

FILE COPY

MARKETING WESTERN AND CENTRAL NEW YORK

LETTUCE

1972 CROP

FEDERAL-STATE MARKET NEWS SERVICE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
Market News Branch

cooperating with

NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS  
Division of Marketing

MARKETING WESTERN AND CENTRAL NEW YORK LETTUCE - 1972 CROP

This was the first New York lettuce crop reported by the Federal-State Market News Service.

Daily market reports on Iceberg lettuce were issued from the Rochester Federal-State Market News Service office from August 14 through October 6, 1972. The information in this summary was obtained from these reports and other releases by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the New York Crop Reporting Service, Albany, New York.

We wish to express our appreciation to all growers and shippers for their cooperation.

\* \* \* \* \*

Planted acreage for the entire state's 1972 lettuce crop totaled 3800 acres on June 1, the same as for the previous year. Due to heavy abandonment caused by the long-term effects of Tropical Storm Agnes and, subsequent above average precipitation, productive acreage dropped to 2900 acres by August 1 and down to 2300 acres by September 1st. Statewide yields dropped to 130 hundredweight per acre compared to 180 for the previous year. The state's total production dropped to 299,000 hundredweight compared to 684,000 hundredweight for the 1971 crop. Sales volume amounted to less than half of previous average seasons.

OSWEGO-ELBA SECTIONS

Wet soil conditions delayed seeding in all Upstate sections. The first plantings were made on better drained acreage in Oswego County around mid-April. General seeding in all Upstate sections occurred after May 1 but was frequently interrupted by shower activity. The first favorable period of extended warm summer temperatures arrived in late May. Growers used that period well and made good progress sowing.

Temperatures dipped to abnormally low ranges on June 10 and 11 with readings in the upper 30s and continued below average through the 12th. After that, the weather made an abrupt change and on June 14 temperatures rose to 85 degrees. This was followed by a week of hot, humid weather with temperatures reaching into the 90s and accompanied by heavy rains.

\* \* \* \* \*

This season's weather pattern was dominated by the disastrous effects of Tropical Storm Agnes which struck Western New York on June 21, 22 and 23rd. The Oswego section was particularly hardhit. Record heavy rainfall in the state's Finger Lakes watershed totaled 4-7 inches. Cayuga Lake water level topped all recorded readings for the previous 75 years. As a result, the Oswego River rose to record heights and the rising water table affected all but the best drained mucklands. Approximately 25 percent of the early planted acreage was abandoned as a result of that storm. Temperatures remained below average during the flood dates and for several weeks thereafter.

\* \* \* \* \*

While the period from mid-July to late August brought hot and humid weather--headsized and quality improved and supplies increased, allowing growers to cut selectively from the best fields. Harvest attained maximum volume during that period. In general, the crop took a lot of weather and many fields were disced.

On August 27, the Oswego section received another heavy downpour that drenched all areas southwest of the City of Oswego, covering a ten mile arc bordering Lake Ontario. Total rainfall measured 3-5 inches and all cutting was interrupted several days. As a result, many growers were washed out of the deal.

Truck shipments for the season totaled a light 738 carlot equivalents. All movement from the Oswego and Elba sections were by truck. Distribution covers all eastern markets.

The first Iceberg f.o.b. price was reported on August 15, 1972 at \$3.50 for good merchantable, vacuum cooled carton 24s. Detailed shipping point prices and principal terminal market prices are shown on page 4 of this summary.

F.O.B. PRICES ICEBERG LETTUCE WESTERN NEW YORK POINTS

1972 CROP

Week ending Friday	Truckload sales, f.o.b. shipping point and/or delivered sales, shipping point basis.	
	U. S. No. 1, vacuum cooled, carton, 24s	
Aug. 18	3.00-3.50	
25	2.25-3.50	
Sept. 1	2.25-3.00	
8	2.75-3.50	fair quality 2.00-2.75
15	2.75-3.00	" 2.00-2.50
22	2.50-3.00	" 2.00-2.25
29	2.50-2.75	" 2.00-2.25
Oct. 6	2.50-2.75	

WEEKLY JOBBING PRICES NEW YORK STATE LETTUCE IN IMPORTANT MARKETS

Week ending Friday	NEW YORK CITY		BALTIMORE	
	- New York Western Section -		Iceberg	Romaine
	Iceberg	Romaine		
	cartons	cartons	cartons	1 1/9 bush.
	24s	24s	24s	ctn & crate

1972

Aug. 18	2.25-3.00		3.00-3.50	
25				
Sept. 1		3.00-3.50		
8				
15				2.00-2.25
22		1.50-2.00		2.00-2.50
29				2.00-2.50
Oct. 6				2.00-2.25

PHILADELPHIA

Week ending Friday	Iceberg	- Romaine -		Boston
	cartons	1 1/9 bush.	cartons	cartons
	24s	cartons	24s	24s

1972

Aug. 18		3.00	3.00	3.00-3.50
25	2.50-3.50		2.50-3.00	
Sept. 1	2.50-3.00		2.50-3.00	2.00-2.50
8	2.50-3.50		2.00-3.00	2.50
15				
22		2.75-3.00		
29		1.75-2.00		
Oct. 6	3.00-3.50	2.75-3.00		