

The winter tomato producing areas of Florida are Broward and Dade counties. Preliminary estimates set the acreage for the South Florida winter tomato crop at 13,000 acres compared with 12,200 in 1946 and 12,800 for the 10 year average during the years 1935-46. Later estimates after the succession of setbacks due to bad weather such as the freeze of February 5th and 6th and the rains during the early part of the month of March caused drastic reductions in the amount of acreage for harvest (does not include the acreage planted which was lost or abandoned due to crop failure). The most recent estimate made preliminary to the final harvesting indicates 9,300 acres for harvest of the winter crop according to the United States Department Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The preliminary estimates for the early spring crop was 8,300 compared with 13,000 in 1946 and 15,160 acres for the 10 year average 1936-45.

Taken as a whole weather conditions for the winter crop and the early spring crop were decidedly unfavorable for the development of volume anywhere near the normal for these sections.

The setting of the Dade County and Dania-Hallendale winter crop was delayed by rains. During the months of November through January excessive rains and high winds followed by hot sunshine had favored the development of blight, shipments were very light, and most of the crop that shipped by rail went subject to approval on the other end, and a great percentage were marketed to repacking plants, some factors in the deal made a practice of marketing their product in bulk in field crates. The freeze of February 5th and 6th caused loss of acreage estimated from 25-90% in the Dade County area and Dania-Hallendale sections. Taken as a whole approximately three fifths of the total winter acreage was destroyed by the cold wave.

The early spring crop of the Ft. Pierce area suffered the setbacks of excessive rains, high winds, frost, and blight. The freeze of February 5th and 6th alone accounted for approximately 35-45% loss of the crop. The settings made after this time were planned on to make the volume of the crop. Adverse conditions during the remaining month of February plus setbacks during the months of March and April setback harvesting until April when some light volume began to move, some stock was sold at auction in field crates, and most of the other stock was rolled with prices to be set later.

During the whole of the winter and spring deal shipments were so very light and during part of the winter deal quality and condition played such a big part in the selling of the stock that there were not enough sales locally or in carlot by wire to establish a real f. o. b. market. Jobbing prices on the terminal markets ran exceptionally high, with the bulk of the shipments going to New York City, and selling on auction. Shipments for the season never reached any volume of consequence until the early part of May.

WEEKLY CARLOT SHIPMENTS OF TOMATOES

Week Ending	Florida 1947			Total		Florida 1946			Total	
	Rail	Truck	Other	US	Imports	Rail	Truck	Other	US	Imports
Feb. 8:	56	0	69	0	532	103	11	80	0	408
15:	75	1	65	0	433	140	6	91	0	487
22:	55	3	43	0	489	249	14	119	0	418
Mar. 1:	43	2	33	0	352	291	23	135	0	345
8:	35	3	42	0	517	318	25	130	0	243
15:	27	3	37	0	435	302	36	122	0	246
22:	12	5	22	0	418	337	48	133	0	364
29:	7	6	15	0	645	269	50	164	0	396
Apr. 5:	5	1	14	0	436	233	51	160	2	498
12:	6	1	9	0	408	162	63	219	49	521
19:	6	9	15	7	381	235	131	230	313	565
26:	16	8	32	131	255	261	169	249	951	299
May 3:	52	39	78	339	190	243	169	255	1422	70
10:	64	121	119	591	47	142	135		1738	2
17:	120	120	154	1051	10					

WEEKLY JOBBING PRICES OF FLORIDA TOMATOES IN TERMINAL MARKETS

Lug boxes, wrapped & unwrapped in less than carlot quantities of good quality & condition

NEW YORK CITY

Week Ending	Florida Unloads			Total Others	Green, ripe and turning		
	Rail	Truck	Others		6x5's	6x7's	7x7's
Feb. 7:	17	1	36	5.25-5.50	5.00-5.25	4.00	
14:	32	12	166	5.00-6.50	4.50-7.00	3.00-4.50	
21:	24	-	136	.60-5.50	.60-5.25	.60-3.50	
28:	32	-	154	4.25-6.85	1.20-6.25	.90-4.45	
Mar. 7:	35	-	92	1.15-7.40	1.15-7.20	1.50-5.10	
14:	25	-	61	4.55-8.50	1.85-8.00	1.85-6.00	
21:	31	-	50	1.80-10.50	1.40-8.60	1.35-7.05	
28:	16	-	52	4.30-9.75	3.50-8.50	3.20-6.35	
Apr. 4:	9	-	64	9.00-11.00	6.25-9.05	3.35-6.75	
11:	5	-	76	2.30-8.20	2.35-6.90	1.85-5.00	
18:	6	-	86	8.30-9.90	7.10-8.95	4.55-5.40	
25:	15	-	61	6.05-14.75	6.00-12.40	4.00-9.95	
May 2:	26	1	53	3.25-10.10	2.70-10.55	2.15-8.80	
9:	53	5	57	3.15-10.10	3.15-10.55	3.00-9.00	
16:	70	2	49	3.00-7.80	2.00-9.45	2.80-7.70	

*Most sales auction sales.

WEEKLY JOERING PRICES OF TOMATOES IN TERMINAL MARKETS

CONTINUED

Lug boxes, wrapped & unwrapped in less than carlot quantities of good quality & condition										
	B O S T O N					C H I C A G O				
	Arrivals					Arrivals				
Week	Fla.	Total	Green, ripos & turning		Florida	Total	Green, ripos & turning			
Ending:	Rail	Other	6x7's	7x7's	Rail	Trk	Other	6x6's	6x7's	
Feb. 7:	35	38	3.75-5.00	2.50-4.00	2		61	4.75	3.50-3.75	
14:	6	56	2.35-4.00	1.00-2.00	1		91	5.50	5.50	
21:	2	30	3.00	1.90-2.50	2		61			
28:	20	14	2.00-5.50	2.00-4.50	1		78	5.25-	5.25	
Mar. 7:	28	24	4.50-6.00	4.50-5.00	-		57	6.00	1.50	
14:	8	35	5.75-7.00	5.70-5.75	-		89			
21:	-	36	1.25-5.75	.75-4.50	-		118			
28:	-	43			-		78			
Apr. 4:	-	39			-		83			
11:	-	31			-		124			
18:	1	38	6.00-7.00	4.50-5.00	-		52			
25:	-	35			-		113			
May 2:	-	40			-		49			
9:	12	22	6.50-10.00	5.50-9.00	3		104	7.00		
16:	40	36	3.00-7.25	2.50-6.25	14		87	3.50-7.50	6.00-7.50	

Lug boxes, wrapped & unwrapped in less than carlot quantities of good quality & condition										
P H I L A D E L P H I A										
	Florida			Green, ripos & turning						
Week	arrivals		Total	6x6's		6x7's		7x7's		
Ending	Rail	Truck	Others							
Feb. 7:	9	2	9							2.00-2.25
14:	7	-	16							
21:	4	-	23							
28:	8	-	25							
Mar. 7:	4	-	15							
14:	6	-	19							
21:	4	1	33							
28:	-	-	21							
Apr. 4:	-	-	13							
11:	-	-	39							
18:	-	-	16							
25:	1	-	16							
May 2:	4	-	8	2.50-11.00		6.00-10.00		5.00-7.00		
9:	18	-	10	6.50-8.50		6.50-9.00		6.00-7.50		
16:	18	1	31	6.00-7.50		4.50-7.00		5.00-6.50		

NOTICE

A complete celery summary will be issued from Sanford, Florida at close of Sanford deal. Copies will be mailed to all on the Belle Glade mailing list.

J. J. Gardner, Jr., Local Representative