

WEEKLY TOMATO REPORT 1/ - 1963-64 Season

Weekly Planting in Florida and the
Spring Crop in the Texas Lower Valley

Week Ending	FLORIDA						TEXAS		TOTAL	
	1962-63			1963-64			LOWER VALLEY		2 STATES	
	Seeded	Set 2/	Total	Seeded	Set 2/	Total	1962-63	1963-64	1962-63	1963-64
Season through	-Acres-						-Acres Seeded		-Total Acres Seeded Basis-	
Nov. 30	26,560	3,450	30,010	26,040	4,250	30,290	---	50	30,010	30,340
Dec. 7	980	380	1,360	1,160	50	1,210	50	150	1,410	1,360
14	1,070	530	1,600	1,880	80	1,960	50	450	1,650	2,410
21	2,980	640	3,620	1,090	170	1,260	150	---	3,770	1,260
28	1,770	1,000	2,770	2,150	620	2,770	150	250	2,920	3,020
Jan. 4	1,570	390	1,960	810	1,450	2,260	950	3,000	2,910	5,260
11	870	150	1,020	1,000	350	1,350	2,900	3,950	3,920	5,300
18	460	160	620	440	620	1,060	1,350	1,800	1,970	2,860
25	410	100	510	510	140	650	1,700	2,600	2,210	3,250
Feb. 1	270	---	270	100	90	190	2,400	1,000	2,670	1,190
8	80	---	80	50	60	110	950	450	1,030	560
15	---	---	---	160	---	160	700	650	700	810
Total through Feb. 15	37,020	6,800	43,820	35,390	7,880	43,270	11,350	14,350	55,170	57,620
Feb. 22	170	60	230	30			500	450	730	
29	210	20	230	---			600	100	830	
Mar. 7	---	---	---	10			350	200	350	
14	---	---	---	10			100	0	100	
Season to date	37,400	6,880	44,280	35,440			12,900	15,100	57,180	

Plant Development and Progress of Harvest 3/ - March 14, 1964

STAGES	FLORIDA		TEXAS		TOTAL 2 STATES	
	1962-63	1963-64	1962-63	1963-64	1962-63	1963-64
	-Acres-		-Acres-		-Acres	
Pre-fruit stage	8,750	9,730	12,900	15,100	21,650	24,830
Fruit set						
Early development	6,310	4,410	---	---	6,310	4,410
Har. expected next 2 weeks	2,520	1,810	---	---	2,520	1,810
Times harvested						
Once	2,390	1,820	---	---	2,390	1,820
Twice	3,750	1,930	---	---	3,750	1,930
Three or more	5,230	5,240	---	---	5,230	5,240
Harvest completed	15,250	18,380	---	---	15,250	18,380

1/ Excludes acreage contracted for processing. 2/ The acreage set is shown as planted 4 weeks earlier to make crop development comparable to that on the acreage seeded. 3/ For fresh market. Does not include harvest for processing.

(See comments on reverse side.)

Weather in Florida's tomato producing areas was characterized by warm days and nights with scattered showers and some moderate winds for the second consecutive week. Oldest planted fields in the Pompano vine-ripe area are being abandoned at an increasing rate. Other age plants remained in good condition. Volume increased slightly last week but is expected to start declining near the end of March. Condition of the crop in Dade County is fair to good. Good volume is anticipated the remainder of March and most of April. Condition of plants for spring harvest improved during the week. Approximately two-thirds of the acreage in the Immokalee-Fort Myers area has set fruit with first harvest expected early in April. About one-fourth of the acreage in the Fort Pierce area has set fruit. Plants in the Manatee-Ruskin area will start setting fruit late in March. Acreage in north central Florida has reached the thinning stage.

Texas Rio Grande Valley temperatures warmed last week and high winds eased up. Some cloudiness prevailed most of the week. High winds in early March have caused rather extensive damage to tomato plants. Some fields with thin stands and weak plants have been plowed under but growers are maintaining marginal fields. Growers are actively weeding, watering, and cultivating. Some of the early planted fields are blooming but the blooms are not sticking. Planting is complete in all sections.