

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSUMER & MARKETING SERVICE

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ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRIES

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF MARKETS

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE AGRICULTURAL
MARKETING COMMISSION

MARKETING SOUTHEAST PECANS
SUMMARY OF 1968 SEASON

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET NEWS SERVICE

P R E F A C E

This summary of the 1968 pecan season consists of information compiled from the semi-weekly reports issued at Albany, Georgia, from October 29th, through December 17, 1968. The Market News reporter at Albany gathered information from Georgia, Florida, extreme South and Southeast Alabama. Mr. Livingston, of the Market News Office at the State Farmers' Market at Columbia, provided information from South Carolina.

This information was received at Albany by telephone, and after being assembled there, was telephoned to Mrs. Florence Harvil, of the Fruit and Vegetable Market News Office at Atlanta. Mrs. Harvil combined all this data with other reports received over the leased wire system of the Fruit and Vegetable Market News Branch of the Consumer and Marketing Service from producing areas in Louisiana, Texas, and from the terminal market of Chicago. She then prepared the semi-weekly reports for publishing and mailing from Atlanta.

Special thanks are due Mrs. Harvil, the market reporters mentioned above, and the many growers, dealers, processors and receivers of pecans, whose cooperation during the season was extremely helpful to the market reporter at Albany.

The semi-weekly reports were financed co-operatively by the Consumer & Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Florida Department of Agriculture, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Division of Markets, and the South Carolina State Agricultural Marketing Commission.

Additional copies may be obtained without charge from:

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Issued: Sanford, Florida, February, 1969

H. B. Buchanan, Local Representative

REVIEW OF THE 1968 PECAN MARKETING SEASON

Market reports were issued semi-weekly on pecans at Albany, Georgia, from October 29th, through December 17, 1968. These reports were issued by the Market News Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division of the U.S.D.A., in co-operation with the Alabama State Department of Agriculture and Industries; the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Division of Markets; the Florida Department of Agriculture and the South Carolina State Agricultural Marketing Commission.

Dry weather during the growing season was the largest factor in the reduced volume of the crop in Georgia, and to a lesser extent, Alabama. In the most affected areas, a few buyers discontinued buying this season and many others had only a fraction of their normal business. The Cordele, Georgia Auction Market did not operate this season due to the light crop in that area.

Seedlings and Stuarts, which comprise the bulk of the Southeastern area crop, were generally good in quality, but ran heavily to smaller than usual size in large areas. The other Improved Varieties had wide variations in quality. The few Schleys of good quality brought very high prices. There was a larger percentage of good quality Success than in the past few seasons.

Because of the high prices, most of the small buyers accumulated no more than one or two truck loads at any one time and speculation was generally very light.

The volume of Mixed Varieties increases each year as more of the crop is harvested by machines and the task of keeping different varieties in the orchards separate becomes more difficult. The prices quoted on Mixed Varieties usually have a wider range since the varieties contained in each, individual lot determine the price.

A considerable amount of older tree acreage is being up-graded by more intensive care of the orchards. Much of this is by individuals leasing, on a long term basis, enough acreage to make it a year-round business and by care-taking organizations which cultivate, harvest, and in some instances, package and sell the product for the owners.

Opening F.O.B. prices on October 29th were: Seedlings 30-35¢, mostly 32-33¢; Stuarts 40-46¢, and Mixed Varieties 30-36¢, mostly 33-35¢. The demand was generally good throughout the season. On the October 31st report, Seedlings and Mixed Varieties were both mostly 33-35¢ and the prices stayed very close together for the rest of the season. Stuarts peaked at mostly 45¢ on October 21st, then eased slightly as much of the trade started utilizing more of the lower priced varieties.

Both Seedlings and the Mixed Varieties, except for a slight easing around the Thanksgiving Holidays, enjoyed a slow, steady advance in prices. Closing F.O.B. prices were: Seedlings mostly 35-37¢; Mixed Varieties mostly 34-37¢; Stuarts, by this time, contained many late, fair quality nuts, the best of which were comparable with earlier season stock, were 43-45¢.

ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY-By Crop Reporting Board-Statistical Reporting Service-USDA-December 1968

PECANS: The 1968 pecan crop is expected to total 165.5 million pounds, 29 percent below last year and 21 percent less than average. States expecting a larger crop than last year are Florida, Texas and New Mexico. Pecan growers east of the Mississippi River expect to harvest 85 million pounds, 24 percent less than last year. Most of the expected decline is in Georgia and Mississippi. Prospects are for a crop of 80.5 million pounds west of the Mississippi River--one-third less than last year. Oklahoma's crop dropped from a record high of 53.0 million pounds in 1967 to about the smallest of record--3 million pounds--expected in 1968. Partly off-setting were larger crops in Texas and New Mexico.

In the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, trees set only a fair crop of nuts. Hot, dry weather in August and September caused heavy shedding, and slowed size growth. In Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, unfavorable weather during bloom caused a light and spotty set. In Oklahoma, the crop is practically a failure following last year's unusually heavy crop. In Texas and New Mexico, trees set and held good crops of nuts and weather favored development.

ALMONDS: California's production of almonds amounted to 72,000 tons, 6 percent less than last year but 6 percent above average. Nut set was below last year in all producing areas. Nuts were of good size and quality.

FILBERTS: Production of filberts in Oregon and Washington is expected to total 7,675 tons, 2 percent above last year but 10 percent below average. April frosts slowed the crop a bit, but nuts sized well and had a very good fill. Wet weather, muddy orchards and excessive growth of cover crops hampered harvest causing some loss of nuts.

WALNUTS: The 1968 walnut crop in California and Oregon totaled 89,200 tons, 17 percent above last year and 4 percent above average. Both States harvested more walnuts than a year earlier. Size and quality were good.

P E C A N S

State	P R O D U C T I O N					
	Improved Varieties 1/			Wild or seedling pecans		
	Average 1962-66	1967	1968	Average 1962-66	1967	1968
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
N.C.	1,952	1,600	1,000	528	300	200
S.C.	3,465	4,450	1,900	695	1,250	400
Ga.	42,640	45,000	34,000	9,060	10,000	4,000
Fla.	2,200	2,000	2,500	1,640	1,900	2,500
Ala.	22,780	21,500	22,000	4,660	6,500	5,000
Miss.	8,380	8,200	5,500	9,640	8,800	6,000
Ark.	1,980	2,050	550	4,980	6,950	1,450
La.	5,840	5,500	2,000	19,840	16,000	15,000
Okla.	1,400	4,000	200	20,520	49,000	2,800
Texas	7,020	7,000	10,000	32,380	27,000	40,000
N.Mex.	7,000	2,900	8,500	---	---	---
U.S.	104,657	104,200	88,150	103,943	127,700	77,350

State	P R O D U C T I O N		
	ALL PECANS		
	Average 1962-66	1967	1968
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
N.C.	2,480	1,900	1,200
S.C.	4,160	5,700	2,300
Ga.	51,700	55,000	38,000
Fla.	3,840	3,900	5,000
Ala.	27,440	28,000	27,000
Miss.	18,020	17,000	11,500
Ark.	6,960	9,000	2,000
La.	25,680	21,500	17,000
Okla.	21,920	53,000	3,000
Texas	39,400	34,000	50,000
N.Mex.	7,000	2,900	8,500
U.S.	208,600	231,900	165,500

1/ Budded, grafted, or topworked varieties.

DELIVERY POINT PRICES

Prices paid to growers per pound at Southeastern Delivery Points. Prices are on medium to large size pecans of generally good quality, unless otherwise stated.

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

Report No.	Date of Sales	SEEDLINGS	STUARTS	MIXED
1	Oct. 29	30-35	M-32-33 40-46	BM-44-46 30-38 M-33-35
2	31	30-36	M-33-35 42-48	M-43-45 30-37 M-33-35
3	Nov. 5	30-36	M-33-35 40-48	M-43-46 32-42 M-33-36
4	7	30-36	M-33-35 42-46	M-43-45 30-43 M-33-36
5	14	30-36	M-33-35 42-46	M-43-45 30-42 M-33-36
6	19	32-36	M-34-35 43-46	M-44-45 33-40 M-35-36
7	21	33-37	M-35 43-47	M-45 33-40 M-35-37
8	26	33-37	M-35-37 42-47	M-43-45 33-40 M-35-37
9	Dec. 3	32-37	M-34-35 40-46	M-43-44 32-39 M-35-36
10	5	32-37	M-34-36 40-45	M-43-44 32-38 M-34-36
11	10	32-37	M-34-36 FRQ38-42	B-43-45 32-38 M-34-36
12	12	32-37	M-35-37 FRQ38-42	B-43-45 32-38 M-34-37
13*	17	33-37	M-35-37 FRQ38-42	B-43-45 33-38 M-34-37

*On Report No. 13 issued December 17, 1968, reports from the trade indicated only 5-7% of the crop still remaining in the hands of the producers.
M-Mostly; BM-Best Mostly; FRQ-Fair Quality; B-Best.

DETAILED BREAKDOWN BY INDIVIDUAL STATES

G E O R G I A

Report No.	Date of Sales	S T U A R T S	S E E D L I N G S	M I X E D
1	Oct. 29	40-46 EM44-46	30-35 M32-33	30-38 M33-34
2	31	42-46 M43-45	30-36 M33-34	30-36 M33-35
3	Nov. 5	42-48 M43-46	30-36 M33-35	32-42 M33-36
4	7	42-46 M43-46	30-36 M33-35	30-42 M33-35
5	14	43-46 M44-45	31-36 M33-35	30-42 M34-36
6	19	43-46 M44-45	32-36 M34-35	33-40 M35-36
7	21	43-47 M45	33-37 M35	33-40 M35-37
8	26	42-46 M43-45	33-37 M35-36	34-39 M35-37
9	Dec. 3	40-46 M43-44	32-36 M34-35	33-39 M35-36
10	5	40-45 M43-44	32-37 M34-35	33-38 M34-36
11	10	B43-45	32-37 M34-35	33-38 M34-36
12	12	B43-45	32-37 M35-36	33-38 M35-37
13	17	B43-45	33-37 M35-37	33-38 M35-37

A L A B A M A

Report No.	Date of Sales	S T U A R T S	S E E D L I N G S	M I X E D
1	Oct. 29	43-46	30-33	30-35
2	31	43-46 M43-45	32-36 M34-35	32-37 M34-36
3	Nov. 5	43-46 M43-45	32-36 M34-35	32-40 M34-36
4	7	42-46 M43-45	32-36 M33-35	32-40 M34-36
5	14	42-46 M43-45	32-36 M33-35	32-40 M34-36
6	19	43-46 M44-45	32-36 M34-35	33-40 M35-36
7	21	43-46 M45	33-37 M35-36	34-40 M35-37
8	26	42-46 M44-45	33-37 M35-37	34-39 M35-37
9	Dec. 3	40-46 M43-44	32-37 M34-35	32-39 M35
10	5	40-45 M43-44	32-37 M34-36	32-38 M35
11	10	B43-45 M43-44	32-37 M35-36	32-38 M34-35
12	12	B43-35 M43-44	34-37 M35-37	32-38 M34-36
13	17	B43-45 M43-44	34-37 M35-37	33-38 M34-36

M-Mostly EM-Best Mostly B-Best

F L O R I D A

Report No.	Date of Sales	S T U A R T S		S E E D L I N G S	
1	Oct. 29	38-45	M42-43	28-34	M32-33
2	31	40-45	M42-43	30-34	M32-34
3	Nov. 5	40-46	M43-45	30-34	M32-34
4	7	40-45	M42-44	30-36	M32-34
5	14	40-45	M43-45	30-36	M33-35
6	19	42-45	M44	32-36	M34-35
7	21	42-46	M44	32-37	M34-36
8	26	42-46	M43-45	32-37	M36-37
9	Dec. 3	40-46	M43-44	32-37	M34-35
10	5	40-45	M42-44	32-37	M34-36
11	10	40-45	M42-44	32-37	M34-36
12	12	40-45	M42-44	32-37	M35-37
13	17	42-45	M42-44	33-37	M35-37

M-Mostly

Following Reports are as received on leased wire in Atlanta office from local reporters.

L O U I S I A N A

Date Reported	Natives	Mostly	Improved
Oct. 29	30-33	— —	34-35 Gdq 36-40
Nov. 5	30-33	32	Too few to establish Mkt
7	30-33	32-33	32-37 fbq 40
14	30-34	32-34	Too few to quote
19	30-34	33-34	Gdq 40
21	30-34	33-34	Too few to quote
26	33-35		EM 40
Dec. 3	34-36	34-35	Too few to quote
5	32-36	35	
10	32-36	35	
12	32-36	35	
17	32-36	35	

Dec. 12th report indicated harvest 90-95% complete.

Gdq-Good quality EM-Best mostly fbq-Few best quality

Following Reports are as received on leased wire in Atlanta office from local reporters.

T E X A S

Date Reported	Native	Mostly	Improved	Mostly
Oct. 15	25-30	28	-- --	-- --
17	25-30	28	25-40	35-40
22	27-32	30	35-40	-- --
29	30-34	30	35-40	-- --
31	28-34	30-32	35-40	-- --
Nov. 5	28-34	32	35-40	40
12	30-34	32-33	Trading too light to quote	
14	30-35	33-35	30-45	37-40
21	32-36	34-35	35-45	37-40
26	33-36	35	35-45	40-45
Dec. 3	33-36	35	35-45	40-45
5	34-36	35-36	35-45	40-45
10	34-36	35-36	35-45	40-45
12	34-37	35-36	35-45	40-45
17	34-37	35-37	35-45	40-45
19	34-37	35-37	Too few to report	
31	35-38	36-37	-- --	-- --

CHICAGO TERMINAL MARKET
(Sales by Wholesalers)
In shell prices per pound basis

25-50-100 lb sacks						Cartons 24-1 lb pkgs	
Date	STUARTS		BLENDS		STUARTS	BLENDS	
	Polished xlge-lge f-sls-57	Naturals med-lge 47-49	Polished xlge-lge f-sls-54	Naturals			
Oct. 31					xlge-lge f-60	xlge-lge 56	
Nov. 5	xlge-lge f-58	xlge 49-52	xlge-lge 54	med 43-44	xlge-lge f-60	xlge-lge 56	
7	xlge-lge 58	xlge 49-52	xlge-lge 54	med 43-44	xlge-lge f-60	xlge-lge 56	
14	xlge-lge 55-58	xlge 50-53	xlge 53-54	xlge f-47	xlge-lge 59-61	--	
	--	lge 46-50	--	med 44	--	--	
19	xlge-lge 56-61½	xlge-lge 50-57	xlge-lge 53-54	xlge f-46-47	xlge-lge 60-64	xlge 59	
21	xlge-lge 56-61½	xlge-lge 50-57	xlge-lge 53-54	xlge f-46-47	xlge-lge 60-64	xlge f-59	
26	xlge 55-61½	xlge 52-57	xlge 53-54	xlge 46	xlge 60-61	xlge 59	
	lge 50-58	--	--	--	--	--	
Dec. 5	xlge-&ovrsze 57-62	xlge 53-57	xlge-lge 47-54	--	xlge 60-64	xlge 59	
	lge 57-59½	--	--	--	--	--	
10	xlge-&ovrsze 57-62	xlge 53-57	xlge-lge 47-54	--	xlge 60-64	xlge 59	
	lge 57-59½	--	--	--	--	--	
12	xlge 55-56	--	xlge 48-52	xlge 44-46	xlge 60-64	xlge 58	
17	xlge-lge 55-56	xlge 52-54	xlge 48-52	xlge 44-46	xlge 60-64	xlge 58	

xlge-lge-extra large to large; xlge-extra large; lge-large; med-lge-medium to large
med-medium; xlge & ovrsze-extra large and oversize; f-sls-few sales; f-few.

A U C T I O N S

All sales per pound basis

V I D A L I A, G E O R G I A

DATE	TOTAL LBS SOLD	SEEDLINGS	STUARPS	SUCCESS	MONEY MAKERS	FROTCHERS	SCHLEYS
Nov. 2	20,400	34-36 $\frac{1}{2}$	46-48 $\frac{3}{8}$ frq40-44	-- --	35-36 prr25-32	-- --	44-51
9	37,000	34-36 $\frac{1}{2}$	46-48 smr38-45	40-44	-- --	38-43	48-56 prr45-48
16	41,000	36-39	45 $\frac{1}{2}$ -48 prr38-44	42-44	36-37 prr25-30	42-44	50-56 prr38-49
23	42,000	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ -38	45-47 prr38-44	43-44	36-37 prr22-34	40-44	48-53 prr41-46
30	41,000	36 $\frac{1}{2}$ -38	45-46 $\frac{1}{2}$ prr36-44	-- --	33-36 prr21-28	36-40	50-53 prr40-48
Dec. 7	39,000	36-38 $\frac{3}{4}$	43-45 $\frac{1}{2}$ prr35-42	43-44 prr30-34	35-36 $\frac{1}{2}$ prr loas 15	36-37 $\frac{1}{2}$ prr loas 10	49-54 prr42-48
Smr-smaller size		prr-poorer	frq-fair quality	prr loas-poorer low as			

S T A R K E, F L O R I D A

DATE	TOTAL LBS SOLD	SEEDLINGS	STUARPS	MONEY MAKERS	RANDALLS	CURTIS	SUCCESS
Nov. 7	36,502	21-37 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-34	35-45 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-43	16-36 AV-32 $\frac{1}{2}$	27-35 AV-31	25 $\frac{1}{2}$ -44 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-37 $\frac{1}{2}$	22-25 $\frac{1}{2}$
14	23,965	33-38 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-36	38-47 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-44	32-35 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-34 $\frac{1}{2}$	28-37 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-35	29 $\frac{1}{2}$ -46 AV-41	37-44 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-41
21	28,659	23-39 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-35	43 $\frac{1}{2}$ -46 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-44	25-37 AV-35	-- -- -- --	25-45 AV-37	26-40 AV-37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dec. 5	21,840	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -37 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-33	35- $\frac{1}{2}$ -44 AV-43	-- -- -- --	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ -35 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-24	31 $\frac{1}{2}$ -43 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-40 $\frac{1}{2}$	-- -- -- --
12	12,095	35-37 $\frac{1}{2}$ AV-36 $\frac{1}{2}$	41-45 AV-44	$\frac{1}{2}$ lot 25 $\frac{1}{2}$	26-37 AV-31 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$ -43 AV-39	-- -- -- --
AV-Average							