

VEGETABLES

Release: April 7, 1964  
3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

WEEKLY TOMATO REPORT 1/ - 1963-64 Season

Weekly Planting in Florida and the  
Spring Crop in the Texas Lower Valley

Week Ending	FLORIDA						TEXAS LOWER VALLEY		TOTAL 2 STATES	
	1962-63			1963-64			1962-63	1963-64	1962-63	1963-64
	Seeded	Set 2/	Total	Seeded	Set 2/	Total				
Season through	-Acres-						-Acres Seeded-		-Total Acres Seeded Basis-	
Dec. 21	31,590	5,000	36,590	30,170	4,550	34,720	250	550	36,840	35,270
28	1,770	1,000	2,770	2,150	710	2,860	150	250	2,920	3,110
Jan. 4	1,570	390	1,960	810	1,330	2,140	950	2,950	2,910	5,090
11	870	150	1,020	1,030	350	1,380	2,900	3,950	3,920	5,330
18	460	160	620	480	620	1,100	1,350	1,800	1,970	2,900
25	410	100	510	420	140	560	1,700	2,500	2,210	3,060
Feb. 1	270	---	270	230	90	320	2,400	1,000	2,670	1,320
8	80	---	80	50	60	110	950	500	1,030	610
15	---	---	---	160	---	160	700	650	700	810
22	170	60	230	30	20	50	500	450	730	500
29	210	20	230	---	---	---	600	100	830	100
Mar. 7	---	---	---	10	---	10	350	200	350	210
Total through Mar. 7	37,400	6,880	44,280	35,540	7,870	43,410	12,800	14,900	57,080	58,310
Mar. 14	---	---	---	---	---	---	100	---	100	---
21	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
28	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Apr. 4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Season to date	37,400	6,880	44,280	35,540			12,900	14,900	57,180	

Plant Development and Progress of Harvest 3/ - April 4, 1964

STAGES	FLORIDA		TEXAS		TOTAL 2 STATES	
	1962-63	1963-64	1962-63	1963-64	1962-63	1963-64
	-Acres-		-Acres-		-Acres	
Pre-fruit stage	1,900	2,690	4/	13,500	4/	16,190
Fruit set						
Early development	8,650	7,580	4/	1,400	4/	8,980
Har. expected next 2 weeks	2,490	2,820	4/	---	4/	2,820
Times harvested						
Once	2,360	970	4/	---	4/	970
Twice	3,650	1,480	4/	---	4/	1,480
Three or more	3,900	5,360	4/	---	4/	5,360
Harvest completed	21,330	22,510	4/	---	4/	22,510

1/ Excludes acreage contracted for processing. 2/ The acreage set is shown as planted 4 weeks earlier to make crop development comparable to that on the acreage seeded. 3/ For fresh market. Does not include harvest for processing. 4/ Not available.

(See comments on reverse side.)

Temperatures in Florida's tomato producing area were cool early in the week ended April 4 but warmed up during the latter part of the week. Frosts on March 31 and April 1 in the north central area caused top leaf burn and some plant loss. Acreage in this area is nearing the fruit set stage. Volume of vine ripe tomatoes continued heavy from the Pompano area during the week. Mature green supplies continued heavy from Dade County but are expected to start decreasing about April 15. A large portion of the acreage is now harvested. Plants continued setting fruit in the Fort Pierce area. Light volume is expected April 15-20. Picking is now underway in the Immokalee-Fort Myers area and volume will gradually increase as additional growers begin picking. First harvest in the Manatee-Ruskin-Wauchula area is expected the last week of April. Plants in this area are in good condition but light damage was noted during the week from excessive rainfall.

Texas Rio Grande Valley weather was cloudy and warm most of the week with high winds Thursday. Condition of tomato plants remains good but many fields will need additional moisture. Many growers are delaying irrigation hoping for a rain. In the upper section of the Valley, oldest plants are bushing out into row middles. Plants in earliest fields are setting fruit. Some early set fruit is showing signs of wind damage. In the middle section of the Valley, about 10 percent of the acreage has set fruit but hands are not holding a full set. Over one-half of the acreage has not yet reached the bloom stage. Plants are making satisfactory growth. In the Brownsville area, plants are showing good color. Early fields are blooming and are expected to begin setting fruit soon.