

VEGETABLES

Release: April 28, 1964  
3:00 P.M. (E.D.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-	
Jan. 4	34,930	6,390	41,320	33,080	6,590	39,670	1,350	3,750	42,670	43,420
11	870	150	1,020	1,040	350	1,390	2,900	3,900	3,920	5,290
18	460	160	620	490	610	1,100	1,350	1,750	1,970	2,850
25	410	100	510	420	90	510	1,700	2,500	2,210	3,010
Feb. 1	270	---	270	230	140	370	2,400	1,000	2,670	1,370
8	80	---	80	50	60	110	950	500	1,030	610
15	---	---	---	160	---	160	700	600	700	760
22	170	60	230	40	20	60	500	450	730	510
29	210	20	230	---	---	---	600	100	830	100
Mar. 7	---	---	---	10	---	10	350	200	350	210
14	---	---	---	---	---	---	100	---	100	---
21	---	---	---	40	---	40	---	---	---	40
Season to date	37,400	6,880	44,280	35,560	7,860	43,420	12,900	14,750	57,180	58,170

Plant Development and Progress of Harvest 3/ - April 25, 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	130	510	4/	4,100	4/	4,610
Fruit set						
Early development	880	2,840	4/	8,550	4/	11,390
Har. expected next 2 weeks	6,470	5,400	4/	2,100	4/	7,500
Times harvested						
Once	3,640	2,070	4/	---	4/	2,070
Twice	2,130	2,070	4/	---	4/	2,070
Three or more	3,430	3,020	4/	---	4/	3,020
Harvest completed	27,600	27,510	4/	---	4/	27,510

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.)

For the third consecutive week, temperatures in Florida's tomato producing area averaged well above normal. Several areas received scattered light rainfall. Shipments increased sharply over the previous week as the warmer weather speeded fruit growth and additional spring acreage came into production. Shipments by rail and truck during the week ended April 25 totaled 919 carlot equivalents, an increase of 42 percent over the 648 shipped the week before. Further increases in shipments are expected during the week of April 26-May 2 if weather conditions remain favorable. Peak movement for the set is expected around mid-May. Vine-ripe volume from the Pompano area continues its seasonal decline. Harvest of mature greens from Dade County is nearing completion. Supplies of mature greens from the Fort Pierce and Immokalee-Fort Myers areas are rapidly increasing as more acreage moves into the first and second pick stages. Full volume is expected from the Immokalee-Fort Myers area by the week of April 26-May 2. Picking of mature greens from the Manatee-Ruskin-Wauchula area will start the week of April 26-May 2 and volume will be heavy by the week ending May 16. Mature green harvest in north central Florida will get underway around mid-May.

Texas Rio Grande Valley weather was warm, cloudy, and windy most of the week. South winds continued to hinder bloom set but fruit scarring was slight. Almost three-fourths of the acreage for harvest has set fruit. Growers are anticipating that a light picking will begin in early May. Fair volume is expected by mid-May. Sizing of fruit on later acreage is progressing satisfactorily. Young plants are making good growth, and only a small acreage has not yet begun to bloom. Spray programs continue to control insects and plant disease.