs for several more weeks.

**Winter, 1952 Season: (Tex.)** Light planting was started the past two weeks in the Lower Valley, the principal source of supplies throughout the winter. The extent of plantings for the season will depend on available field help and growers' plans for other crops. The usual early-season supplies from the Valley will be very light. A light harvest is expected around mid-November in the Winter Garden and San Antonio sections. Most of the production from these areas will move by truck to nearby markets.

**BROCCOLI: Fall (Calif., N.Eng.)** In California fall production has shown some increase during the past two weeks and this trend is expected to continue during the last half of October. Supplies are originating in the Santa Maria, Castroville, and Santa Cruz sections. Because of a later planting schedule, early-season production of fall broccoli is not expected to be as heavy as it has been the past two years. Peak of the harvest season will, as usual, occur during November and early December. Thus far, practically all supplies are moving into fresh market channels with only limited quantities being delivered to freezers. Quality is generally good although hot weather the second week of October caused some deterioration. New England fields are in excellent condition in all areas. The currently heavy volume of marketings should show little change during this next several weeks.

**CABBAGE: Summer (14 States)** Volume harvest continues in the major Cook County area of Illinois. Growers report a favorable crop from the standpoint of both quality and yield. Harvest of the bumper crop of kraut cabbage in Morgan County Utah is progressing well and will continue up to December 1, weather permitting. Harvest of fresh market cabbage in Salt Lake, Utah, and Sanpete counties is nearing completion. The prolonged growing season has increased tonnage and helped to counteract a slow start attributed to poor seed. Moderate truck movement out of the state continues but a good portion of the crop will go in storage on the farms for late fall and winter marketing.

**Early Fall, Domestic: (N.Y., N.J., Mich., Wis., Wash., N.Eng.)** In upstate New York market demand is now being supplied mostly with Danish type cabbage. Harvest of domestic type cabbage for kraut has progressed slowly to date with no improvement in open-market prices. With ample soil moisture late fields are still putting on tonnage. Supplies have been increasing from all production areas of New Jersey except Budd Lake which is mainly an intermediate cabbage area. October rains and cooler weather have been very beneficial. In Wisconsin practically

CABBAGE: Early Fall, Domestic (Cont'd.) all of the domestic cabbage has been harvested. Some damage from earlier freezes has been reported in Northern parts of the state but there has apparently been little in the southern counties. Late fields in the Spokane district of Washington look very good. Growers anticipate good yields as harvest begins. Quality is very good. Harvest of kraut in Pierce County is in full swing with other fresh market supplies rapidly being harvested. The condition of the New England cabbage crop has deteriorated slightly in several areas due to black rot damage, but generally is well above average. Liberal supplies are indicated for several more weeks.

Early Fall, Danish: (N.Y., Pa., Ohio, Ind., Mich., Wis., Minn., Colo.) Harvest of Danish type cabbage for market continues active in central New York with demand steady. In western New York a few early fields are being cut for truck movement. Most growers have been busy with harvest of other crops. Yield prospects were improved somewhat by a good rain on October 7. Late transplanting and dry weather through the summer has resulted in small but hard heads. Harvest for storage will not become active until cooler weather in late October or early November. Movement of Danish cabbage from Pennsylvania farms is well past peak due to a good demand this year. Very little will be available for storing on farms. The recent rains were of little benefit as they came too late. The Michigan crop has progressed very well in all sections, and good yields are anticipated with above average quality. In Wisconsin harvesting of the Danish cabbage crop is now in progress. Some is moving to market, but the bulk is going into storage. In the Hollandale area of Minnesota the crop is about harvested. Harvesting of the Carlton county crop, which is mainly for storage began during the second week of October and should be completed about October 27. Cabbage grown on high sandy soils is good, but most other fields are yielding poorly due to excess moisture during much of the summer. Cutting of the relatively small acreage of kraut cabbage in the State is in full swing. Good quality Danish cabbage continues to move out of the Greeley district of northern Colorado and the San Luis Valley, but shipments are declining seasonally. A fairly heavy movement should continue through the remainder of October, with light volume thereafter until the deal is ended late in November.

Late Fall: (Oreg., Va., N.C., S.C.) North Carolina's crop made good progress during the first half of October. In the Currituck-Weeksville area, where most of the fall crop is grown, soil moisture supplies are adequate, and the damp, cloudy weather that has prevailed during the past two weeks has been favorable for rapid growth. In the Weeksville area cutting of round Dutch began the second week of October. In Currituck, harvesting will become heavy around November 1. With about half the acreage set to Danish varieties this year, harvesting will extend over a longer period than usual. Danish varieties will be ready about mid-November and, if weather conditions permit, volume harvest will continue well into December. Dry weather at planting time caused the crop to be two to three weeks later than normal. As a result, it is questionable whether late plantings will reach marketable size prior to cold weather. The crop in South Carolina is in only fair to good condition. Rain is badly needed for best growth and development. Harvest is expected to begin about October 25, and continue through most of the winter.

Winter, 1952 Season: (Calif., Ariz., Tex., Fla.) Conditions have been favorable the past two weeks for transplanting the limited supply of plants that has been available in the Lower Valley of Texas. Considerable acreage has also been seeded direct to the fields. Plantings for December harvest are much lighter than usual and the total acreage for the season is expected to be on a lower level than usual. Some acreage will be seeded in the non-irrigated Coastal Bend this season, mostly for mid-winter harvest; but the acreage for this area will also be lighter than usual, even though favorable moisture conditions prevail now. In Florida losses of early seed beds were rather extensive in the Hastings and Everglades

**CABBAGE:** Winter, 1952 Season (Cont'd.) sections with some damage to beds in the Sanford and Manatee-Ruskin sections. Reseeding has been quite general during the past two weeks. Transplanting continues in progress in the Sanford, Winter Garden, and Manatee-Ruskin sections. An occasional field has been set in the Hastings section.

**CANTALOUPS:** Summer (24 States) Harvesting of Persian melons has been nearly completed in the Sacramento Valley of California and only a few carlots will be shipped during the balance of the season. Harvest of this year's cantaloup crop in Illinois is, for all practical purposes, complete. A few fields, in the Cook County area which escaped frost damage, are producing lightly. Utah's only commercial carlot deal at Greenriver, Utah, finished October 9. As a result of prolonged growing season and absence of killing frosts to date in Box Elder and Davis counties, cantaloup is still being harvested from the market garden acreages. This will end about October 20.

**CARROTS:** Summer (4 States) A light volume (mostly topped) continues to move from the northeast market garden sections of New Jersey. A moderate movement will continue for several weeks as some of the crop is stored for later sale. In Colorado a moderate carlot movement is expected to continue through October. The deal should continue in mixed cars through November, with possibly an occasional straight car. Quality is good to excellent.

**Fall:** (Calif., Oreg., Wash., Utah, N.Mex., Minn., Ill., Mich., Pa., N.Y., N.Eng.) There has been no significant change in the level of production of California carrots during the past two weeks. Supplies from competing sections are still relatively plentiful and California growers appear reluctant to increase their production at this time. However, with an increasing acreage scheduled to mature during the next two weeks, shipments are expected to go above present levels. It is possible that harvests may be delayed until a later date and it could be November before the heavy shipping season begins. Most supplies are originating from the Salinas Valley but the Lompoc and Oxnard sections are contributing a light volume. There is considerable variation in quality of carrots now being pulled. Harvest is progressing very rapidly in all districts of Washington. Quality is good in most localities. Most fields look very good at harvest although some growers report thin fields due to cutworm injury to young seedlings early in the growing season. Some splits and minor worm damage have also been reported. Harvest is 80 percent completed, but some fields will continue under commercial harvest until frost. At Spokane harvest on late fields is under way. Supplies will be very steady with many field harvests going to local storage for continuous marketings through early Spring. Carlot shipments from Sevier and Iron counties Utah will wind up about October 20. Harvest of the Illinois crop continues in volume. Growers report favorable yields of good quality carrots. Harvest of the Michigan crop is now in full swing. Yields are running high with good quality. Recent weather in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania has been favorable for development of fall carrots and growers are hoping for added tonnage by delaying harvest. Movement should increase during late October and early November. Digging for processors is getting under way. Much of the crop will be stored for sale during the winter months. Harvest of New York muckland carrots began to slow up during the first half of October due to slower demand for shipping to market and to out-of-state processors. In the Elba muckland section about two-thirds of the acreage was harvested by October 15. Harvest continues active in muckland areas of Wayne County where a larger percentage of the crop is used by New York State processors. A good rain on October 7 helped to add tonnage on the small processing acreage grown on upland soil in Ontario County. The New England crop is in good condition, although leaf blight is prevalent in most sections. Volume supplies of both bunched and topped carrots will be available during the last

CARROTS: Fall (Cont'd.) half of October. Because of the leaf blight damage, some fields intended for bunching will be marketed as topped carrots.

Winter, 1952 Season: (Calif., Ariz., Tex., La.) Growers in the Imperial Valley of California are actively engaged in planting their crop for harvest during the 1952 winter season. The high temperatures that have prevailed in the valley have been unfavorable for germination and some replanting has been necessary. In Arizona conditions have been generally favorable and the crop is developing nicely. The Salt River Valley will probably start light shipments about the second week of November. Prospects for the Texas crop are improved in all sections. Early planted crops in the Winter Garden and the area adjacent to San Antonio making good growth the past two weeks and some of the first plantings in these areas will be ready for harvest the latter part of November. Since planting of the Lower Valley crop was very light until early October, this section is not expected to have much production until late December. Although prospective acreage is now higher than expected earlier, the total for the season is expected to be less than usual despite the fact that some acreage will be planted in the non-irrigated areas where practically no production has been available the past two years.

CAULIFLOWER: Summer: (N.J., N.Y., Colo.) In New Jersey October rains and cooler weather were very beneficial to the fall acreage which is grown mostly in the central part of that State. The crop stood the September dry weather remarkably and is now in good condition. Quality should continue very good if the weather remains cool. Freezing temperatures on September 30 temporarily halted growth of late cauliflower in the Catskill section of New York but considerable acreage will remain in production until temperatures in the low twenties end the season. Heavy competition from Long Island is discouraging close cutting of late acreage and some large growers have stopped shipping. Marketing of fall cauliflower from the local-market sections of upstate New York was near the season peak by mid-October. Gradually diminishing supplies will continue from these local areas through the first half of November if hard-freezing weather holds off. In Colorado the relatively sharp drop in prices during the first half of October discouraged harvesting of the slow-maturing late acreage in the San Luis Valley. Temperatures dropped to 16 degrees above zero during the second week of the month and some acreage has been abandoned. However, Colorado shipments may continue, in declining volume, through the remainder of October, weather permitting.

Fall: (N.Y., Mich., Oreg., N.Eng.) Marketing of the large Long Island New York cauliflower crop continued in steady volume through the first half of October. Volume through the auctions during this period was about 20 percent heavier than in 1950. Marketings are expected to show some further increase late in October with peak movement during the first half of November. In Michigan hot weather during the first week of October caused fields to mature at rapid rate, and some stock in the southwestern part of that State was sent to picklers. However, with the return of cool weather the rate of maturity has slackened and growers are keeping up with the crop again. Harvesting of New England cauliflower is passing the peak in very heavy volume. The crop generally is in excellent condition, although black rot damage has occurred in a few fields.

Winter, 1952 Season: (Calif., Ariz., Tex., Fla.) Harvesting of Snowball cauliflower for local markets is going on in the Central Coast and South Coast areas of California. Some supplies have been moving in mixed cars, and an occasional straight car has been loaded from the Santa Maria area. During the second week in October some shipments of Snowball were made from the Los Angeles area but no active shipping deal is anticipated during the last half of October. California growers have reduced their acreage of Snowball cauliflower this season due to unsatisfactory market conditions in recent years. Active carlot

**CAULIFLOWER: Winter, 1952 Season (Cont'd.)** shipping of cauliflower from California is not anticipated until December. However, in the event that market conditions are favorable in November, considerable cauliflower for the carlot trade could be made available from freezer and local market supplies. Most of the Texas crop is in the Eagle Pass, Winter Garden and San Antonio areas. Insects caused some early season damage, but cooler weather the past two weeks has been favorable. Present prospects point to production at about the usual time. A light harvest will start in late November with active harvest around mid-December. The Lower Valley is not expected to have much acreage this year. Transplanting is in progress in the Manatee-Ruskin section of Florida. The bulk of this crop is still in the seed bed stage.

**CELERY: Early Fall (N.Y., Pa., Ohio, Mich., Colo., Utah, Wash., N.Eng.)** Slow demand delayed harvesting in the late celery sections of western New York during the first half of October. Volume of marketings continues to run much lighter than last year. Cold storage holdings are now building up rapidly. Movement into storage will continue through most of October if freezing weather holds off, building up a seasonal peak in storage holdings near the end of the month. In Pennsylvania late celery is generally in good condition. Cool nights and the lower temperatures have caused rapid growth. Heavy marketings will occur through to mid-November in all areas of that State. The harvest of the Michigan crop is progressing smoothly. The Muskegon crop has been completely harvested and all shipments are now originating in southern areas. Colorado will load a few straight cars during the last half of October. November and December marketings are expected to move in mixed cars and trucks and by express. In Utah carlot shipments of green celery out of Utah and Sanpete counties will be completed by October 20 as harvest draws to a close. A long growing season helped give the crop size which was needed because of the late planting dates this year. Utah growers of bleached celery are starting to trench their crop now. Quality should be very good this year. Marketing will be mostly for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday trade. In Washington movement continues very slow in spite of excellent quality. Harvest will continue steady through November, weather permitting. The condition of New England celery has deteriorated somewhat due to blight, but still is about average for this period of the season. Supplies during the last half of October are expected to be moderately heavy.

**Late Fall: (Calif., N.J.)** Harvesting of the California crop is still confined to the Santa Maria-Oceano, Salinas, and San Jose areas where production recently has shown an increase due to the larger acreage that has reached maturity and improved market conditions. These three sections are expected to increase their production during the next two weeks and by October 20 the Stockton section is expected to begin shipping celery in volume. California production should show a substantial increase after October 20 and shipments will reach their usual pre-Thanksgiving peak about November 10. In New Jersey October rains and cooler weather were beneficial to the late acreage which is grown mostly in North Jersey. Moderate supplies are available in the Asbury, Great Meadows, Budd Lake and northeast market garden areas.

**Winter, 1952 Season: (Fla., Calif., Ariz.)** Transplanting continues active in all of the celery producing sections of Florida. The excessive rains during the first few days of October generally retarded the progress of the crop. In California the last fields of winter celery are expected to be set during the next two weeks. Fields have made satisfactory progress to date and are well advanced due to the fact that early-fall temperatures in the producing areas are running above normal.

SWEET CORN: Fall (Fla.) Most of the early fall acreage which was located principally in the Everglades, was lost in the heavy rains of early October. Considerable replanting has been done. A small acreage at Fort Myers survived the heavy rains and small acreages at Ruskin and Zellwood are reported to be in fair to good condition. Planting and replanting at Fort Myers has been very active and this section will have a substantial acreage for December harvest. Light planting is also in progress in Dade County.

CUCUMBERS: Early Fall (La., Ga., S.C.) The short Louisiana crop is about over with light shipments to continue to about October 25.

In the Charleston-Beaufort area of South Carolina, shipments continue although peak movement is about over. Recent dry weather hurt the crop except where irrigation was used. The season is expected to extend into early November unless the crop is killed by frost earlier.

Late Fall: (Fla.) The fall crop in the Wauchula, Webster, Winter Garden section of Central Florida is generally in fair to good condition. Harvest approaching peak at Wauchula and is getting well under way in the Winter Garden and Webster sections. With favorable weather, these sections should continue in active production throughout most of November. Crops in the Manatee-Ruskin section range from just planted to starting to harvest. Most of the production from this section should harvest after the middle of November. Most of the acreage in the important Fort Myers section was lost in the early October rains, but practically all of the lost acreage has been replanted with possibly some additional acreage. An occasional early field which survived the rains is expected to start harvesting shortly after the first of November, but it will be late November and early December before the bulk of this acreage comes into production. The early acreage at Immokalee is generally reported to have survived the heavy rains of early October in fair condition but some replanting has been necessary. The earliest production from a small acreage in this section is expected the week of November but it will be late November before any volume develops. Early plantings at Fort Pierce are reported to be making fair progress with some production expected around mid-November. Some additional acreage in this section was planted after the early October rains in fields where the tomato crop was lost. No reports have been received on the small acreage which was planted at Pompano, but it is reasonable to assume that this acreage was severely damaged or lost by the heavy rains of October 13 and 14.

EGGPLANT: Summer (La., N.J.) Heavy volume of the Highbush variety continue to move from the Vineland section in New Jersey while lighter supplies of this variety are available in scattered sections of Monmouth and northeastern counties. Much of the Gloucester county crop (Black Beauty variety) was abandoned due to poor markets.

Fall: (Fla., Tex.) In Florida the crop in North and Central sections is generally in fair condition. Harvest is active in the McIntosh and Brooksville sections, has started at Wauchula and should get under way about November 15 in the Manatee-Ruskin section. In the important Fort Myers area the loss of acreage was small but the late fall and winter crops were set back considerably by the excessive rains. They appear to be making a fair recovery at this time and light harvesting should begin shortly after November 15. In the Pompano section, which usually has a light fall production and is the principal source of supply during the winter and early spring period, the recent heavy rains are reported to have caused considerable losses. Growers in this section were generally further advanced in their seeding and transplanting than in recent years. It will be several days before any reasonable appraisal of the losses in this section can be determined but it is logical to conclude that a large part of the acreage which had been set

**EGGPLANT:** Fall (Cont'd.) was lost and that volume production from this section will be greatly delayed. Growing conditions have been favorable in all sections of Texas during the past two weeks. This crop was planted a little later than usual. A light harvest is expected to start in the Winter Garden section soon after October 15 which is two or three weeks later than usual. Plantings in the Lower Valley are light and will not be in production until the early part of November.

**ESCAROLE:** Winter, 1952 Season (Fla.) Early plantings generally appear to be in fair condition. Loss of acreage from the early October rains was comparatively light. Indications at this time are that growers are generally attempting to get in a good acreage for early harvest. Earliest production in the Central Florida area is expected around November 15 with the Everglades expected to begin harvesting about the last week of November.

**HONEY DEW MELONS:** Summer (Ariz., Calif.) An unusually heavy late-season movement is continuing from California but shipments are expected to decline rapidly during the next two weeks. Production this season has been unusually heavy, particularly in the Sacramento Valley where yields are expected to break previous records. Quality is generally good but sizes are running small.

**KALE:** Winter, 1952 Season (Va.) Light harvesting is getting under way in the Norfolk Section and movement in volume will come by November 1. Damage from dry September weather had affected yields but good rains in early October resulted in considerable improvement. The season will extend to about April 1 of 1952.

**LETTUCE:** Fall (Calif., Oreg., Wash., Ida., N.Mex., N.J., Utah, N.Eng., Tex.) Acreage remaining for harvest in California suffered considerable damage as a result of high temperatures early in the second week of October. Tipburn and cracked ribs are the principal defects. Bolting is expected to occur in warmer sections of the Salinas Valley and in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. Quality ranges from poor to good but should improve, providing no further warm weather is experienced during the fall season. Production is not expected to increase above present levels during the next two weeks and daily carlot shipments probably will range between 180 and 200 cars. Sizes generally are running quite small with 4 dozen packs in light supply. Harvest in Washington is rapidly approaching completion but some scattered cuttings will remain until frost. At Walla Walla movement has been very satisfactory during the past week. Quality is generally good. October rains and cooler weather were very beneficial to fall lettuce throughout New Jersey. The important Cedarville acreage is now in excellent condition, although stands were reduced somewhat by the "yellows" disease and corn borers. A heavy movement of Iceberg lettuce is under way and weather permitting should continue until the middle of November. Peak movement is expected about the last week of October. Moderate supplies of Romaine lettuce are also available in this area. Moderate supplies of Iceberg lettuce can also be obtained in scattered sections of Atlantic, Monmouth and northeastern counties. Harvest in Utah is nearing completion. Absence of killing frost to date has greatly improved yield and long growing season is offsetting setback from heavy August rains. Growing conditions have been very favorable for the fall crop in New England. Supplies are expected to be of moderate volume during the balance of the season. Conditions in the Hereford (Panhandle) area of Texas have been favorable for cutting of fall-crop lettuce during the past two weeks. Quality is very good but sizes are averaging smaller than usual. Crops in the Plainview-Lubbock sections made good progress, with harvest expected to start about mid-October.

**LETTUCE:** Winter (Ariz., Calif., Fla., Tex.) The Arizona crop was planted under fairly good conditions following the heavy rains at the end of August, but high temperatures during September were hard on the young plants and stands are poor. Worms have caused extensive damage and control measures have not been very effective. Growing conditions since October 12 have been almost ideal. Some early lettuce should be available around November 1. In California, temperatures in the Desert Valleys during the past month have been unfavorable for winter lettuce. During the first half of October they were substantially lower than in late-September but were still high enough to cause poor germination in fields "watered up" during this period. In addition to causing poor stands and making some replanting necessary, high temperatures of the past two weeks may cause most advanced fields, particularly in the Blythe area, to bolt. However, seed stem formation can be retarded if temperatures during the next month are at relatively low levels. The condition of early plantings in Florida is very irregular at this time due to the excessive rains and generally unfavorable weather for this crop. Seeding and transplanting is in progress in the Sanford, Zellwood, Manatee-Ruskin, and Everglades sections. The earliest harvest of Boston type is expected around the middle of November in the Central Florida area. In Texas, practically all of the early plantings of the winter acreage are in the Winter Garden and Laredo sections. Most of the Laredo acreage is for mixed car loadings and plantings are on a moderate scale. Plantings in the Winter Garden--around Carrizo Springs and the LaPryer-Batesville sections--are solid car loadings. A light harvest from these sections is expected around the middle of November. Some interest in the winter crop has developed in the Lower Valley since favorable moisture conditions now prevail, but growers are reluctant to plant extensively because of uncertainty of the labor supply.

**ONIONS:** Late Summer (18 States) Practically all onions had been moved off the muckland in all areas of New York by October 15. Cooler weather is needed for moving onions from temporary storage in sheds to winter storages. Movement into cold storages is more advanced than a year ago. Movement into cold storage usually continues active until December 1 or later. Harvest in Illinois is, with the exception of a few scattered fields, complete. Growers report a good crop on the basis of both quality and yield. In Wisconsin growers with adequate storage facilities are holding the bulk of their crop. Good progress was made in harvesting Minnesota onions during the first half of October and the crop is largely under cover. Movement to market has been rather slow, probably because growers are hoping for higher prices later on. Quality of the crop varies from very poor to very good. Harvest continued active in all districts of Colorado during the first half of October under generally favorable weather conditions. However, light rains east of the mountains caused some delay early in the month and may lower the keeping quality of onions somewhat in a few local areas. Harvest is well along in the Arkansas Valley but a relatively small amount of onions has been stored. The majority of growers in northern Colorado, also, are marketing their onions direct from the field or temporary storages. Harvest is well along on the Western Slope but most of this crop is moving into storage. Harvest is completed in most areas of Utah. Marketings have been light to date. Most of the crop will go into storage and be marketed throughout the fall and winter months. Although some onions are already under cover, many are still drying in the fields and fairly frequent light showers since pulling is causing some concern. This situation could affect storage quality and, if a heavy freeze should occur before onions are under cover, some onions would be lost. Onion harvest is near completion in most of the producing districts of California and many growers have their crop under cover in dry storage. Although a few cars have been moving out of the Delta district during the past two weeks, the bulk of the rail shipments of California onions are still made up of Australian Browns destined for export. A few onions have been moving into cold storage but in much lighter volume than in past years. Local markets

ONIONS: Late Summer (Cont'd.) continue to be well supplied with California onions. Harvest is nearing completion in the Moses Lake district of Washington. In the Yakima Valley 90 percent of the crop has been harvested.

Early Spring, 1952 Season: (Texas) Conditions continue favorable in all early onion areas. Plant beds in the irrigated sections have made good growth and most growers have considerable land ready for transplanting, which will begin the early part of November. All non-irrigated sections have a good moisture reserve and fields in the Coastal Bend were dry enough for a light planting to start around the middle of October. This is earlier than this section has been able to plant for the past few years. Planting in this area can continue throughout most of November without any serious delay in the spring harvest period.

GREEN PEAS: Early Fall (Calif.) Harvesting is continuing in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties but production is declining as the season draws near its end. Only a few carlots are expected to be shipped during the last half of October. Since very few peas were planted in Kern County this year, there will be no early November shipments from California.

GREEN PEPPERS: Summer (N.J., Calif., N.Eng.) In New Jersey, very heavy volumes continue to be available in the main production areas of south Jersey. Volume supplies of White Cap, Long Hot, Cherry, California Wonder, Bullnose and Cheese peppers are available around Vineland. The Cedarville section is moving heavy volumes (mostly green) of California Wonders. Heavy supplies of green and mixed peppers of the World Beater variety continue to be available in Gloucester County. Harvest in California is still active in all Coastal areas. A few carlots are being shipped from San Jose but this deal is rather limited again this year. Production during the next two weeks is expected to decline in all districts. Although growth of most of the New England crop has been terminated by frosts, light supplies will continue to be available during the last half of October.

Fall: (Va., Fla., Tex.) Shipments are general from the Eastern Shore fall producing area of Virginia. Dry weather during September has retarded growth and yields per acre are somewhat below those expected in early September. The fall pepper harvesting season in Virginia extends to the first killing frost, which usually occurs on the Eastern Shore around mid-November. Prospects for fall production in Florida have been further reduced by the excessive rains during the first few days of the month and those which fell in the Pompano area on October 13 and 14. As mentioned in previous reports, growers had considerable difficulty in growing plants this fall and as a result of this difficulty, the acreage for early harvest was considerably reduced from early intentions. Very light harvesting has started on the comparatively light acreage at Wauchula and a light production is expected from the Manatee section after the middle of November. In the important Fort Myers area, the crop was severely set back by the excessive rains. Some acreage was lost and it is doubtful if much of this loss will be replanted due to the shortage of plants. Very little production can be expected from this acreage before the first of December. In the important Pompano section, which is primarily a winter and early spring deal but which quite often furnishes a fair volume during late November and December, the recent heavy rains have caused extensive losses and delay. It is not known at this time just what part of the crop which had been planted will be salvaged, but it is reasonable to expect that a relatively small part of these early plantings will be saved. Based on early reports, the majority of the prospective acreage will have to be replanted and this will mean only light supplies from this area until around mid-February. Conditions in the Lower Valley of Texas were improved by late September rains, and the small early transplanted acreage in that area made good growth the past two-week period. Some additional

GREEN PEPPERS: Fall (Cont'd.) acreage was planted starting the latter part of September but total plantings in the Valley will be lighter than usual. Most of the Valley plantings will be for December harvest, with production continuing into January, providing no frosts occur. Crops in the Laredo and Winter Garden sections are also a little later than usual but they have made very satisfactory progress the past two weeks and some fields will be in production during the second half of October. Supplies from the Winter Garden are usually available starting early in October. Unless frosts hold off later than usual, total production from the Winter Garden will be lighter than usual.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: Winter, 1952 Season (Tex., Fla.) Planting of the early winter crop in the Florida Everglades is about completed. Some losses have occurred from the rotting of seed, but as some fields in this area are still very wet, no accurate appraisal of this condition can be made at this time. Planting in the Fort Myers area is well under way. A relatively small acreage of early plantings was lost in the heavy rains but this acreage has been replanted. Preparation of land is in progress in Dade County and if conditions are favorable, planting should start about November 1.

RUTABAGAS: Fall (Wash.) Harvest will begin in the Yakima Valley October 1. Most growers anticipate a good demand and fast movement.

SHALLOTS: Winter, 1952 Season (La.) Growth has been held practically at a standstill by the lack of moisture during the past two weeks. Only a very few shallots have been harvested to date. Harvest in volume will commence about 10 days after the next good rain.

SPINACH: Summer (N.Y., Colo., Wash.) In Washington some fresh market supplies continue to move from Walla Walla. Quality is generally good with very little mildew being reported. In western Washington some fields have been abandoned due to mildew and yellowing. This situation has been generally brought on by recent continuous rains which are very detrimental to high quality spinach as it reaches maturity. Additional fields have been abandoned due to labor shortages. Current cuttings are moving to fresh market channels.

Early Fall: (Md., N.J., Pa., Ill., Mo., N.Eng.) Mature or nearly mature spinach in New Jersey was badly damaged by heavy rains and winds during October. However, a rapid improvement in quality is now expected as moisture supplies are ample and cooler weather is prevailing. Most supplies are moving from scattered sections of Monmouth and northern counties. Spinach in the Bucks-Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania is late due to earlier dry weather. Marketings are expected to increase and will be heavy by the end of October and continue into November. Movement of the New England fall crop is about at the peak, with supplies moderately heavy. Poor market conditions to date have limited offerings. Field condition of the crop is excellent in all areas.

Winter, 1952 Season: (Tex., La., Calif.) Conditions have been favorable for the small early planted acreage in the irrigated sections, and for planting additional acreages for later season harvest. A fairly large acreage is now expected in the non-irrigated Coastal Bend section, where most fields were dry enough for planting to get started around mid-October. The acreage in the Coastal Bend will be for mid-winter harvest as most growers will want their land available for other crops by mid-February. Developments in the Raymondville area are now favorable for planting spinach, but growers in that section do not expect to plant extensively.

**SQUASH:** Fall and Winter (N. Eng., Fla.) In New England, all varieties of late squash have produced a very good crop this year. The butternut squash crop is now moving rapidly. Liberal supplies of Blue Hubbard are also available, but most of the crop is being stored. In Florida the heavy rains of late September and early October reduced the prospects for the fall crop in the North and Central areas. Active harvesting is in prospect in the McIntosh section and light harvesting has started in the Plant City-Manatee-Ruskin area. Scattered light plantings in South Florida are furnishing a small production for local consumption. It is expected that most of the early acreage in the important Pompano section was lost in the recent heavy rains.

**STRAWBERRIES:** Winter, 1952 Season (Fla.) Setting of strawberries in the important Plant City and Wauchula sections of Central Florida is about completed. Conditions were generally favorable for transplanting and stands are reported to be good.

**TOMATOES:** Late Summer (13 States) Despite the heavy rains and cooler weather during October, a moderate movement continues in Central areas of New Jersey. Quality has held up remarkably well but frost may end the deal at any time. A few scattered fields in the Cook County area of Illinois are producing lightly. Large scale harvest ended the first week of the month. Growers reported a satisfactory crop but yield prospects were lowered somewhat by the occurrence of late blight.

Early Fall: (Calif.) The fall tomato deal has been at its peak during the past week. Heavy shipments are expected to continue but there will be some decline. Total shipments to date and daily loadings have been running considerably above those of a year ago. Heavy production is due in a large part to the excellent yields being realized on late-planted fields made specifically for fresh market harvest. However, there appears to have been more shipping from cannery acreage this year than normal, particularly from late-planted fields. Thus far, weather in the Central Coast districts and in the Northern San Joaquin and Southern Sacramento Valleys has been very favorable for the production of tomatoes. In Southern California high temperatures which occurred in September and the second week of October caused considerable loss of fruit through sunburn and sunscald. This loss, however, is not expected to influence the carlot shipping deal substantially. Production of tomatoes in California during the last half of October will be governed largely by weather. Heavy rains which normally occur in California around October 20 usually result in a sharp drop in production. Frosts or damaging low temperatures are normally anticipated during the first week in November in the central part of the State although in some years they occur late in October.

Late Fall: (Tex., Fla.) Crops in the Laredo section of Texas continued to hold a set during the past two weeks and show promise of good yields providing the harvesting season is not cut short by early frosts. Harvest in this area usually does not get well under way until around November 10. Prospects now point to early November harvest. Crops in the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass sections, usually the earliest in production, are a little later than usual and harvest is not expected before late October or early November, compared with the mid-October harvest. Plantings in the Lower Valley are much lighter and also later than usual this year, and despite the recent improved growing conditions are not expected to be in production until late November. The extent of damage to the fall tomato crop in Florida from the excessive rains is still very much of a question at this time. Several hundred acres in the Fort Pierce and Immokalee areas have been lost completely by drowning. The older plantings, which were blooming and setting fruit, definitely received a greater shock than did the younger fields and the chances of

TOMATOES: Late Fall (Cont'd.) recovery on this older acreage are none too good. Many fields have shed their bloom and small fruit due to damaged root systems. Rust is prevalent in many of the older fields. The average progress of the crops in these sections is generally delayed by possibly 2 to 3 weeks, thereby increasing the hazards from early frost. Grower's opinions as to the extent of damage to the overall production in the Immokalee section range from 25 to 50 percent, while at Fort Pierce, opinions are that the production has been cut 25 percent or more. These are only early off-hand appraisals and can not be considered as having a great degree of accuracy because of hidden damage, the general weakened condition of the plants, and the delay involved. Younger plantings in the mian have begun to grow out of the setback while the older plantings have shown only a slight degree of recovery. The first tomatoes have been marketed at Fort Pierce and this section should be in fair production by the middle of November. Light picking is expected to start at Immokalee the last week of October. In the Manatee-Ruskin section, the crop is generally making a fair recovery from earlier setbacks, but the general progress of the crop is still behind schedule. Light harvesting should start in early November, becoming general during the second half of the month. The movement from the State will be very light during the first half of November, increase materially during the second half of the month, and reach its peak volume around the first of December. In Dade County, growers have generally been unable to plant the acreage they anticipated on the "rock" land due to the extremely dry conditions which prevailed. Recent rains have been very beneficial to this area. Preparation of the "East Glades" land is in progress and light planting has started.