

BRIEF REVIEW OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA TOMATO SEASON
(Lower East Coast, Lake Okeechobee Section, and
Ft. Pierce-Vero Section)

May 16, 1938.

Belle Glade, Fla.

F. O. B. reports on tomatoes were issued for the Lower East Coast section from January 31 through May 6. F. O. B. reports were issued for the Lake Okeechobee section from April 6 through May 13. F. O. B. reports were issued for the Ft. Pierce-Vero section from April 18 through May 13.

The winter acreage of tomatoes in South Florida for this season was estimated as being 17,300 acres, which is about the same as the harvested acreage for last year. The approximate location of this acreage was as follows: 11,000 acres in Dade County; 4,000 acres in Broward County; 1,500 acres in Collier County; and 800 acres in Palm Beach County (East Coast). The spring acreage, which includes the Ft. Pierce-Vero Section, Lake Okeechobee Section, Manatee Section, and other Central Florida Sections, was estimated at 24,000 acres compared with the harvested acreage of 10,800 acres last season and 15,180 acres for the 10-year average from 1927 to 1936.

The yields from this winter acreage were very good, with a few fields providing record yields of 1,000 to 1,200 field crates to the acre. The quality was generally considered as being excellent throughout most of the season.

In the Lake Okeechobee Section the dry spring was very favorable for the production of tomatoes. The yields were very good, and the quality was generally conceded as being the best ever produced in this territory.

The prices received for these winter and spring crops were considerably lower than those received for the two previous years' crops. The continuously heavy volume prohibited any sizable advances in the market, the only advance of significant proportions being just prior to the Easter holidays, when the f. o. b. market went as high as \$2.00 on lugs of 6x6's and larger.

Carlot shipments of tomatoes from Florida for this season totaled 11,229 cars on May 14. The final for last season was 5,628 cars. Shipments from Florida will probably continue in a small volume into the month of June and indications are that when the season is finished Florida will have marketed the largest crop of tomatoes in its history.

Competition from Cuba was slightly heavier this season than last. Through April 30 this season imports from Cuba were 2,049 cars, as compared with 1,943 cars for last season. Imports from Mexico through May 14 totaled 1,801 cars, as compared with 3,136 for the similar period last year, and 3,227 cars for the total last year.

SHIPPING POINT PRICES OF SOUTH FLORIDA TOMATOES - SEASON 1938

The tabulations below contain the weekly carlot shipments in the United States, weekly imports from Mexico and Cuba, and a weekly range of prices at shipping point.

LOWER EAST COAST

| Week Ending | Shipments | | | | | | | Carloads f.o.b. Usual Terms, lugs, green wrapped | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|-------|------|------|--------|---------|--|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | F. E. C. | Other Fla. | Texas | | Cuba | Mexico | Imports | U. S. No. 1 | 75-85% U. S. No. 1 | U. S. No. 1 | 75-85% U. S. No. 1 | |
| | Rail | Boat | Rail | Boat | | | | 6x6 | 6x7 | 6x6 | 6x7 | |
| Feb. 5 | 108 | 1 | | | | | 173 | 89 | 2.00-2.25 | 1.50-1.75 | 1.85-2.00 | 1.35-1.50 |
| 12 | 277 | 3 | | | | | 157 | 108 | 1.50-2.00 | 1.25-1.50 | 1.25-1.75 | 1.00-1.25 |
| 19 | 284 | 6 | | | | | 162 | 96 | 1.25-1.50 | 1.00-1.25 | 1.00-1.25 | .75-1.00 |
| 26 | 346 | 6 | | 1 | | | 171 | 24 | 1.15-1.25 | .90-1.00 | 1.00-1.15 | .75-.90 |
| Mar. 5 | 503 | 6 | | 2 | | | 82 | 68 | 1.25-1.35 | 1.00-1.10 | 1.00-1.20 | .75-.95 |
| 12 | 688 | 13 | | 3 | | | 98 | 102 | 1.15-1.35 | .75-1.00 | 1.00-1.15 | .65-.90 |
| 19 | 756 | 12 | | 10 | | | 59 | 88 | 1.15-1.25 | .75-.90 | 1.00-1.15 | .60-.80 |
| 26 | 749 | 15 | | 5 | | | 43 | 51 | 1.05-1.25 | .70-.85 | .90-1.10 | .65-.75 |
| Apr. 2 | 856 | 11 | | 5 | | | 14 | 117 | 1.05-1.25 | .75-.85 | .90-1.15 | .65-.85 |
| 9 | 743 | 6 | | 7 | | | 3 | 148 | 1.35-2.00 | 1.10-1.50 | 1.15-1.65 | .90-1.35 |
| 16 | 647 | 9 | | 4 | 29 | | 8 | 246 | 1.25-1.65 | .90-1.25 | 1.15-1.50 | .90-1.15 |
| 23 | 593 | 7 | | 3 | 61 | | 1 | 106 | | 1.25-.85-.95 | | |
| 30 | 535 | 8 | | 8 | 132 | | | 33 | 1.15-1.25* | .85-1.00* | | |
| May 7 | 484 | 9 | | 9 | 396 | | 3 | 43 | 1.15-1.25* | .80-1.00* | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | Note: *carloads f.o.b. cash track. | | | |

LAKE OKEECHOBEE SECTION

| Week Ending | Shipments | | | | | | | Carloads f.o.b. cash track, lugs, green, wrapped | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|-------|------|------|--------|---------|--|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------|
| | F. E. C. | Other Fla. | Texas | | Cuba | Mexico | Imports | U. S. No. 1 | 75-85% U. S. No. 1 | U. S. No. 1 | 75-85% U. S. No. 1 | |
| | Rail | Boat | Rail | Boat | | | | 6x6 | 6x7 | 6x6 | 6x7 | |
| Apr. 9 | 743 | 6 | | 7 | | | 3 | 148 | | 1.25-1.65 | 1.00-1.25 | |
| 16 | 647 | 9 | | 4 | 29 | | 8 | 246 | 1.15-1.50 | .85-1.25 | 1.05-1.35 | .75-1.00 |
| 23 | 593 | 7 | | 3 | 61 | | 1 | 106 | 1.00-1.10 | .65-.85 | .90-1.05 | .65-.75 |
| 30 | 535 | 8 | | 8 | 132 | | | 33 | 1.00-1.35 | .75-1.00 | 1.00-1.25 | .70-1.00 |
| May 7 | 484 | 9 | | 9 | 396 | | 3 | 43 | 1.10-1.35 | .90-1.00 | 1.00-1.15 | .75-.85 |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | 1.10-1.25 | .80-.90 | .95-1.05 | .70-.80 |

FT. PIERCE-VERO SECTION

| Week Ending | Shipments | | | | | | | Carloads f.o.b. usual terms, lugs, green, wrapped | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|-------|------|------|--------|---------|---|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|--|
| | F. E. C. | Other Fla. | Texas | | Cuba | Mexico | Imports | U. S. No. 1 | 75-85% U. S. No. 1 | U. S. No. 1 | 75-85% U. S. No. 1 | |
| | Rail | Boat | Rail | Boat | | | | 6x6 | 6x7 | 6x6 | 6x7 | |
| Apr. 23 | 593 | 7 | | 3 | 61 | | 1 | 106 | 1.25-1.40 | 1.00-1.10 | | |
| 30 | 535 | 8 | | 8 | 132 | | | 33 | 1.35-1.65 | 1.10-1.35 | | |
| May 7 | 484 | 9 | | 9 | 396 | | 3 | 43 | 1.50-1.60 | 1.15-1.25 | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | 1.30-1.60 | 1.00-1.25 | | |

WEEKLY JOBBING PRICES OF FLORIDA TOMATOES IN FIVE LEADING CITIES

The markets used in the charts below are selected as being representative of the large consuming centers using Florida tomatoes. The prices are weekly ranges on the best quality stock offered and which is usually designated as generally good.

NEW YORK

| Week Ending | UNLOADS | | | | Lugs, green, ripers and turning, wrapped | |
|-------------|---------|-------|---------|------|--|--|
| | Florida | Other | Imports | Cuba | Mexico | |
| | Rail | Boat | U.S. | | | |
| Feb. 5 | 4 | | | 169 | | 2.00-2.25 |
| 12 | 1 | | | 154 | | 2.50-2.75 |
| 19 | 6 | | | 99 | | 1.25-2.00 |
| 26 | 9 | | | 170 | | 1.25-1.75 |
| Mar. 5 | 13 | | | 82 | | 1.50-1.93 |
| 12 | 29 | 1 | | 98 | | 1.25-1.62 ¹ / ₂ |
| 19 | 87 | 4 | | 59 | | 1.43-1.87 ¹ / ₂ |
| 26 | 136 | 7 | | 43 | | 1.25-1.62 ¹ / ₂ |
| Apr. 2 | 133 | 9 | | 14 | | 1.37 ¹ / ₂ -1.87 ¹ / ₂ |
| 9 | 167 | 3 | | 3 | | 1.75-2.37 ¹ / ₂ |
| 16 | 162 | 5 | | 8 | | 1.50-2.00 |
| 23 | 241 | 2 | | 1 | | 1.25-1.75 |
| 30 | 235 | 5 | | | | 1.50-2.00 |
| May 7 | 254 | 5 | 1 | | | 1.50-2.00 |
| 14 | 233 | 12 | 3 | | | 1.25-2.12 ¹ / ₂ |

PHILADELPHIA

| Week Ending | ARRIVALS | | | | Lugs, green, ripers and turning, wrapped | |
|-------------|----------|-------|---------|------|--|--|
| | Florida | Other | Imports | Cuba | | |
| | Rail | Boat | U.S. | | | |
| Feb. 12 | 2 | | | 1 | | 2.00-2.50 |
| 19 | 22 | | | 1 | | 1.50-2.50 |
| 26 | 11 | 1 | | | | 1.25-1.85 |
| Mar. 5 | 19 | 4 | | | | 1.40-1.85 |
| 12 | 44 | 4 | | | | 1.40-1.75 |
| 19 | 67 | 5 | | | | 1.50-1.85 |
| 26 | 58 | 11 | | | | 1.35-1.75 |
| Apr. 2 | 98 | 6 | | | | 1.35-1.75 |
| 9 | 75 | 6 | | | | 1.65-2.40 |
| 16 | 92 | 4 | | | | 1.50-2.25 |
| 23 | 100 | 7 | | | | 1.37 ¹ / ₂ -1.85 |
| 30 | 100 | 7 | | | | 1.40-2.00 |
| May 7 | 128 | 4 | 1 | | | 1.50-2.15 |
| 14 | 117 | 2 | 16 | | | 1.60-2.00 |

CHICAGO

| Week Ending | ARRIVALS | | | | Lugs, green, ripers and turning, wrapped | |
|-------------|----------|-------|--------|------|--|-----------|
| | Florida | Texas | Mexico | Cuba | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Feb. 5 | 18 | | 30 | | | 2.75-3.15 |
| 12 | 29 | | 19 | 1 | | 2.50-3.15 |
| 19 | 34 | | 21 | | | 1.75-2.75 |
| 26 | 37 | | 13 | | | 1.50-2.00 |
| Mar. 5 | 62 | | 5 | | | 1.50-2.00 |
| 12 | 73 | | 4 | | | 1.60-2.15 |
| 19 | 91 | | 12 | | | 1.50-2.00 |
| 26 | 53 | | 15 | | | 1.40-1.75 |
| Apr. 2 | 71 | | 5 | | | 1.50-2.10 |
| 9 | 124 | | 17 | | | 2.00-2.50 |
| 16 | 71 | | 24 | | | 1.65-2.40 |
| 23 | 88 | | 44 | | | 1.50-2.00 |
| 30 | 111 | 7 | 28 | | | 1.75-2.25 |
| May 7 | 102 | 19 | 11 | | | 1.75-2.25 |
| 14 | 73 | 51 | 2 | | | 1.65-2.10 |

PITTSBURGH

| Week Ending | ARRIVALS | | | | Lugs, green, ripers and turning, wrapped | |
|-------------|----------|-------|--------|------|--|-----------|
| | Florida | Texas | Mexico | Cuba | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Feb. 5 | 5 | | 4 | 4 | | 2.50-2.75 |
| 12 | 14 | | 2 | | | 2.50-3.00 |
| 19 | 26 | | 2 | | | 1.75-2.75 |
| 26 | 25 | | 1 | | | 1.25-2.00 |
| Mar. 5 | 31 | | | | | 1.50-1.75 |
| 12 | 49 | | | | | 1.50-1.75 |
| 19 | 61 | | | | | 1.50-1.75 |
| 26 | | | | | | 1.25-1.75 |
| Apr. 2 | 47 | | | | | 1.25-1.75 |
| 9 | 60 | | 1 | | | 1.50-2.50 |
| 16 | 76 | | | | | 1.75-2.40 |
| 23 | 57 | | | | | 1.25-2.00 |
| 30 | 73 | 3 | | | | 1.25-2.00 |
| May 7 | 84 | 6 | | | | 1.50-2.00 |
| 14 | 84 | 15 | | | | 1.50-2.00 |

BOSTON

| Week Ending | ARRIVALS | | | Lugs, green, ripers and turning, wrapped | |
|-------------|----------|-------|------|--|-----------|
| | Florida | Texas | Cuba | | |
| | | | | | |
| Feb. 5 | 5 | | 5 | | 2.25-2.75 |
| 12 | 15 | | 2 | | 2.00-2.50 |
| 19 | 27 | | 1 | | 1.50-2.00 |
| 26 | 42 | | 4 | | 1.25-1.50 |
| Mar. 5 | 64 | | | | 1.25-1.65 |
| 12 | 98 | | | | 1.00-1.50 |
| 19 | 73 | | | | 1.10-1.15 |
| 26 | 58 | | | | 1.15-1.40 |
| Apr. 2 | 98 | | | | 1.10-1.50 |
| 9 | 92 | | | | 1.40-2.00 |
| 16 | 71 | | | | 1.50-1.85 |
| 23 | 124 | | | | 1.40-1.65 |
| 30 | 129 | | | | 1.40-1.75 |
| May 7 | 102 | | | | 1.25-1.75 |
| 14 | 89 | 18 | | | 1.35-1.65 |