

Belle Glade, Fla.

May 14, 1941

TOMATOES

A review of this season's South Florida winter tomato deal is largely a matter of weather reports. The acreage composing this deal is located mostly in Dade, Broward and Collier Counties. The original estimate of the acreage for this winter crop was 16,000, but excessive rainfall drowned about 2,000 acres and a frost on March 2 killed 6,000 acres. The remaining acreage was left in such poor condition that the yields were very low and the quality of the fruit very ordinary. Due to this condition many packing houses never even attempted to open. The quality of the fruit which was packed was usually so questionable that very little cash buying was done. Most shipments were either consigned or sold on a basis which protected the buyer against deterioration. Trading at shipping point was so limited as to make it almost impossible to assemble enough sales to establish an f.o.b. market. It is for this reason that no tabulations of prices are given in this review. Terminal market quotations were published daily during the season, but due to the generally ordinary quality and condition of arrivals, prices were too irregular to be of value in tabulations.

In the Lake Okeechobee Section there was a fair acreage of spring tomatoes which showed indications of making a nice crop, but a 4 to 5 inch rain on April 7 ruined these prospects. The vines blighted and yields were very low. Quality was generally ordinary with occasional cars of good quality. A few f.o.b. sales were made, the highest of which was \$4.50 a lug on 6x6's. Most of the tomatoes were either of small size or off grade quality. On May 6 another heavy rain, ranging from 2 to 9 inches, fell in this section and damaged the crop still further.

The chart which follows shows the weekly shipments of tomatoes from Florida from November 3 through May 10 along with competing areas. While this discussion is confined to the sections in South Florida, it is thought advisable to chart the movement from the entire state. Shipments during November and December are from what is known as the fall acreage which is located in Central Florida, Manatee, Ft. Pierce, Indiantown, and Ft. Myers Sections. Shipments from the State by rail and boat through May 10 were 2147 cars and the movement by truck for this period was 2347 cars. Imports from Mexico for the season through May 10 totalled 4580 cars while those from Cuba totalled 2182 cars.

WEEKLY CARLOT TOMATO SHIPMENTS - PERIOD NOVEMBER 3 - MAY 10.

Shipments from Florida are shown for rail, boat and truck. California, Texas and Mexico are shown only in cars moving by rail while naturally imports from Cuba are by boat. Puerto Rico and Bahama Islands are listed under others.

Week	Florida						Imports					
	Rail	Boat	Trk	Cal.	Tex.	Mex.	Rail	Boat	Trk	Cal.	Tex.	Mex.
Nov. 9:	1	2	12	194	67							
16:	10	16	36	127	114	1						
23:	52	18	41	50	112	10						
30:	64	31	75	11	42	29						
Dec. 7:	91	57	1	94	19	28	4					
14:	113	58		99	1	3	41					
21:	111	72	1	119			26					
28:	38	20		70			33					
Jan. 4:	69	29		105			21					
11:	86	9		128			125					
18:	97	20	1	163			135					
25:	75	1	1	104			172					
Feb. 1:	109			104			159					
8:	140			105			137					
Nov. 15:	91			92								
22:	58			105								
Mar. 1:	23			86								
8:	24	1		70								
15:	29			80								
22:	24			77								
29:	22			67								
Apr. 5:	7			55								
12:	3			40								
19:	6			39	1							
26:	25	18		79	81							
May 3:	53	88		123	113	6						
10:	74	206		178	78	103						

CELERY

It was estimated that the celery acreage in Florida for 1941 would total 9,000 acres as compared with 7,500 acres for 1940 and 6,760 for the ten year average from 1930 to 1939. Of this 9,000 acres, 4,550 were located in Seminole County, 1,400 in Sarasota County, 300 in Manatee County, and 2,000 in Palm Beach County. Since a special celery report will be issued from the Sanford office, this brief review will deal mostly with the acreage in Palm Beach County.

The Lake Okeechobee Section, which is in Palm Beach County, is a comparatively new area in celery production and each year since the first acreage was planted has seen a large increase over the previous year. The following yearly acreage has been reported: 1935, 50 acres; 1936, 100 acres; 1937, 180 acres; 1938, 350 acres; 1939, 550 acres; 1940, 1050 acres; 1941, 2000 acres.

The harvesting period began this season about the third week in December which is a little earlier than usual. The heavy rains of Christmas week caused considerable damage to the quality, but very little acreage was lost from drowning. Excessive rainfall throughout the growing season greatly reduced the yields and for short periods after these heavy rains the quality was affected.

The carlot shipments by rail from Palm Beach County through May 10 were 1337 cars. The heaviest week of shipments was the week of April 6-12 when 133 cars were shipped by rail and 23 cars by truck. An estimate of the truck shipments from this section is made each day by the local railroad officials and the total of these estimates for the season through May 10 is 324 cars.

The carlot shipments by rail and boat from Florida for this season through May 10 is 7,253 cars as compared with 7,337 for the same period last year. No record of the truck movement from this section for the 1940 season is available.

Prices received at shipping point were very good and the season a profitable one.

SHIPPING POINT PRICES OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE CELERY

The prices tabulated below are weekly ranges as taken from the daily f.o.b. report. The quotations are on 16-inch crates with trimmed tops. Shipments are the weekly totals.

Week	Shipments			Carloads and truckloads f.o.b. cash at shipping point				
	Florida	Calif.	Truck	3 doz.	4 doz.	6 doz.	8 doz.	10 doz.
Dec. 28:	141	15	203	1.75-2.00	1.75-2.00	1.75-1.90	1.75-1.90	1.75-1.90
Jan. 4:	315	32	416	1.75	1.75-1.85	1.45-1.75	1.45-1.75	1.45-1.75
11:	232	56	504	1.75	1.75	1.25-1.50	1.15-1.40	1.00-1.40
18:	118	37	392	1.75-2.00	1.75-2.00	1.35-1.60	1.25-1.50	1.00-1.25
25:	270	43	219	1.90-2.25	1.90-2.25	1.50-1.75	1.30-1.50	1.00-1.25
Feb. 1:	237	52	195	2.00-2.15	2.00-2.15	1.60-1.75	1.40-1.50	1.15-1.30
8:	252	51	182	2.00-2.10	1.95-2.25	1.75-2.10	1.30-1.80	1.35-1.60
15:	281	73	182	1.90-3.00	1.90-3.00	1.90-2.50	1.65-2.10	1.50-2.00
22:	252	83	142		2.75-3.00	2.25-2.75	2.00-2.60	1.75-2.40
Mar. 1:	329	92	187	3.25-3.60	2.50-3.25	2.50-3.35	2.25-3.35	2.00-3.00
8:	294	88	159	2.75-3.00	2.75-3.00	2.75-3.00	2.75-3.00	2.75-3.00
15:	407	108	149	2.15-2.75	2.00-2.75	2.40-2.85	2.65-3.00	2.65-3.00
22:	347	90	76	2.10-2.75	2.10-2.75	2.20-2.75	2.50-3.00	2.50-3.00
29:	542	120	13	2.10-2.50	2.10-2.50	2.15-2.75	2.65-3.00	2.75-3.00
Apr. 5:	509	77	13	1.80-2.15	1.80-2.15	1.85-2.40	2.35-2.65	2.50-2.75
12:	592	104	17	1.30-2.00	1.30-2.00	1.50-2.15	1.75-2.50	1.75-2.50

(Over)

May 14, 1941

## SHIPPING POINT PRICES OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE CELERY (CONTD)

Week	Shipments			Carloads and truckloads f.o.b. cash at shipping point				
	Florida			16-inch crates with trimmed tops				
Ending:	Rail & Boat	Truck	Calif.	3 doz.	4 doz.	6 doz.	8 doz.	10 doz.
Apr. 19:	623	84	10	1.35-1.50	1.25-1.50	.90-1.50	.85-1.50	.85-1.50
28:	513	72	21	1.35-1.60	1.35-1.60	.90-1.25	.90-1.25	.90-1.15
May 3:	446	67	22	1.50-1.85	1.50-1.85	1.15-1.35	1.10-1.25	1.00-1.15
10:	415	61	28	1.65-2.25	1.65-2.50	1.25-1.85	1.15-1.35	1.00-1.25

J. B. Owens, Local Representative