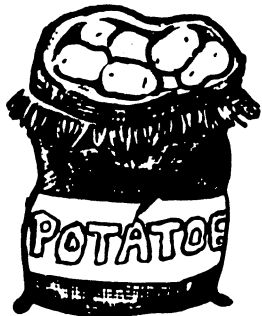


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MARKETING POTATOES

SUMMARY
1978 Season

P R E F A C E

This is a summary of marketing Florida, Alabama and North Carolina potatoes for the 1978 season. The information was compiled from daily reports issued from the Federal-State Market News Offices at North Palm Beach, Florida; Thomasville, Georgia and Faison, North Carolina. These offices are operated cooperatively by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Information on acreage and production was taken from reports of the Crop Reporting Board of the United States Department of Agriculture, Statistical Reporting Service.

Truck shipments are shown in 50,000 pound units.

We wish to thank the various segments of the potato industry for their cooperation in supplying the information that made these reports possible.

Additional copies of this summary may be obtained on request from :

Federal-State Market News Service
P. O. Drawer 14127
North Palm Beach, Fl. 33408

Federal-State Market News Service
P. O. Box 27647
Raleigh, NC 27611

Federal-State Market News Service
P. O. Box 1447
Thomasville, GA 31792

Released February 1979

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SOUTH FLORIDA

South Florida winter potato acreage harvested was 9,600 acres in 1978, compared with 8,900 acres in 1977 and 9,200 acres in 1976. Production was estimated at 2,016,000 cwt. in 1978, significantly above the 1977 production of 1,602,000 cwt., and 10 percent more than the 1,840,000 cwt. produced in 1976. Yields for 1978 were 210 cwt. per acre, compared with only 180 cwt. per acre in 1977, and 200 cwt. per acre in 1976.

Land preparation and planting operations for the 1978 crop were completed without serious problems, although rains did slow progress several times and some reseeded was necessary in the Southeast. Cold weather in early January slowed plant growth, but caused little damage. Overall, plant conditions remained generally good throughout the growing season.

Harvesting began in the Everglades and Martin County in mid-January, about 10 days later than normal. Fort Myers started in late January and the Dade County harvest got underway in early February. Shipments were light through January, but started to increase in February. Harvest gained momentum in February and reached a fairly heavy volume in March. In mid-April shipments were at their heaviest point when the later fields in Dade County were harvested.

Shipping point prices held fairly stable in 1978, but were generally from \$1.50 to \$2.00 below the prices received for the 1977 crop. U.S. No. One Size A Round Reds in 50 pound sacks began the season in mid-January at \$5.50. Prices increased to \$6.00 the following week and at the very end of January reached a high of \$7.00. Prices then dropped sharply to \$4.50 and then were \$4.00 for much of February. A \$3.00 market prevailed the entire month of March. In April, the price began to rise and reached \$4.50 by the middle of the month. The market remained at that level through the remainder of the season. Prices ranged from \$3.00 to \$7.00, but the volume of the crop was in the \$3.00 to \$4.00 range.

The main container was a 50 pound paper sack. Master film containers holding 5 ten-pound or 10 five-pound bags were the most common consumer packages. Trucks moved practically all South Florida potatoes to market. Processing stock was shipped by bulk truck. LaRouge was the popular variety of Round Reds and the common variety of Round Whites was Sebago.

HASTINGS

Acreage harvested for the 1978 Hastings area potato crop totaled 20,500 acres, compared with 19,500 acres harvested in 1977, and 19,300 acres in 1976. The yield per acre for the 1978 crop averaged 170 cwt., considerably below the 220 cwt. per acre in 1977, and the 210 cwt. per acre in 1976. Total production in the Hastings area was 3,490,000 cwt., almost 19 percent less than the 4,290,000 cwt. produced in 1977. In 1976, total production was 4,053,000 cwt.

Planting in the winter of 1978 was delayed by cold and wet weather. Due to excessive moisture, many early plantings experienced extensive rot of seed pieces which reduced stands. Many later plantings also experienced problems with the unusually wet weather, greatly reducing yields.

Very light harvesting began the last week of April with heavy shipments beginning the third week of May. The quality was variable on early harvest stock, but improved as the potatoes matured. Potato size was good until late in the season. Weather during the harvest period was favorable through May, but seasonal rains in June slowed progress and caused some quality problems.

Peak shipments occurred during the week of May 14 when 807,000 cwt., or 1614 carlot equivalents (inter and intra-state) were shipped. Heaviest daily shipments occurred on May 19 when 168,400 cwt. or 337 carlot equivalents were recorded. Rail and truck shipments for the 1978 season totaled 6980 carlot equivalents. Rail movement in the Hastings area decreased in 1978 with only about 5 percent of the total shipments made by rail or rail-truck, compared with 16 percent in 1977 and 10 percent in 1976.

F.O.B. shipping point prices for processing and table stock potatoes declined gradually until late in the season when prices were at their highest levels. Potatoes for processing, 85 percent or more U.S. No. 1 unwashed generally 1 5/8" and up, started the major shipping point period at \$8.00 per cwt. From May 11 to May 24 most shipments went to contracts and very little was sold on the open market. Prices then gradually increased from \$4.00 to as high as \$9.00 before dropping at the very end of the season. Table stock potatoes started the season on May 9 at \$5.00, but quickly dropped to \$3.25 for 50 pound sacks of U.S. No. 1 Size A Pound Whites potatoes. The market stayed at that level until the beginning of June when the price began to increase and reached \$4.50 a week later. Table stock supplies were very light after the first week in June.

The primary container for table stock potatoes was the 50 pound paper sack, followed by the 50 and 100 pound burlap sack. Also, some potatoes were shipped to repackers in bulk form. Processing potatoes were bulk-loaded into trucks, rail cars, and piggy-back rail cars.

ALABAMA

Acreage harvested during the spring of 1978 totaled 10,500, compared with an equal number of 10,500 acres harvested during the spring of 1977. Acreage harvested for the 1978 summer crop totaled 8,000 acres, the same as in 1977. Total spring production was 1,365,000 cwt., compared with 1,260,000 cwt. produced in 1977. The summer crop production of 1,120,000 cwt. was sharply higher than last years drought afflicted crop. The average yield per acre for the 1978 spring crop was 130 cwt., compared with 120 cwt. in 1977. The 1978 summer crop yielded 140 cwt. per acre, compared with 100 cwt. per acre in 1977.

Growing conditions were generally wet during the 1978 season. Planting was delayed in both major growing areas by frequent heavy rains. Temperatures ranged from very cool during the early spring to very hot during the summer.

Harvest of the South Alabama crop got underway in late May with a good volume available by June 1st. Harvest was delayed in early June by heavy rain; so peak volume did not occur until mid June. Shipments from South Alabama continued until early July. The Northeast Alabama-Sand Mountain section began harvesting in early July. Movement peaked by mid-July and declining volume continued into early August.

Quality of Alabama potatoes was variable during 1978. Early offerings had substantial skin damage due to wet soils. Excessive heat and periods of dry weather affected later diggings in the Northeast section.

Marketing was fairly active during most of the season. Late offerings were in light demand due to competition from northern growing areas. U.S. No. 1 size A round red potatoes began the season in South Alabama at \$7.00 per cwt. in late May. Shipments were curtailed during early June by heavy rains. By mid June the price rose briefly to \$9.00 per cwt. before settling at \$8.00 to \$8.50 for the remainder of the season. Table stocks of round whites ranged from \$6.50 to \$7.00 in late May and early June. Sales of chipping stocks to processors on the open market were very light in 1978. Practically all shipments to chippers were made under contract. Sales of the summer crop in Northeast Alabama got underway in early July at \$10.00 per cwt. for round reds. The reds held at that level until mid month when they slipped to \$9.00 to \$10.00. The last sales of round reds were reported on July 25th. The round whites declined steadily in prices after an initial high of \$10.00 per cwt. in early June. By mid June they had fallen to \$7.00 to \$7.50 and by the end of the season in early August were at a low of \$5.00 to \$5.50 per cwt.. All chipping stocks from the Northeast Alabama section were delivered under contract.

Practically all shipments were made by truck with only occasional rail shipments reported. The principal types of containers were 100 pound burlap sacks, 50 pound paper sacks, and consumer packs of 5, 10, and 20 pounds. All Alabama potatoes were inspected by the Federal-State Inspection Service prior to shipment.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

The production of potatoes in Eastern North Carolina according to the Crop Reporting Board, during the spring crop of 1978 was nearly 1.9 million cwt.. This was a decrease of 326,000 cwt. from the crop of 1977 which totaled 2.2 million cwt., and was about even with the crop of 1976. Harvested acreage totaled 13,000 acres, down 400 acres from 1977, but even with 1976. The average yield per acre totaled 145 cwt. in 1978, compared with 165 cwt. in 1977 and 145 cwt. in 1976.

Planting started in February and was generally complete by the end of March. A long dry spring delayed growth and development of the crop.

The harvest began late with only a few growers digging before the latter part of June. Activity increased considerably by the last week of June and peaked from June 26th through July 7th. The harvest was generally complete by the 25th of July. Shipments totaled 1.2 million cwt. in 1978.

The first shipping point prices on open market round whites of generally good chipping quality were recorded on June 15th at \$9.00-9.25 per bulk cwt.. Prices and open market offerings declined gradually throughout the season as most chipping stock was moved under preseason contracts. Open market prices were well above normal both chip and table stock due to the general shortage of spring crop potatoes. The first table stock prices were recorded on June 15th at \$11.50-11.75 for 100 lb sacks of round whites. This price gradually declined through the season to a low of 7.00 on July 13th at the close of the reported season.

WEEKLY RAIL & TRUCK POTATO SHIPMENTS
 Shown in 1,000 50 lb. Sacks (50,000 lbs.)

January 1 - July 29, 1978

WEEK ENDING:	FLORIDA		ALABAMA		ARIZONA		NORTH CAROLINA		CALIFORNIA	
	Rail	Truck	Rail	Truck	Rail	Truck	Rail	Truck	Rail	Truck
Jan. 7	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0	180.0
14	-	18.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.2	238.0
21	-	18.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	184.0
28	-	18.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	202.0
Feb. 4	-	24.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220.0
11	-	42.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	172.0
18	-	68.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	150.0
25	-	98.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	184.0
Mar. 4	-	124.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.2	160.0
11	-	152.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	186.0
18	.5	214.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	.8	158.0
25	-	182.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134.0
Apr. 1	-	252.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160.0
8	-	302.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	136.0
15	-	330.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	166.0
22	-	340.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	172.0
29	.5	310.0	-	-	3.2	44.0	-	-	1.6	218.0
May 6	-	498.0	-	-	7.2	104.0	-	-	17.6	416.0
13	31.5	1086.0	-	-	14.4	184.0	-	-	104.8	540.0
20	39.0	1448.0	-	2.0	37.6	184.0	-	-	256.8	594.0
27	21.0	1262.0	-	126.0	32.0	226.0	-	-	289.6	666.0
June 3	23.0	1206.0	.5	200.0	9.6	376.0	-	-	285.6	698.0
10	3.5	902.0	-	146.0	14.4	444.0	-	-	412.8	808.0
17	1.5	332.0	-	360.0	16.8	392.0	-	126.0	569.6	876.0
24	-	24.0	-	364.0	8.0	382.0	-	370.0	497.6	934.0
July 1	-	-	-	190.0	3.2	254.0	-	540.0	356.0	930.0
8	-	-	-	368.0	.8	58.0	-	534.0	274.4	900.0
15	-	-	-	528.0	-	-	-	424.0	222.4	818.0
22	-	-	-	482.0	-	-	-	204.0	114.4	492.0
29	-	-	-	294.0	-	-	-	20.0	17.6	354.0

NOTE: Totals on page 10.

WEEKLY RAIL & TRUCK POTATO SHIPMENTS
 Shown in 1,000 50 lb. Sacks (50,000 lbs.)

January 1 - July 29, 1978

WEEK ENDING:	FLORIDA		ALABAMA		ARIZONA		NORTH CAROLINA		CALIFORNIA	
	Rail	Truck	Rail	Truck	Rail	Truck	Rail	Truck	Rail	Truck
Jan. 7	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0	180.0
14	-	18.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.2	238.0
21	-	18.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	184.0
28	-	18.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	202.0
Feb. 4	-	24.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220.0
11	-	42.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	172.0
18	-	68.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	150.0
25	-	98.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	184.0
Mar. 4	-	124.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.2	160.0
11	-	152.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	186.0
18	.5	214.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	.8	158.0
25	-	182.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134.0
Apr. 1	-	252.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160.0
8	-	302.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	136.0
15	-	330.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	166.0
22	-	340.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	172.0
29	.5	310.0	-	-	3.2	44.0	-	-	1.6	218.0
May 6	-	498.0	-	-	7.2	104.0	-	-	17.6	416.0
13	31.5	1086.0	-	-	14.4	184.0	-	-	104.8	540.0
20	39.0	1448.0	-	2.0	37.6	184.0	-	-	256.8	594.0
27	21.0	1262.0	-	126.0	32.0	226.0	-	-	289.6	666.0
June 3	23.0	1206.0	.5	200.0	9.6	376.0	-	-	285.6	698.0
10	3.5	902.0	-	146.0	14.4	444.0	-	-	412.8	808.0
17	1.5	332.0	-	360.0	16.8	392.0	-	126.0	569.6	876.0
24	-	24.0	-	364.0	8.0	382.0	-	370.0	497.6	934.0
July 1	-	-	-	190.0	3.2	254.0	-	540.0	356.0	930.0
8	-	-	-	368.0	.8	58.0	-	534.0	274.4	900.0
15	-	-	-	528.0	-	-	-	424.0	222.4	818.0
22	-	-	-	482.0	-	-	-	204.0	114.4	492.0
29	-	-	-	294.0	-	-	-	20.0	17.6	354.0

NOTE: Totals on page 10.

1978 SHIPPING POINT PRICES

SOUTH FLORIDA

ROUND REDS

50-lb. SACKS, US #1, WASHED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SIZE A</u>	<u>SIZE B</u>
JAN. 13	5.50	6.50
17	6.00	7.00
20	6.00	7.00
24	6.00	7.00
27	6.00	7.00
31	5.00	7.00
FEB. 3	4.50	7.00
7	4.00-4.50	7.00
10	4.00	7.00
14	4.00	6.00
17	4.00	6.00
21	4.00	6.00
24	3.75	4.75-5.00
28	3.50	4.50
MAR. 3	3.00	4.00
7	3.00	4.00
10	3.00	3.50
14	3.00	3.50
17	3.00	3.50
21	3.00	3.50
24	3.00	3.50
28	3.00	3.50
31	3.00	3.50
APR. 4	3.50	3.75
7	3.50	3.75
11	4.00	4.25
14	4.00	4.25
18	4.50	4.75
21	4.50	4.75
25	4.50	4.75
28	4.50	4.75
MAY 2	4.50	4.75
5	4.50	4.75

1978 SHIPPING POINT PRICES

SOUTH FLORIDA

ROUND REDS

50-lb. SACKS, US #1, WASHED

<u>DATE</u>		<u>SIZE A</u>	<u>SIZE B</u>
JAN.	13	5.50	6.50
	17	6.00	7.00
	20	6.00	7.00
	24	6.00	7.00
	27	6.00	7.00
	31	5.00	7.00
FEB.	3	4.50	7.00
	7	4.00-4.50	7.00
	10	4.00	7.00
	14	4.00	6.00
	17	4.00	6.00
	21	4.00	6.00
	24	3.75	4.75-5.00
	28	3.50	4.50
MAR.	3	3.00	4.00
	7	3.00	4.00
	10	3.00	3.50
	14	3.00	3.50
	17	3.00	3.50
	21	3.00	3.50
	24	3.00	3.50
	28	3.00	3.50
	31	3.00	3.50
APR.	4	3.50	3.75
	7	3.50	3.75
	11	4.00	4.25
	14	4.00	4.25
	18	4.50	4.75
	21	4.50	4.75
	25	4.50	4.75
	28	4.50	4.75
MAY	2	4.50	4.75
	5	4.50	4.75

1978 SHIPPING POINT PRICES

TABLE STOCKS

100-lb. Sacks US #1 Size A

<u>DATE</u>		<u>ROUND REDS</u>	<u>SOUTH ALABAMA</u>	<u>ROUND WHITES</u>
MAY	30	7.00		7.00
	31	7.00		6.50
JUNE	1	7.00		6.50
	2	7.00		6.50
	5	--		--
	6	--		--
	7	8.00		--
	8	--		--
	9	--		--
	12	--		--
	13	9.00		--
	14	9.00		--
	15	9.00		--
	16	8.00-8.50		--
	19	8.00-8.50		--
	20	8.00-8.50		--
	21	8.00-8.50		--
	22	8.00-8.50		--
	23	8.00-8.50		--
<u>NORTHEAST ALABAMA</u>				
JULY	3	10.00		10.00
	5	10.00		9.00
	6	10.00		9.00
	7	10.00		8.00-9.00
	10	10.00		8.00-9.00
	11	10.00		8.00-9.00
	12	10.00		7.50-8.00
	13	10.00		7.50-8.00
	14	9.00-10.00		7.00-7.50
	17	9.00-10.00		7.00-7.50
	18	9.00-10.00		7.00-7.50
	19	9.00-10.00		7.00-7.50
	20	9.00-10.00		6.00-7.00
	21	9.00-10.00		6.00-7.00
	24	9.00-10.00		6.00-7.00
	25	9.00		6.00
	26	--		5.00-5.50
	27	--		5.00-5.50
	28	--		5.00-5.50
	31	--		5.00-5.50
AUG.	1	--		5.00-5.50

1978 SHIPPING POINT PRICES

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

DATE	<u>TABLE STOCK</u>		<u>PROCESSING STOCK</u>
	<u>US #1, Size A, Washed</u>		<u>ROUND WHITES</u>
	<u>100 lb. sacks</u>	<u>50 lb. sacks</u>	<u>Bulk CWT 85% US #1 1-5/8" Min.</u>
June 15	11.50-11.75	6.00-6.25	9.00-9.25
16	11.50-12.00	6.00-6.25	9.00-9.25
19	11.25-11.75	6.00-6.25	8.00-8.50
20	11.25-11.75	6.00-6.25	8.00-8.50
21	11.50	6.00	8.00-8.50
22	11.50	6.00	8.00-8.50
23	11.50-12.00	5.75-6.00	--
26	11.50-12.00	5.75-6.00	--
27	10.50-11.00	5.50-5.75	6.50-7.00
28	9.50-10.00	5.00	6.00-6.50
29	9.50	5.00	6.00-6.50
30	9.50	4.75-5.00	6.00-7.00
July 3	8.50	4.50	--
4	--	--	--
5	8.50	4.50	--
6	8.50	4.50	4.50-5.00
7	8.00-8.50	4.50	--
10	8.00	4.00-4.25	--
11	--	--	--
12	7.50	4.00-4.50	--
13	7.00	3.50-3.75	--
14	--	--	--

WHOLESALE PRICES FOR FLORIDA POTATOES
AT SELECTED TERMINAL MARKETS
 50 lb. SACKS, US#1, SIZE A WASHED

PRICES QUOTED ARE FOR FIRST TRADING DAY OF WEEK UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
ROUND REDS

WEEK BEGINNING	ATLANTA Tuesday Price	BALTIMORE Tuesday Price	CHICAGO	CLEVELAND Tuesday Price	NEW YORK CITY	PHILADELPHIA
FEB. 7	5.50-6.00	--	--	--	--	--
14	5.50-6.00	--	--	--	--	--
21	5.50-6.00	--	--	--	--	--
28	5.00	--	--	--	--	--
MAR. 6	4.50	--	--	--	--	--
13	4.00	--	--	--	--	--
20	4.00	--	--	--	--	--
27	4.00	--	--	4.50-4.75	--	--
APR. 3	4.25-4.50	--	5.25	4.50-4.75	4.50-5.00	5.00
10	5.00	--	5.50	5.00-5.50	5.00-5.50	5.00-5.50
17	5.00-5.50	--	6.00-6.25	--	6.00	6.00
24	5.50	--	6.25	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	6.25
MAY 1	5.50-5.75	--	6.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	6.75-7.00
8	5.50-5.75	6.50-7.00	6.50	6.50-7.00	7.00	7.00
15	--	--	6.50-7.00	6.50	6.50	7.00-7.25
22	--	--	--	6.50	5.00-5.50	5.00-5.50
29	5.25-6.00	6.00	--	6.00-6.50	7.00	5.50-6.00
JUNE 5	5.50-6.00	--	--	--	6.00	5.00-5.50
12	6.50	--	--	--	--	--
19	6.75	--	--	--	--	--
26	5.75-6.50	--	--	--	--	--

ROUND WHITES

WEEK BEGINNING	ATLANTA Tuesday Price	BALTIMORE Tuesday Price	NEW YORK CITY	PHILADELPHIA
APR. 3	--	--	6.00-6.50	--
10	--	--	6.00	6.25-6.50
17	--	--	7.00-7.50	7.50
24	--	--	8.00	--
MAY 1	--	--	--	--
8	--	7.50	8.50	6.50
15	4.50-5.00	--	6.00-6.50	5.50-6.00
22	3.50-4.00	--	5.00-5.25	4.50
29	3.50-4.00	5.25	4.25-4.50	--
JUNE 5	4.00-4.50	--	--	5.50
12	6.00	7.00-7.50	4.00-4.50	--
19	6.00-7.00	--	--	--

WHOLESALE PRICES FOR ALABAMA POTATOES
AT SELECTED TERMINAL MARKETS
 50 lb. SACKS, US#1, SIZE A WASHED
 WEEKLY PRICE RANGE

ROUND REDS

WEEK ENDING	ATLANTA	CINCINNATI	CLEVELAND	LOUISVILLE	NEW YORK CITY	PHILADELPHIA	PITTSBURGH
JUNE 2	6.00	5.75-6.25	--	6.00	6.00-7.00	5.50-6.00	6.00-6.50
9	5.50-6.00	5.50-6.00	5.75-6.00	5.25-5.75	6.00-7.00	5.25-5.50	6.00-6.50
16	5.75-6.50	6.00-6.50	6.00-6.50	5.75-6.00	5.75-6.00	--	--
23	5.75-6.25	5.75-6.50	5.75	5.50-5.75	7.00-7.50	--	--
30	6.00-7.50	6.00-6.50	--	5.75	6.50	--	7.00
JULY 7	6.00-6.50	6.00-6.50	--	6.25-6.50	7.50-8.00	--	--
14	6.00-6.50	6.25-6.75	--	6.00-6.50	7.50-8.00	7.00-7.50	--
21	6.00	6.25-6.50	7.00	6.25-6.50	7.00	7.00-7.50	6.50-7.00
28	6.00	6.25-6.75	--	6.25-6.50	6.50-8.00	--	--

ROUND WHITES

WEEK ENDING	ATLANTA	CINCINNATI	LOUISVILLE
JUNE 2	3.50-3.75	6.50	5.00-5.25
9	5.50	5.50	4.75-5.50
16	6.00	--	--
23	6.00	7.00	5.75-6.00
30	6.00-7.50	--	6.00-6.50
JULY 7	5.50-6.00	6.00-6.50	6.00-6.50
14	5.00-5.50	6.00-6.25	5.75-6.50
21	4.25-4.75	6.00	5.25-6.00
28	4.00-4.50	5.00-5.25	5.00-5.50

WHOLESALE PRICES FOR EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA POTATOES

AT SELECTED TERMINAL MARKETS

50 lb. SACKS, US#1, SIZE A WASHED

PRICES QUOTED ARE FOR FIRST TRADING DAY OF WEEK UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

ROUND WHITES

WEEK BEGINNING	BALTIMORE	ATLANTA	NEW YORK CITY	PHILADELPHIA	PITTSBURGH
MAY 31*	--	--	--	5.00-5.50	--
JUNE 5	--	--	5.25-5.50	5.00	--
12	5.00-6.00	--	5.25-5.50	--	--
19	6.25-6.50	--	5.00-5.25	--	--
26	6.50	7.25	--	6.50	--
JULY 3	5.00-5.75	5.75-6.00	--	--	--
10	--	5.50-6.00	--	5.00-5.25	5.25-5.75
17	--	4.75	--	4.00-4.50	--
24	--	4.25-4.75	--	3.50	--
31	--	--	--	--	--

*Wednesday prices.

POTATO PRODUCTION - WINTER AND SPRING

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA					
	PLANTED			HARVESTED		
	1977	1978	IND 1979	1977	1978	IND 1979
	1,000 ACRES					
WINTER:						
CALIF	4.5	3.0	3.3	4.5	3.0	3.3
FLA	9.1	10.0	9.9	8.9	9.9	9.9
TOTAL	13.6	13.0	13.2	13.4	12.9	13.2
SPRING: 1/ 2/						
ALA	11.0	11.0	9.5	10.5	9.5	
ARIZ	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.5	6.0	
CALIF	30.8	29.0	31.0	30.8	29.0	
FLA-HASTINGS	19.7	20.8	20.8	19.5	20.6	
-OTHER	1.7	2.0	1.0	1.7	1.8	
LA	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.3	
MISS 3/	1.4	1.3		1.3	1.2	
N C	13.5	13.1	13.4	13.4	13.0	
TEX	5.6	7.6	8.1	5.4	7.5	
TOTAL	92.8	93.4	92.1	91.4	90.9	
	YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	1977	1978	IND 1979	1977	1978	IND 1979
	CWT			1,000 CWT		
WINTER:						
CALIF	235	230	230	1,058	690	759
FLA	180	195	195	1,602	1,931	1,931
TOTAL	199	203	204	2,660	2,621	2,690
SPRING: 1/ 2/						
ALA	120	100		1,260	950	
ARIZ	270	265		1,755	1,590	
CALIF	385	285		11,858	8,265	
FLA-HASTINGS	220	170		4,290	3,502	
-OTHER	185	125		315	225	
LA	75	75		173	173	
MISS 3/	90	90		117	108	
N C	165	150		2,211	1,950	
TEX	165	160		891	1,200	
TOTAL	250	198		22,870	17,963	

1/ 1978 REVISED.

2/ HARVESTED ACRES FOR 1979 TO BE RELEASED MAR 9, 1979 AND YIELD AND PRODUCTION, APR 10, 1979.

3/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED AFTER 1978 CROP.

POTATO - PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON JANUARY 1, 1978 AND JANUARY 1, 1979

STATE	CROP OF 1977			CROP OF 1978		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	JAN 1 STOCKS	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	JAN 1 STOCKS
	1,000 CWT	JAN 1, 1978	AS % OF PRODUCTION	1,000 CWT	JAN 1, 1979	AS % OF PRODUCTION
CALIF	5,950	3,200	54	6,055	3,400	56
COLO	9,490	5,650	60	9,750	5,550	57
CONN	466	175		3/	3/	
IDAHO	88,200	61,000	69	96,980	67,500	70
IND	1,128	150	13	936	185	20
MAINE	28,320	20,200	71	26,180	17,500	67
MASS	888	265	30	810	380	47
MICH	8,800	4,400	50	8,670	4,800	55
MINN	12,960	8,600	66	14,910	10,700	72
MONT	2,016	1,820	90	2,088	1,870	90
NEBR	1,440	830	58	1,680	1,100	65
N H 1/	71	50	70			
N Y - L I	7,182	2,200	31	6,175	2,250	36
- UPSTATE	5,356	2,200	41	6,500	2,400	37
N DAK	21,600	13,800	64	22,400	14,700	66
OHIO	2,744	800	29	2,215	700	32
OREG	25,550	14,100	55	28,488	15,400	54
PA	6,375	3,500	55	6,250	3,450	55
R I	943	2/		3/	3/	
S DAK	1,062	705	66	1,190	650	55
UTAH	1,416	720	51	1,127	660	59
VT	235	130	55	3/	3/	
WASH	50,600	24,700	49	50,685	28,800	57
WIS	18,038	8,300	46	17,325	7,700	44
WYO	1,474	710	48	1,360	540	40
OTHER STATES 3/				1,488	245	16
23-STATE TOTAL 4/	302,304	178,205	59	313,262	190,480	61

1/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED AFTER 1977 CROP. 2/ R I INCLUDED IN CONN. 3/ CONN, R I, AND VT INCLUDED IN OTHER STATES. 4/ EXCLUDING NEV FOR WHICH NO STOCKS ESTIMATES ARE MADE. NEV 1977 PRODUCTION 4,760,000 CWT. AND 1978 PRODUCTION 5,440,000 CWT.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the January 1, 1979 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the January 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1959-78 twenty-year period. The square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary estimate relative to the final end of season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimate are not different from those influencing recent years' preliminary estimate.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1, 1979 potato stocks estimate is 2.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 190 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.2 percent or approximately 4.19 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.8 percent or approximately 7.24 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the January 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.3 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.2 and the smallest was 1.4 million hundredweight. The preliminary January 1 estimate was below the final estimate each year during the past 10 years.