

price scale. The indicated price is \$1.09, corrected for price level variations. Multiply this by a value for the all-commodities price level index of the Bureau of Labor statistics for September, which will give the desired estimate.

Such a comparison is more useful when localized to a single State. Georgia is the most important peach-producing State. In Figure 166 a comparison is given of the average July and August price in Georgia with the production of peaches in the Georgia region, including Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The same type of curve is observed as in the preceding chart, though 1914 and 1922 are somewhat off the line.

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PEACH Survey of National Scope Shows Pitfalls

Costly mistakes are frequently made in the development of peach orchards. From three to four years are required to bring a peach orchard into bearing and often conditions prevailing at the time of setting out the orchard are much different from those prevailing during the producing period. Improved methods of transportation and marketing have placed the peach industry on a national basis and although trees may be grown over the greater part of the United States, certain districts have outstanding advantages. Thus, it is important that new plantings be carefully planned.

During the fall of 1925 the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in cooperation with various State and other agencies, undertook to collect and assemble information on the fresh-peach industry for the guidance of growers. Special attention was given to tendencies in production, to recent plantings of trees of various varieties, to problems of competition and distribution, to the extent to which peaches are marketed by rail, and to the cost of developing an orchard to bearing age.

Car-lot shipments of fresh peaches increased at the rate of about 2,000 cars annually. It is likely that shipments by auto trucks also increased materially but no figures are available to show the extent of increase. This increase in commercial shipments of peaches has come about, not because of an expansion in the number of trees all over the country, but because of extensive plantings and improved management of orchards in a number of the more favored peach-producing districts.

Prices Low in Some Districts

In some districts production has increased so rapidly and extensively that prices have declined greatly. In Georgia, North Carolina, and in others where the increase in production has been great, 1926 prices to growers were so low that many orchards were decidedly unprofitable. Recent plantings in many States have been so extensive that production may be expected to increase for some years to come, providing the orchards now planted are not badly neglected.

The figures on the ages of trees in 1925 indicate that much of any increase in production will come from Georgia, North Carolina, Michigan, Illinois, New Jersey, Tennessee, New York, and Arkansas.

Relative numbers of young and of old trees reported in the survey for 26 States show that in Georgia, the leading fresh peach producing State, 59 per cent of the trees were less than 6 years old in 1925, and 28 per cent had not then come into bearing. Other States of less commercial importance at present show much larger percentages of young trees.

Keener competition in the marketing of peaches from some States may be reasonably expected during the next few years. The cost of transportation and refrigeration set rather definite limits on the distance which peaches from a given district can be sent to market. As transportation costs increase with increased distance, it becomes more and more necessary to ship only fruit of high quality and attractive pack if the best returns are to be realized. This is particularly true in years when there is a large crop throughout the peach-producing districts. Thus, during years of low production in the East and South it becomes more possible for distant producing districts to ship to the larger markets and it is at such times that California increases the shipments of fresh peaches to the Central and Eastern States.

Distribution of Shipments

Normally Georgia supplies most of the territory east of the Mississippi River until the States farther north begin to send their crops to market. Texas shipments are confined mainly to the States west of the Mississippi River and to Illinois. North Carolina shipments go to the Atlantic seaboard region mainly. States lying directly north of Tennessee take most of her peaches. Arkansas peaches are marketed largely in the near-by States of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. Illinois peaches go to Chicago, St. Louis, and the smaller cities in the Middle West. The Middle Atlantic section, such as New Jersey and Eastern Shore of Maryland, depend upon New England, the Middle Atlantic States and Ohio for markets. Most of the Michigan crop is usually consumed in the Middle West. New York peaches go to the eastern cities, while Colorado and Utah peaches are marketed for the most part in the region lying east of them and extending to Illinois. Car-lot shipment implies relatively large movements and long distances to markets. The motor truck has, however, been effective in getting peaches to consumers who could not be reached otherwise.

According to the survey of 1925, nearly 50 per cent or more of the merchantable crop marketed in each of the States, West Virginia, Idaho, Alabama, New Jersey, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Ohio, was sold locally or hauled to market by truck or wagon. A very large percentage of the crop in some of these States goes to near-by towns and cities, usually by truck or wagon, although some shipments are made by express. In Ohio less than 15 per cent of the 1924 crop was marketed by rail. In 1924, on the other hand, Georgia sold locally or hauled to market by wagon or truck only 4 per cent of the peaches sold. The same conditions as in Georgia, although to a lesser extent, obtained in the other important peach States of the South, West, Midwest, and East.

Of the many varieties of peaches grown, only a few are of commercial importance. Good commercial peach trees must be hardy and produce regularly. The fruit must be of good shipping quality,

so that it can be sent to distant markets and remain in good condition. The Elberta is by far the most important variety east of the Rockies, as it meets these requirements. Other varieties of importance in certain districts are the Belle, Hiley, J. H. Hale, and Carman.

In some States a fairly large number of trees are found of little known varieties and of seedlings. In general, fruit from such trees may prejudice consumers against buying more peaches of the well-known standard varieties.

Care in Orchard Site Selection

Too much emphasis can not be placed upon the necessity of exercising care in the selection of the orchard site and in planting the orchard. With cost rates as in 1925, land could be bought and a peach orchard set out and cared for until 4 years of age for a sum amounting to \$90 to \$650 per acre, depending on the district selected. The cost of the land is the largest single item. In the commercial peach districts land is not a limiting factor in setting out an orchard, but a really good site may not be easily found. An enterprise like a peach orchard, that requires much time and money to develop, should be undertaken only after one is convinced that in due time the orchard will be profitable. Competition from near-by orchards and from competing districts during the bearing life of the orchard should be considered. An orchard that costs little, but bears fruit only occasionally, or bears fruit of poor quality, or even good fruit that must be sold on a glutted market, may be less profitable than one of higher cost, which produces good fruit regularly, for which there is ready sale.

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PEANUTS: How They Reach the Consumer

Few people who buy a small bag of roasted or salted peanuts from a street vender know of their origin or of the many processes the peanuts have passed through since leaving the ground. Peanuts are supposed to have originated in Brazil, but were taken in slave ships to Africa, Spain, and other countries at a very early date, and the types of peanuts that we know in America were probably developed in Spain and various parts of Africa.

The growth of the peanut industry in the United States was slow until the introduction about 45 years ago of labor-saving machinery for the various cleaning and shelling processes. The increase of the boll weevil in the cotton-growing States was responsible for a wave of peanut planting throughout the Southern States 10 or 12 years ago. During the last three or four years peanut production in this country has been less than during some of the war years, largely because of lessened returns and the preference of the southern farmer for planting cotton when reasonably profitable.

Peanuts require a long summer in which to mature properly, and so are not planted commercially north of a line running west from southern Virginia. Virginia-type peanuts are large-podded and seem to do best in the soils of southeastern Virginia, northeastern North Carolina, and central Tennessee. Elsewhere in the peanut