

FLORIDA HURRICANE "INEZ" DAMAGE REPORT  
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES  
OCTOBER 4, 1966

October 7, 1966

GENERAL: On October 4, Hurricane "Inez" moved southwestward along the coast of Dade County. The Hurricane's full force was not felt. However, wind speed of 75 miles per hour was felt over most of the area. It was a "dry" hurricane and the three-fourths to one inch precipitation to the area was sea water fall out that contained a high salt content.

AVOCADOS: About 20 percent of the crop blown from the trees but a good portion will be salvaged. Another 20 percent suffered stem injury sufficient to cause future fruit drop. Most loss will be to fruit available for certified shipment. Tree damage was confined to breakage of smaller limbs on scattered trees and uprooting of some trees blown over by Hurricane "Betsy" last year. Trees defoliated by salt spray are expected to recover quickly. Little loss to next year's crop is anticipated.

LIMES: Damage to limes is considered to be minor, confined mostly to leaf burn from salt spray. Little loss of fruit and only an occasional uprooting of trees occurred. Shock bloom will probably produce more fruit than was lost. About two-thirds of the crop had been harvested at the time of the Hurricane.

VEGETABLES: Severe damage to vegetable crops occurred in South Dade County from wind and particularly from salt spray. Other south Florida areas sustained wind burn from dry, blowing sand with overall damage relatively light.

Dade County had planted about 5,500 acres of tomatoes to date. Defoliation is severe except in fields irrigated with fresh water immediately after the storm. Damage to fields is estimated as high as 80 percent. Growers hope plants will sucker out and produce new growth. Practically all bloom and crown hands are gone. Very little if any production is in prospect before January.

Pole beans in Dade County were badly damaged but only about 500 acres were up to stand. Squash damage varied with plant age. Forty to fifty percent of the older squash was severely affected while younger plants sustained moderate to little damage and are expected to recover. Buds are still green on young and old plants. Cucumber damage was mostly confined to leaf burn. Most fields were near or at harvest stage. Okra and other vegetables were seriously defoliated but are expected to recover. The winter potato and bush bean crops have not been planted.

The Pompano and Northwood damage resulted mostly from blowing sand and slight salt spray. Slow recovery is expected. Eggplants near maturity will be scarred but only a small percentage had reached that stage. Most damage to beans, cucumbers, peppers, and tomatoes will be confined to leaf burn.

The Everglades area reports no damage. Ft. Myers-Immokalee had 35 mile per hour gusts resulting in leaf burn and curl. Small tomatoes and cucumbers are scarred and some plants blown to the side of beds. Staked crops received only light damage.

