

**Marketing Texas  
Fruits  
And  
Vegetables**

**FEDERAL-STATE MARKET NEWS SERVICE**

**1997-1998**

**U.S. DEPT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
MARKET NEWS BRANCH  
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION**

**PRODUCER SERVICES  
TEXAS DEPT OF AGRICULTURE**

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PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004**

# MARKETING TEXAS FRUITS AND VEGETABLES 1997-1998 SEASON

## FOREWARD

The U.S. Department Of Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing Services and the Texas Department of Agriculture issued daily market reports on Texas fruits and vegetable during the 1997-1998 season. Since this is a publication is a summary, the Texas Fruit and Vegetable Report should be consulted for further details on market conditions on any given day or time period.

Thanks to all who have contributed information for this publication: growers, shippers , buyer, brokers, transportation agencies, processors , the Federal-State inspection Service, the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the South Texas Onion and Melon Committee, the Texas Produce Association, Texas Citrus Association, and industry organizations. Without your cooperation, the exchange of information that makes the daily reports and this summary would not be possible.

Our thanks also, to those of the public media (electronic and print) that make our daily market information available to the public.

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Texas total acreage on cabbage was down from the previous season by about 20% while total yield harvested was also down from 370 to 340 acres. The Lower Rio Grande Valley total shipments this season was 7088 trucklots and the peak this season occurred during the week of March 7, with 608 trucklots. F.O.B prices stay between \$5.00 to \$7.00 through out the season on 50lb. cartons of Round Green Type, while the Red Type stayed between \$8.00 and \$10.00 for the season.

According to Texas Agricultural Statistics Service in 1997 there were 2600 harvested acres in the San Antonio-Winter Garden compared to 3200 in 1996. 3098 (50,000 lb. trucklots) of cabbage were shipped from the Winter Garden district from late October 1997 until late June 1998. 2070 (50,000 lb. trucklots) were shipped the previous season. Shipments gradually increased by mid-late November and continued into early January with another sharp increase in February and March. The peak week of shipments was March 1-7 with 190 loads shipped that week beginning the St. Patrick's Day promotions. Shipments were fairly steady April and May with a seasonal decline in June. The Winter Garden area includes the counties of Uvalde, Frio, Medina, Zavala, Dimmit, Kinney and Maverick, as the second largest producer of cabbage in Texas.

Land preparation for fall planting began in late July and continued through August. Some much needed rain and cooler temperatures in mid October improved the quality of the crop. Light harvesting began the final week of October and were shipped to mostly near-by markets. Cool, wet weather in mid November slowed harvesting and limited supplies in the South and Southeastern U.S. By December supplies had increased. December 13th was the first official freeze (22-23 degrees with some reports as low as 17 degrees) and again on December 14 - 27 degrees and December 15 - 30 degrees. This resulted in some leaf burn to the mature crop, while there were some losses to young plants. February was a stormy month, with brief periods of heavy rains, winds, and hail, resulting in some losses in the Batesville area. March was cooler and wetter than norm with some lows in early March at 31-33 degrees. April was drier and warmer especially from Del Rio to Laredo. Del Rio posted the second driest April on record and San Antonio with the driest on record for the same time period. The 1998 weather pattern had its own unique patterns - partly influenced by the 97/98 El Nino/Southern Oscillation. May is normally a wet month, but May 1998 was very dry and hot (first 100 degree day of the year in Del Rio was on May 2 & May 5). Another rare part of the weather scene was the unusual high amounts of smoke and haze from the fires out of control in Mexico. On the worst days visibility was restricted between 1-3 miles in San Antonio and Del Rio. The hottest day in Del Rio was 106 on both May 7 and May 31 and Laredo was 109 on May 7. Actually the smoke helped to moderate daytime highs. Without the smokey days, the month could have been much warmer. Harvesting

began its seasonal decline in late May and continued through June.

The first F.O.B. report was issued November 17, 1997. Demand was exceeding supplies for the medium size in 50-lb cartons at \$8.00 and 50-lb sacks large at mostly \$5.00. Early offerings were limited and coupled with cool, wet weather across the south/southeast further limiting supplies, therefore the market was higher at \$9.00-10.00. By early December supplies were more abundant, but demand was lighter, therefore the market declined to mostly \$6.00-6.50 and further declined to \$5.50-6.00 through December. The next 2-3 weeks after Christmas, trading was very active and the market continued to max out at \$12.00 on January 5 & 6, 1998 and then start a steady decline on January 8 until January 28 with the bottom of the market at \$4.75 for medium-large cabbage. A slow steady return in February because of lighter supplies due to the freezing temperatures in December, found the market returning to \$7.00-8.00 in mid February. Demand was fairly light in late February and early March and the market slipped to near \$6.00 as shipping for St. Patrick's Day promotions started. The market increased before declining again in April and May and the final report on May 22, 1998 at \$7.00. Red type brought good prices all season and maxing out the season at mostly \$18.00-20.00 per 50-lb carton in May from a low of \$8.00 in February.

Supplies of trucks were adequate to surplus from November until early March. Supplies were slightly short to adequate through the spring months as more trucks are taken up from the Lower Rio Grande Valley with onions.

WEEKLY CABBAGE MOVEMENT 1997-98 SEASON \*

WEEK ENDING	AZ	CA	CD	FL	GA	NY	TEXAS	TEXAS	TOTAL
							LOWER RIO	WINTER	
							GRAND VLY	GARDEN	
10/25/97	1	45	147	0	0	154	0	0	347
11/1/97	0	41	0	1	10	152	28	22	254
11/8/97	3	58	0	2	16	138	65	52	334
11/15/97	7	42	0	6	25	162	78	62	382
11/22/97	4	30	0	7	60	156	103	82	442
11/29/97	3	10	349	3	76	114	55	37	647
12/6/97	7	28	0	6	120	140	98	58	457
12/13/97	15	26	0	6	135	118	127	69	496
12/20/97	10	28	0	95	194	128	144	74	673
12/27/97	5	20	193	90	89	95	171	93	756
1/3/98	13	11	0	139	88	135	217	108	711
1/10/98	16	29	0	167	87	189	189	92	769
1/17/98	15	30	0	188	63	130	195	84	705
1/24/98	11	31	0	182	61	159	235	78	757
1/31/98	15	31	205	134	20	135	306	98	944
2/7/98	30	29	0	115	11	140	366	150	841
2/14/98	22	34	0	100	0	162	329	141	788
2/21/98	16	25	0	152	0	139	303	111	746
2/28/98	25	19	163	165	0	140	317	124	953
3/7/98	34	22	0	246	0	137	608	190	1237
3/14/98	55	50	0	415	0	135	501	150	1306
3/21/98	26	19	0	232	0	140	292	79	788
3/28/98	21	31	132	253	0	119	284	103	943
4/4/98	30	35	0	331	0	105	249	82	832
4/11/98	20	36	0	394	0	92	238	82	862
4/18/98	10	18	0	400	8	89	250	89	864
4/25/98	15	29	48	388	81	87	243	94	985
5/2/98	17	14	0	265	146	75	236	108	861
5/9/98	21	28	0	227	231	79	190	105	881
5/16/98	15	18	0	118	254	93	168	108	774
5/23/98	6	13	0	10	222	64	138	102	555
5/30/98	2	25	60	0	145	52	121	88	493
6/6/98	1	26	0	0	116	32	112	84	371
6/13/98	0	14	0	0	23	0	76	57	170
6/20/98	0	15	0	0	0	0	49	37	101
6/27/98	0	22	61	0	0	0	7	5	95
7/4/98	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
TOTAL	491	1000	1358	4831	2281	3985	7088	3098	24138

\*50,000 lb. Units; including rail, piggyback, truck, air, boat, export & import

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS  
 Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point and Delivered Sales Shipping Point Basis  
 CABBAGE - 1997-1998 Season  
 WEEKLY PRICE RANGES

WEEK ENDING	1 3/4 bucrts SAVOY TYPE	50 lb ctns RED TYPE 18-24s	50 lb ctns ROUND GREEN TYPE 18-24s	50 lb sks ROUND GREEN TYPE 12-18s	50 lb sks ROUND GREEN TYPE 18-24s
13-DEC-97	-	10.00-12.50	6.00-6.50	-	-
20-DEC-97	-	10.00-12.75	-6.00	-	-
27-DEC-97	-	10.00-12.75	6.00-6.50	-	-
03-JAN-98	-	11.50-12.00	8.00-10.00	-	8.25-9.25
10-JAN-98	-	11.50-12.75	10.00-12.00	-	9.25-11.25
17-JAN-98	-	11.00-12.75	7.00-8.00	-	-
24-JAN-98	10.00-10.50	10.00-11.50	5.50-7.00	-	4.75-6.25
31-JAN-98	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	5.00-5.50	4.00-4.75	4.25-4.50
07-FEB-98	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	6.00-8.00	5.00-5.25	5.25-7.25
14-FEB-98	-	9.00-10.00	7.50-8.00	-	6.75-8.25
21-FEB-98	-	8.00-10.00	6.00-7.00	-	5.25-6.25
28-FEB-98	-	8.00-10.00	6.00-7.00	-	5.25-7.25
07-MAR-98	-	8.00-10.00	6.00-7.00	-	5.25-6.25
14-MAR-98	-	9.00-10.00	-7.00	-	-6.25
21-MAR-98	-	9.00-10.00	7.00-8.00	-	6.25-7.25
28-MAR-98	-	-10.00	6.00-7.00	-	5.25-6.25
04-APR-98	-	-10.00	5.50-6.00	-	4.75-5.25
11-APR-98	-	9.00-10.00	5.00-5.50	-	4.25-4.75
18-APR-98	-	9.00-10.00	5.00-5.50	-	4.25-4.75
25-APR-98	-	9.00-10.00	-5.00	-	-4.25
02-MAY-98	-	-10.00	-5.00	-	-4.25
09-MAY-98	-	10.00-16.00	5.00-5.50	-	4.25-4.75
16-MAY-98	-	16.00-18.00	5.50-6.00	-	4.75-5.25
23-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
30-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-

AUSTIN-SAN ANTONIO-WINTERGARDEN DISTRICT TEXAS  
 Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point Basis  
 CABBAGE - 1997 Season

50 lb ctns	50 lb sks
ROUND GREEN TYPE	ROUND GREEN TYPE
18-24s	10-14s

22-NOV-97	8.00-9.50	5.00-5.50
29-NOV-97	9.00-10.00	5.25-5.50
06-DEC-97	6.00-9.00	4.75-5.50
13-DEC-97	5.50-6.50	4.50-5.50
20-DEC-97	5.50-6.00	4.50-5.00
27-DEC-97	-6.00	4.50-5.00
03-JAN-98	8.00-10.00	5.50-6.00
10-JAN-98	9.00-12.00	7.50-9.00
17-JAN-98	7.00-8.00	5.50-7.00
24-JAN-98	5.50-6.50	5.00-5.50
31-JAN-98	4.75-5.00	4.00-4.50
07-FEB-98	5.50-8.00	4.75-6.00
14-FEB-98	7.00-8.00	6.00-6.75
21-FEB-98	6.25-7.00	5.25-6.25
28-FEB-98	6.00-6.50	5.00-5.75
07-MAR-98	6.00-7.00	4.50-5.00
14-MAR-98	6.50-7.00	5.00-5.50
21-MAR-98	7.00-8.00	5.00-5.75
28-MAR-98	6.00-7.00	4.75-5.50
04-APR-98	5.00-6.00	4.50-5.00
11-APR-98	5.00-5.50	4.00-4.75
18-APR-98	-5.00	4.00-4.50
25-APR-98	5.00-5.50	4.00-4.50
02-MAY-98	-5.00	3.75-4.50
09-MAY-98	4.75-5.00	3.75-4.00
16-MAY-98	5.50-7.00	4.25-5.50
23-MAY-98	-7.00	6.00-6.25



## CITRUS

The 1997-98 citrus season has to be considered as fair to good. There were no killing freezes, market prices were generally good, fruit quality was better and most growers were able to cope with the Valley's water shortage.

According to USDA calculations, the Valley citrus industry has generally stabilized at about 34,500 acres

A worldwide oversupply of citrus and the Valley water shortage will continue to keep growers from expanding production. One change that is taking place is the continued move away from the old stand-by Ruby-Red grapefruit to the redder varieties which continue to gain in consumer appeal.

Since all the Valley's citrus trees are relatively young, it's anticipated that production will increase each year until they reach maturity. Early pre-season observations indicated however, that the 1997-98 grapefruit crop might be down slightly, but oranges promised to increase again in volume. The overall quality of grapefruit, particularly the dominant Rio Red variety appeared very promising with better fruit shape and smoother peel. Consequently, all of these pre-season observations and forecasts have proven out.

The total grapefruit harvest was 9,597,00 carton equivalents, down from 9,843,000 cartons the previous year. The good news is that fruit quality was better, which allowed 6,307,000 carton equivalents to be marketed in the fresh market. Oranges enjoyed a substantial increase in production. The total harvest was 3,050,000 carton equivalents up 21% from the previous year. 2,111,000 of the orange crop were sold in the fresh market, as compared to 63% or 1,592,352 carton equivalents the previous season.

The season started about a month earlier on citrus than the previous year. F.O.B. prices were higher on grapefruit than the preceding year. While Navel prices started out higher than last season, but ended up lower at the end of the season. Early orange and Valencia varieties were generally the same as last season.

## SOUTH TEXAS WEEKLY CITRUS SHIPMENTS 1997-98 SEASON \*

WEEK ENDING	GRAPEFRUIT	EARLY ORANGE	LATE ORANGES	NAVELS	TOTAL
9/27/97	0	65	0	31	96
10/4/97	20	35	0	15	70
10-11/97	105	40	0	34	179
10/18/97	142	27	0	23	192
10/25/97	148	42	0	17	207
11/1/97	174	49	0	14	237
11/8/97	142	43	0	16	201
11/15/97	148	37	0	24	209
11/22/97	174	64	0	57	295
11/29/97	279	67	0	90	436
12/6/97	174	58	0	45	277
12/13/97	191	40	0	24	255
12/20/97	221	55	0	23	299
12/27/97	464	78	0	25	567
1/3/98	393	80	0	23	496
1/10/98	266	80	0	14	360
1/17/98	134	81	0	11	226
1/24/98	203	97	0	1	301
1/31/98	307	109	0	0	416
2/7/98	206	89	0	0	295
2/14/98	229	68	0	0	297
2/21/98	201	45	2	0	248
2/28/98	408	6	13	0	427
3/7/98	231	1	20	0	252
3/14/98	114	0	41	0	155
3/21/98	199	0	51	0	250
3/28/98	199	0	30	0	229
4/4/98	161	0	30	0	191
4/11/98	141	0	22	0	163
4/18/98	140	0	26	0	166
4/25/98	123	0	15	0	138
5/2/98	115	0	11	0	126
5/9/98	84	0	7	0	91
5/16/98	53	0	0	0	53
5/23/98	17	0	0	0	17
5/30/98	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	6307	1356	268	487	8418

\*40,000 lb units

DALLAS - LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS  
Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point and Delivered Sales Shipping Point Basis  
ORANGES - 1997 Season

	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns
	EARLY VARIETIES	EARLY VARIETIES	EARLY VARIETIES	EARLY VARIETIES	EARLY VARIETIES	NAVEL
	Comb U.S. One - U.S. 100s	Comb U.S. One - U.S. 125s	Comb U.S. One - U.S. 144s	Comb U.S. One - U.S. 64s	Comb U.S. One - U.S. 80s	Comb U.S. One - U.S. 100s
04-OCT-97	8.00-9.00	-8.00	6.00-7.00	-10.00	9.00-10.00	-9.00
11-OCT-97	8.00-9.00	7.00-8.00	6.00-7.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.00-9.00
18-OCT-97	8.00-8.50	7.00-8.00	-6.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.00-9.00
25-OCT-97	-	-	-	-	-	7.50-8.00
01-NOV-97	6.50-7.00	6.00-6.50	5.50-6.00	-8.00	7.50-8.00	7.00-7.50
08-NOV-97	6.00-6.50	-6.00	-5.50	7.00-8.00	7.00-7.50	7.00-7.50
15-NOV-97	-6.00	-	-5.50	-7.00	6.50-7.00	6.00-7.00
22-NOV-97	-6.00	-6.00	-5.50	-7.00	6.50-7.00	6.00-7.00
29-NOV-97	5.50-6.00	5.50-6.00	-	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	6.00-7.00
06-DEC-97	5.00-6.00	5.00-6.00	-	-7.00	6.00-7.00	6.00-6.50
13-DEC-97	5.00-5.50	5.00-5.50	-	-7.00	6.00-7.00	6.00-6.50
20-DEC-97	5.00-5.50	5.00-5.50	-	-7.00	6.00-7.00	6.00-6.50
27-DEC-97	5.00-5.50	5.00-5.50	-	6.50-7.00	6.00-7.00	5.50-6.50
03-JAN-98	-5.50	-5.00	-	-6.50	-6.00	-
10-JAN-98	5.00-5.50	-	-	6.00-6.50	-6.00	-
17-JAN-98	5.25-5.50	-	-	6.00-6.50	-6.00	-
24-JAN-98	-5.50	-5.00	-	-6.50	-6.00	-
31-JAN-98	-5.50	-5.00	-	-6.50	-6.00	-
07-FEB-98	-5.50	-5.00	-	-6.50	-6.00	-
14-FEB-98	-5.50	-5.00	-	-6.50	-6.00	-
21-FEB-98	5.50-6.00	5.00-5.50	-	-	6.00-6.50	-
28-FEB-98	5.50-6.00	5.00-5.50	-	-	6.00-6.50	-
07-MAR-98	5.50-6.00	5.00-5.50	-	-	6.00-6.50	-

DALLAS - LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS  
Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point and Delivered Sales Shipping Point Basis  
ORANGES - 1997 Season

7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns
NAVEL	NAVEL	NAVEL	NAVEL
Comb U.S. One - U.S. 125s	Comb U.S. One - U.S. 144s	Comb U.S. One - U.S. 64s	Comb U.S. One - U.S. 80s

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04-OCT-97	-8.00	-	-12.00	-10.00
11-OCT-97	7.00-8.00	-	10.00-12.00	9.00-10.00
18-OCT-97	7.00-8.00	-	10.00-12.00	9.00-10.00
25-OCT-97	6.50-7.00	-	8.50-9.00	8.50-9.00
01-NOV-97	6.50-7.00	-6.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-8.50
08-NOV-97	6.00-6.50	-6.00	8.00-9.00	7.50-8.00
15-NOV-97	-6.00	5.50-6.00	-8.00	7.00-7.50
22-NOV-97	-6.00	-	-8.00	-7.50
29-NOV-97	-	-	7.50-8.00	7.00-7.50
06-DEC-97	-6.00	-	7.00-8.00	6.50-7.50
13-DEC-97	-6.00	-	7.00-8.00	6.50-7.00
20-DEC-97	-6.00	-	7.00-8.00	6.50-7.00
27-DEC-97	5.00-6.00	-	7.00-8.00	6.00-7.00
03-JAN-98	-	-	-	-

PHOENIX-LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS  
Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point and Delivered Sales Shipping Point Basis  
ORANGES - 1997-1998 Season  
WEEKLY PRICE RANGES

7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns
VALENCIA	VALENCIA	VALENCIA	VALENCIA	VALENCIA
Comb U.S. One	Comb U.S. One	Comb U.S. One	Comb U.S. One	Comb U.S. One
64s	80s	100s	125s	144s

WEEK ENDING

28-FEB-98	-	-	-	-
07-MAR-98	-	-	-	-
14-MAR-98	7.50-8.00	7.50-8.00	-7.50	-7.50
21-MAR-98	7.50-8.50	7.50-8.00	7.50-8.00	7.50-8.00
28-MAR-98	-7.50	7.50-8.00	7.50-8.00	7.50-8.00
04-APR-98	-7.50	-7.50	-7.50	-7.50
11-APR-98	-	-	-	-7.50
18-APR-98	-	-	-	-

DALLAS - LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS  
 Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point and Delivered Sales Shipping Point Basis  
 GRAPEFRUIT - 1997 Season

	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns
	MARKED RIO STAR	MARKED RIO STAR	MARKED RIO STAR	MARKED RIO STAR	MARKED RIO STAR	MARKED RIO STAR
	TXFcy	TXFcy	TXFcy	TXFcy	TXFcy	TXFcy
	23s	27s	32s	36s	40s	48s
04-OCT-97	-	-	-	-	-	-
11-OCT-97	-12.00	-12.00	-10.50	8.00-8.50	-8.00	-7.50
18-OCT-97	-12.00	-12.00	10.00-11.00	8.00-8.50	-8.00	-7.50
25-OCT-97	11.00-12.00	11.00-12.00	-9.50	8.00-8.50	7.50-8.00	7.00-7.50
01-NOV-97	10.00-11.50	10.00-11.50	9.00-9.50	-8.00	7.00-7.50	7.00-7.50
08-NOV-97	10.00-11.00	10.00-11.00	-9.00	-7.50	-7.00	6.50-7.00
15-NOV-97	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.50-9.00	-7.50	6.50-7.00	-6.50
22-NOV-97	-10.00	-10.00	-9.00	-7.50	6.50-7.00	-6.50
29-NOV-97	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.00-9.00	-7.50	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00
06-DEC-97	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.00-9.00	7.00-7.50	6.00-7.00	6.00-7.00
13-DEC-97	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.00-9.00	7.00-7.50	6.00-7.00	6.00-7.00
20-DEC-97	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.00-9.00	7.00-7.50	6.00-7.00	6.00-7.00
27-DEC-97	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.00-9.00	7.00-7.50	6.00-7.00	6.00-7.00
03-JAN-98	-	-	-	-	-	-

DALLAS - LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS  
Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point and Delivered Sales Shipping Point Basis  
GRAPEFRUIT - 1997 Season

	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns
	MARKED RIO STAR	MARKED RUBY SWEET	MARKED RUBY SWEET	MARKED RUBY SWEET	MARKED RUBY SWEET	MARKED RUBY SWEET
	TXFcy	TXFcy	TXFcy	TXFcy	TXFcy	TXFcy
	56s	23s	27s	32s	36s	40s
04-OCT-97	-	-	-	-	-	-
11-OCT-97	-7.00	-11.00	-11.00	9.00-9.50	7.50-8.00	-7.00
18-OCT-97	-7.00	-11.00	-11.00	9.00-10.00	7.50-8.00	-7.00
25-OCT-97	6.50-7.00	10.50-11.00	10.50-11.00	8.50-9.00	7.00-8.00	6.75-7.00
01-NOV-97	6.00-6.50	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.00	-8.00	7.00-7.50	6.50-7.00
08-NOV-97	-6.00	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.00	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.00-6.50
15-NOV-97	5.50-6.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	7.00-7.50	6.00-6.50	5.50-6.00
22-NOV-97	5.50-6.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	-7.50	-6.50	-6.00
29-NOV-97	5.50-6.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	7.00-7.50	6.00-6.50	5.50-6.00
06-DEC-97	5.50-6.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	7.00-8.00	6.00-7.00	-6.00
13-DEC-97	5.50-6.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	7.00-8.00	6.00-7.00	-6.00
20-DEC-97	5.50-6.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	7.00-8.00	6.00-7.00	-6.00
27-DEC-97	5.50-6.00	7.50-9.00	7.50-9.00	7.00-8.00	6.00-7.00	5.50-6.00
03-JAN-98	-	-	-	-	-	-

DALLAS - LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS  
Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point and Delivered Sales Shipping Point Basis  
GRAPEFRUIT - 1997 Season

	7/10 buctns	7/10 buctns
	MARKED RUBY SWEET	MARKED RUBY SWEET
	TXFcy	TXFcy
	48s	56s
04-OCT-97	-	-
11-OCT-97	-6.50	-6.00
18-OCT-97	-6.50	-6.00
25-OCT-97	-6.50	-6.00
01-NOV-97	-6.50	5.50-6.00
08-NOV-97	6.00-6.50	5.00-5.50
15-NOV-97	5.50-6.00	5.00-5.50
22-NOV-97	-6.00	5.00-5.50
29-NOV-97	5.50-6.00	5.00-5.50
06-DEC-97	-6.00	5.00-5.50
13-DEC-97	-6.00	5.00-5.50
20-DEC-97	-6.00	5.00-5.50
27-DEC-97	5.50-6.00	5.00-5.50
03-JAN-98	-	-

## MELONS

Lower Rio Grande Valley melon planting was underway in early February and continued into March . Irrigating and fertilizing were continued through April. Harvest began in May and increased steadily until the crop peaked on the week of May 23, and then started the seasonal decline into June when the Texas Winter Garden section came into production on the week of June 13, The winter Garden district began planting in February and continued into March. This section peaked on the week of June 20, and the whole Cantaloupe and Honeydew season was completed in Mid July with a total of 3524 trucklots shipped for the season out of Texas.

Throughout the season the El Nino winter weather pattern brought production levels down compared to last season. The total acreage on Cantaloupes fell by 20% from the previous year 12,000 acres harvested in 1996 to 8200 acres harvested in 1997. Honeydew acreage also fell by about 10%, yields on Cantaloupes fell slightly while the yield on Honeydews was up slightly. Average prices were up from the previous season buy about \$2.00 on both commodities, the average price on Cantaloupes was \$20.00 compared to a average price of \$18.00 for the previous season. Honeydew price also followed a similar pattern.

WEEKLY CANTALOUPE SHIPMENTS 1998 SEASON \*

WEEK ENDING	Mexico		Other	Arizona	California	Texas	Texas	Central America #	Total
	Nogales	Thru S Tx.	Mx			Wtr Cdn Laredo	Lower Rio Grande Vly		
4/11/98	171	212	0	0	0	0	0	0	383
4/18/98	225	254	0	0	0	0	0	3503	4292
4/25/98	280	296	13	0	0	0	0	0	589
5/2/98	317	297	15	0	0	0	3	0	632
5/9/98	398	194	35	0	0	0	167	0	794
5/16/98	602	66	79	2	16	0	623	0	1388
5/23/98	502	30	60	26	204	0	779	1697	3298
5/30/98	248	42	30	111	786	9	354	0	1580
6/6/98	94	0	62	399	1006	107	197	0	1865
6/13/98	59	0	193	536	797	95	10	0	1690
6/20/98	48	0	71	587	1049	121	43	0	1919
6/27/98	40	0	21	777	914	103	0	27	1882
7/4/98	11	0	4	536	864	30	0	0	1445
TOTAL	2995	1401	583	2974	5536	465	2176	5527	21757

\* 40,000 lb units; including rail, piggyback, truck, air, boat, export & import  
# includes Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua

WEEKLY HONEYDEW MOVEMENT 1997-98 SEASON \*

WEEK ENDING	Mexico		Other	Arizona	California	Texas	Central America #	Total
	Nogales	Thru S Tx.	Mx					
4/25/98	32	77	1	0	0	0	94	204
5/2/98	62	103	1	0	0	6	39	201
5/9/98	56	76	4	0	0	88	17	241
5/16/98	69	28	3	0	0	170	1	271
5/23/98	60	5	2	3	11	198	32	311
5/30/98	54	6	25	9	33	181	0	308
6/6/98	75	0	42	41	40	70	0	268
6/13/98	98	0	38	62	19	7	0	224
6/20/98	63	0	61	98	54	4	0	280
6/27/98	31	0	73	112	95	2	0	313
7/4/98	33	0	65	104	138	0	0	340
TOTAL	623	295	315	429	390	883	3555	2951

\* 45,000 lb units, including rail, piggyback, truck, air, boat, export & import  
# includes Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS  
Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point and Delivered Sales Shipping Point Basis  
CANTALOUPS - 1998 Season

	1/2 ctns 6s	1/2 ctns 9s	1/2 ctns 12s	1/2 ctns 15s	1/2 ctns 18s
05-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
06-MAY-98	-	-11.85	-13.85	12.75-13.85	-
07-MAY-98	-	-11.85	10.75-11.85	10.75-10.85	9.75-10.75
08-MAY-98	-	-11.85	-13.85	-12.85	-10.85
09-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
10-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
11-MAY-98	-	-11.85	-13.85	-13.85	-10.85
12-MAY-98	6.85-7.85	-10.85	-12.85	-12.85	-10.85
13-MAY-98	6.85-7.85	-10.85	11.85-12.85	-11.85	10.85-11.85
14-MAY-98	-7.85	-10.85	-11.85	-11.85	-10.85
15-MAY-98	-6.85	-9.85	-11.85	-11.85	-10.85
16-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
17-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
18-MAY-98	6.85-7.85	-10.85	-11.85	-11.85	9.85-10.85
19-MAY-98	-7.85	-10.85	-11.85	10.85-11.85	9.85-10.85
20-MAY-98	-	-10.85	-11.85	10.85-11.85	-9.85
21-MAY-98	-	-10.85	-11.85	10.85-11.85	-9.85
22-MAY-98	-	-10.85	-11.85	10.85-11.85	-9.85
23-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
24-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
25-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
26-MAY-98	-	-11.85	12.35-12.85	-11.85	-9.85
27-MAY-98	-	-11.85	12.35-12.85	-11.85	8.85-9.85
28-MAY-98	-	10.85-11.85	-12.85	-11.85	7.85-8.85
29-MAY-98	-	10.85-11.85	-12.85	-10.85	7.85-8.85
30-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
31-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
01-JUN-98	-	8.85-9.85	-9.85	7.75-8.85	6.85-7.85
02-JUN-98	-	8.85-9.85	9.85-10.85	7.75-8.85	6.85-7.85

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS  
Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point and Delivered Sales Shipping Point Basis  
HONEYDEWS - 1998 Season

	2/3 ctns 4s	2/3 ctns 5s	2/3 ctns 6s	2/3 ctns 8s	2/3 ctns 9s
05-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
06-MAY-98	-	-8.00	-9.00	-9.00	-8.00
07-MAY-98	-	-8.00	-9.00	-9.00	7.00-8.00
08-MAY-98	-	-8.50	-8.50	-8.50	-8.00
09-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
10-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
11-MAY-98	-	-8.50	-8.50	-8.50	8.00-8.50
12-MAY-98	-	-8.00	-8.50	-8.50	7.50-8.00
13-MAY-98	-7.00	-8.00	-8.50	-8.50	7.50-8.00
14-MAY-98	6.00-6.50	-8.00	-8.50	-8.50	7.50-8.00
15-MAY-98	6.00-6.50	-8.00	7.50-8.50	7.50-8.00	7.00-8.00
16-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
17-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
18-MAY-98	6.00-7.00	-8.00	-8.00	-8.00	-7.00
19-MAY-98	6.00-7.00	-8.00	-8.00	-8.00	7.00-8.00
20-MAY-98	-	-8.00	-8.00	-8.00	7.00-8.00
21-MAY-98	-	-8.00	-8.00	-8.00	7.00-7.50
22-MAY-98	-	-8.00	-8.00	-8.00	-7.00
23-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
24-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
25-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
26-MAY-98	-	-8.00	-8.50	-8.00	6.00-7.00
27-MAY-98	-	-8.50	-8.50	7.00-8.00	-6.00
28-MAY-98	-	-8.50	8.00-8.50	7.00-8.00	-6.00
29-MAY-98	-	-8.50	-8.00	7.00-8.00	-6.00
30-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
31-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-
01-JUN-98	-	-8.50	-8.00	6.00-7.00	5.00-6.00
02-JUN-98	-	-8.00	-8.00	-7.00	5.00-6.00

## O N I O N S

1 9 9 8

### SAN ANTONIO-WINTER GARDEN-LAREDO AND LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY AREA

The Lower Rio Grande Valley had a very good year as far as onion shipments. The total trucklots shipped this season was 4333, this was a increase 1548 loads over the last season. The predominant variety shipped from South Texas was Yellow Grain-O type the total packages shipped according to the South Texas Onion Committee was 3,888,412 packages, compared with 276,320 packages of white onions and 281,762 of the Red varieties.

According to the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the Winter Garden-Laredo area harvested an estimated 2800 acres for spring 1998. In comparison, 2500 acres were harvested for the 1997 season. The yield per acre in 1998 was 240 cwt compared to 205 cwt in 1997. The production in 1998 was estimated at 675,000 cwt compared to 512,000 cwt in 1997. Truck shipments for the 1998 season as reported to the Federal-State Market News Service was 2696 (40,000 lb units) compared to 1073 in 1997. The Presidio area (West Texas area) began shipping in early May and continued through mid-June. The remainder of the Trans-Pecos area began in early June through August. Total shipments for those four months were 1429 (40,000 lb units) for that area of the state.

Land preparation and some planting began later in October after some heavy rains in mid-October. Then making good progress during November. Temperatures on December 13 were reported at 22-23 degrees and some areas as low as 17 degrees. December 14 at 27-28 degrees and December 15 at 30-32 degrees. But no apparent damage was noted. Good progress was noted through January. February was a stormy month with eight severe weather events developing and moving across the area including heavy rains, wind and some hail. But no apparent damage, and rains were beneficial to the crop. Temperatures were at or near freezing on March 10, but crop was still good. April began what was to become the drought of 1998 and was one of the driest April's on record. May continued that trend which was actually good for onion harvesting except for the extreme heat. On May 7 Laredo hit a record high of 109 degrees and Del Rio 106 degrees. Much of May never saw less than the three digit temperatures.

Harvesting began in the Laredo area the second week of April and the Winter Garden began in a very light way in late April and gradually increased in early-mid May through mid-June. Rains slowed harvesting in mid-June as most shippers were trying to complete harvest. The peak week of shipments was May 17-23 with 396 (40,000 lb) loads shipped that week. Light shipments continued into early July. Harvesting in the Lower Rio Grande Valley started the week of March 7, and continued until the finish the week of May 30. The peak in the season happened during the week of April 25, when 900 loads of onions were shipped.

The first F.O.B. report was issued May 4, 1998. Yellow grano type jumbo brought \$5.00-6.00, medium \$5.50-6.00, and repacker size \$5.00-6.00. White jumbo and medium brought \$8.00-10.00 and a

limited supply of reds (25 lb sks) jumbo at \$10.00, medium 8.00. Demand was moderate to fairly good on yellows in early May. Supplies of yellows tightened and improved the market with good demand through May until early June. By early June demand began to decrease and a weaker market was evident the first two weeks of June. By mid June supplies were in few hands and the market began to react to lighter supplies. The last report was June 19, 1998, yellow jumbos at mostly \$8.00, medium and repacker size mostly \$6.00. Yellow and white onions are packed in 50-lb mesh sacks with some 1015s also packed in 50-lb cartons. Reds are packed in 25-lb mesh sacks. The Lower Rio Grande Valley issued it's first F.O.B. during the week of March 22, and opened with a price spread of \$8.00-\$14.00 on Yellow Gran-O type depending on size. Prices stabilized at about \$5.00-\$8.00 for the rest of the season. The first F.O.B on the Red Type was issued on April 13, and opened with a spread of \$16.00-\$20.00 and stabilized at about \$5.00-\$10.00 for the rest of the season. White Types first F.O.B. was also issued on the April 13, where prices opened at \$10.00-\$20.00 depending on size and stayed there for first half of the season but dipped to \$10.00-\$12.00 buy April 27, and continued to fall to \$8.00-\$10.00 buy the end.

The usual load of onions will consist of 800-900 packages. Truck availability was slightly short during most of May and adequate through June.

WEEKLY ONION SHIPMENTS 1997-98 SEASON \*

WEEK ENDING	AZ	CA	CO	GA	ID	MI	NY	OR	Texas				WA	MX	TOTAL
									San Antonio Winter Garden Laredo	Texas Lower Rio Grande Vly	Texas Presido	Texas Trans- Pecos			
2/7/98	0	0	109	0	333	110	271	597	0	0	0	0	648	74	2142
2/14/98	0	0	90	0	327	112	250	574	0	0	0	0	636	110	2099
2/21/98	0	0	79	0	322	107	234	606	0	0	0	0	622	165	2135
2/28/98	0	0	27	0	302	102	215	493	0	0	0	0	573	247	1959
3/7/98	0	0	0	0	302	99	214	505	0	10	0	0	419	260	1809
3/14/98	0	0	0	0	209	70	193	273	0	11	0	0	324	387	1467
3/21/98	0	0	0	0	201	58	243	300	0	56	0	0	284	522	1664
3/28/98	0	0	0	0	119	30	225	244	0	142	0	0	245	862	1867
4/4/98	0	0	0	2	50	7	183	189	0	340	0	0	243	810	1824
4/11/98	0	5	0	27	15	0	167	174	20	563	0	0	263	494	1728
4/18/98	0	23	0	174	16	0	140	45	116	868	0	0	114	357	1853
4/25/98	0	208	0	513	0	0	106	3	164	900	0	0	45	261	2200
5/2/98	0	526	0	642	1	0	95	3	171	791	2	0	29	188	2448
5/9/98	0	893	0	548	0	0	59	0	313	465	28	0	15	132	2453
5/16/98	52	1017	0	446	1	0	30	0	340	131	58	0	0	76	2151
5/23/98	271	1040	0	504	0	0	0	0	396	36	84	0	0	111	2442
5/30/98	280	779	0	416	1	0	0	0	358	20	0	0	0	118	1972
6/6/98	253	635	0	367	1	0	0	0	275	0	0	224	14	112	1881
6/13/98	140	427	0	267	1	0	0	0	217	0	0	289	38	109	1488
6/20/98	84	457	0	231	0	0	0	0	162	0	0	238	167	65	1404
6/27/98	38	395	0	233	0	0	0	0	141	0	0	86	206	62	1161
7/4/98	14	262	0	192	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	4	250	20	765
7/11/98	0	419	0	153	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	177	53	850
7/18/98	0	598	0	154	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	76	163	27	1027
7/25/98	0	613	0	157	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	151	4	992
8/1/98	0	714	78	144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	284	4	1300
8/8/98	0	710	257	137	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	308	0	1493
8/15/98	0	675	366	108	5	0	0	32	0	0	0	63	424	1	1674
8/22/98	0	545	397	57	17	0	0	146	0	0	0	15	460	4	1641
TOTAL	1132	10941	1403	5472	2233	695	2625	4193	2696	4333	172	1257	7102	5635	49889

\*40,000 lb units; including rail, piggyback, truck, air, boat, export & import

PHOENIX-LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS  
 Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point and Delivered Sales Shipping Point Basis  
 ONIONS DRY - 1998 Season  
 DAILY PRICE RANGES

	50 lb sks YELLOW GRANO TYPE col	50 lb sks YELLOW GRANO TYPE jbo	50 lb sks YELLOW GRANO TYPE med	50 lb sks YELLOW GRANO TYPE rpkr sz	50 lb sks WHITE jbo	50 lb sks WHITE med
04-APR-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
05-APR-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
06-APR-98	-14.00	-12.00	-12.00	11.00-12.00	-	-
07-APR-98	-14.00	-12.00	-12.00	-12.00	-	-
08-APR-98	-14.00	-12.00	-12.00	-12.00	-	-
09-APR-98	-14.00	-12.00	-12.00	10.00-12.00	-	-
10-APR-98	-14.00	-12.00	-12.00	10.00-12.00	-	-
11-APR-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
12-APR-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
13-APR-98	-14.00	-12.00	-10.00	9.00-10.00	20.00-22.00	18.00-20.00
14-APR-98	-14.00	-10.00	8.00-9.00	9.00-10.00	-22.00	-20.00
15-APR-98	11.00-12.00	-10.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	-20.00	-18.00
16-APR-98	11.00-12.00	8.00-10.00	8.00-9.00	-8.00	-20.00	-18.00
17-APR-98	10.00-12.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	-8.00	-20.00	-18.00
18-APR-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
19-APR-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-APR-98	10.00-12.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	18.00-20.00	16.00-18.00
21-APR-98	9.00-10.00	7.00-8.00	-8.00	-8.00	15.00-16.00	14.00-15.00
22-APR-98	9.00-10.00	7.00-8.00	-8.00	7.00-8.00	14.00-16.00	-14.00
23-APR-98	8.00-9.00	-7.00	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	14.00-16.00	-14.00
24-APR-98	8.00-9.00	-7.00	7.00-8.00	6.00-7.00	14.00-16.00	-14.00
25-APR-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
26-APR-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
27-APR-98	8.00-9.00	6.00-7.00	7.00-8.00	-7.00	12.00-14.00	10.00-12.00
28-APR-98	8.00-9.00	-6.00	-7.00	-7.00	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.00
29-APR-98	7.00-8.00	-6.00	-6.00	-6.00	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.00
30-APR-98	7.00-8.00	5.00-6.00	-6.00	-6.00	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.00
01-MAY-98	-7.00	-5.00	5.00-6.00	5.00-6.00	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.00
02-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
03-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
04-MAY-98	-7.00	-5.00	5.00-6.00	-6.00	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.00
05-MAY-98	6.00-7.00	-5.00	5.00-6.00	-6.00	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.00
06-MAY-98	-6.00	-5.00	-5.00	5.00-6.00	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.00
07-MAY-98	-6.00	-5.00	5.00-6.00	5.00-6.00	-8.00	-8.00
08-MAY-98	-6.00	-5.00	-5.00	5.00-6.00	-	-
09-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
11-MAY-98	-	-5.00	-5.00	5.00-6.00	-	-
12-MAY-98	-	-5.00	-5.00	5.00-6.00	-	-
13-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-	-
14-MAY-98	-	-	-	-	-	-

PHOENIX-LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS  
 Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point and Delivered Sales Shipping Point Basis  
 ONIONS DRY - 1998 Season

DAILY PRICE RANGES

50 lb sks WHITE rpkr sz	50 lb ctns YELLOW GRANO TYPE jbo	25 lb sks RED GLOBE TYPE jbo	25 lb sks RED GLOBE TYPE med
04-APR-98	-	-	-
05-APR-98	-	-	-
06-APR-98	-	-	-
07-APR-98	-	-	-
08-APR-98	-	-	-
09-APR-98	-	-	-
10-APR-98	-	-	-
11-APR-98	-	-	-
12-APR-98	-	-	-
13-APR-98	-	20.00-22.00	16.00-18.00
14-APR-98	-	-20.00	-18.00
15-APR-98	-	-14.00	-20.00
16-APR-98	-	-14.00	-20.00
17-APR-98	-	-14.00	18.00-20.00
18-APR-98	-	-	-
19-APR-98	-	-	-
20-APR-98	-	-14.00	-18.00
21-APR-98	-	-14.00	16.00-18.00
22-APR-98	-	-14.00	14.00-16.00
23-APR-98	10.00-12.00	-12.00	14.00-16.00
24-APR-98	-12.00	-12.00	14.00-16.00
25-APR-98	-	-	-
26-APR-98	-	-	-
27-APR-98	-10.00	-12.00	12.00-14.00
28-APR-98	-10.00	10.00-12.00	12.00-14.00
29-APR-98	-	10.00-12.00	-12.00
30-APR-98	-	-10.00	-10.00
01-MAY-98	-	-10.00	10.00-12.00
02-MAY-98	-	-	8.00-10.00
03-MAY-98	-	-	-
04-MAY-98	-	8.00-10.00	-10.00
05-MAY-98	-	8.00-10.00	-8.00
06-MAY-98	-	8.00-9.00	8.00-10.00
07-MAY-98	-	8.00-9.00	8.00-10.00
08-MAY-98	-	8.00-9.00	6.00-8.00
09-MAY-98	-	-	8.00-10.00
10-MAY-98	-	-	5.00-6.00
11-MAY-98	-	8.00-9.00	-
12-MAY-98	-	8.00-9.00	-
13-MAY-98	-	-	-
14-MAY-98	-	-	-

S P I N A C H  
SAN ANTONIO - WINTER GARDEN DISTRICT  
1 9 9 7 - 1 9 9 8

The San Antonio - Winter Garden District shipped 697 (30,000 lb) trucklots during the 1997-1998 season. This compares to 502 trucklots shipped during the 1996-97 season. Texas ranked 3rd in the U.S. production behind California and New Jersey.

According to the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the state of Texas harvested 2400 acres in 1997 compared to 2800 in 1996 for fresh market. The yield per acre was 65 cwt compared to 55 cwt in 1996 and the production in 1997 was 156,000 cwt compared to 154,000 cwt in 1996. For processing there were 4700 acres harvested in 1997 compared to 7500 acres in 1996. The major spinach producing area is the San Antonio-Winter Garden area which includes the counties of Frio, Uvalde, Zavala, Maverick, Kinney, Medina, and Dimmit.

Planting began in late September/early October and continued into November. Some planting was delayed during mid-October due to heavy rains. December 13th was the first official freeze (22-23 degrees some reports as low as 17-19 degrees) December 14 (27-28 degrees) and December 15 (30-32 degrees). Some slight damage, but it was a clear, dry freeze, actually making it easier on the plant. January was rather mild. February was a stormy month with eight severe weather events developing mostly around the Del Rio area and coming across the Winter Garden area dumping heavy rains, wind, and hail. Some losses to both first and second cuttings in the growing area did occur. On March 10 freezing temperatures at or near 32 degrees and heavy rains again on March 14-15-16.

Harvesting began mid-late November and gradually increased in December and January. The heaviest shipments were the week of January 11-17, 1998. The decline began in mid-March and completed by mid April. Harvesting was often hampered by the heavy rains, high winds, and losses from hail.

The Savoy type (curly leaf) is the most popular type grown in Texas for fresh market. Some flat leaf is grown for processing. Most of the Savoy type harvested in the Winter Garden area is clipped (leaves only) and packed loose in bushel baskets (25 lbs.) for distribution to major repackers mainly on the East Coast and Canada. Some root spinach (leaves and root) is also shipped from this growing area. The first F.O.B. was issued on December 1, 1997 and demand was fairly good at \$9.00 per bushel basket. Demand quickly declined as well as the market from \$8.00 to \$7.50 through mid-January, 1998. Demand increased after Christmas until January 15. Then again as demand slowed, the market also declined to \$7.00 and then \$6.50 until late January. Early February through mid March the market held at mostly \$6.00. The last F.O.B. was issued on March 17, after several days of rainy weather and supplies were in few hands.

The normal truck will usually hold 1100-1200 bushel baskets/crates. Several shippers were experimenting with a reusable/recyclable plastic container for the first time this year and the normal truck would carry about 910 of this type of container.



WEEKLY SPINACH SHIPMENTS 1997-98 SEASON \*

WEEK ENDING	Texas				Total
	Winter Garden	AZ	CA	MX	
11/22/97	15	10	3	3	31
11/29/97	41	13	0	17	71
12/6/97	39	13	3	16	71
12/13/97	31	13	6	20	70
12/20/97	37	10	0	13	60
12/27/97	25	3	0	13	41
1/3/98	49	10	3	10	72
1/10/98	51	20	7	16	94
1/17/98	53	13	3	20	89
1/24/98	41	20	3	16	80
1/31/98	33	20	10	16	79
2/7/98	45	13	6	20	84
2/14/98	40	16	6	23	85
2/21/98	39	10	6	16	71
2/28/98	39	20	6	23	88
3/7/98	37	20	3	13	73
3/14/98	37	13	3	6	59
3/21/98	27	13	0	10	50
3/28/98	11	13	3	13	40
4/4/98	2	6	0	6	14
4/11/98	5	10	3	6	24
4/18/98	0	6	3	6	15
4/25/98	0	3	0	3	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>1367</b>

\* 30,000 lb units; including rail, piggyback, truck, air, boat, export & import

AUSTIN-SAN ANTONIO-WINTERGARDEN DISTRICT TEXAS  
Sales F.O.B. Shipping Point Basis  
SPINACH - 1997 Season

!  
bubkts!  
!  
SAVOY !  
!  
!  
lse !

06-DEC-97	8.00-9.00
13-DEC-97	7.50-8.00
20-DEC-97	7.50-7.75
27-DEC-97	-7.50
03-JAN-98	-7.50
10-JAN-98	-7.50
17-JAN-98	7.00-7.50
24-JAN-98	-6.50
31-JAN-98	-6.50
07-FEB-98	6.00-6.50
14-FEB-98	-6.00
21-FEB-98	-6.00
28-FEB-98	-6.00
07-MAR-98	-6.00
14-MAR-98	-6.00
21-MAR-98	-