GREEN PEAS FOR PROCESSING

COMMENTS ON CROP DEVELOPMENT

May 1, 1961

Maine: Spring weather has been unusually cold in Maine. Fields in the northern areas were covered by up to a foot of snow on May 1 and freezing morning temperatures were recorded in the state through the first of May. Field work is generally about 2 weeks later than usual.

New York: Below normal temperatures accompanied by excessive precipitation during April delayed planting of green peas throughout the state. Progress of planting ranged from 10 to 50 percent complete by May 1 with most areas considered to be about 2 weeks later than usual.

Pennsylvania: Cold weather and wet fields have delayed planting schedules in all areas. Central and northern counties are particularly late and there is some doubt that intended acreage in the area will be planted. Present indications are that about one-fourth of this season's intended acreage was not planted by May 1. Below-freezing temperatures and scattered frost were recorded in most sections of the state as late as April 30.

New Jersey: Progress of planting is considerably behind schedule as a result of prolonged cold, wet weather this spring. Temperatures ranged from the middle 80's to as low as 30 degrees the last week of April and averaged slightly below normal for the month.

Delaware: After a slow start, plantings picked up rapidly the last week of April following a rise in temperatures to more nearly normal levels. In Delaware, approximately 95 percent of the acreage had been planted by May 1. In Maryland, plantings on the Eastern Shore were nearly complete by that date but west of the Bay, approximately 15 percent of the intended acreage remained to be planted. Early plantings in the two-state area are showing good stands.

Virginia: Planting was completed in the principal producing area of the Eastern Shore by the end of March. A few plantings have been drowned out but generally, stands are good and the crop has made favorable progress. Harvest is expected to begin about May 20. Stands in the Northern Neck area are spotty.

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Ohio: Frequent heavy rains during April raised precipitation amounts to much above normal. Scattered frost was recorded as late as April 27. As a result, field work is about 2 weeks late with approximately 25 percent of the processing acreage planted by May 1.

Indiana: Heavy rains, high winds, snow and below normal temperatures during April delayed planting by about 2 weeks. Early planted acreage is up with good stands but later plantings had not emerged by May 1.

Illinois: Unseasonably cold, wet and cloudy weather has curtailed planting activity. Only 25 to 40 percent of intended acreage was in the ground by the end of April. Some acreage planted early is up to good stands.

Michigan: Little acreage was planted by May 1 because of the weather. Freezing temperatures were recorded on the first of May. Soil moisture supplies are now considered adequate to excessive.

Wisconsin: First plantings were general on April 20 but frequent rains and cold weather have interrupted field activity and progress has been slow. In northern areas, planting was a week to 10 days behind schedule by May 1. Delays have been somewhat less in central counties. Soil moisture conditions vary from ample to excessive. Unusually cold nights and much below normal maximum daily temperatures have kept heat units below desirable planting levels throughout the State. Germination of planted acreage has been slow.

Minnesota and Iowa: Much below normal temperatures have delayed planting by about a week. Some acreage went in on April 21 but progress has been slow. Soil moisture supplies are adequate.

Arkansas: Prospects in northeast Arkansas and western Tennessee are favorable. Tennessee: for the 1961 green pea crop. Acreage went in under favorable conditions in February. Harvest is expected to begin about May 12, approximately one week earlier than last year.

Colorado: Planting is nearing completion at about the normal time. Subsoil moisture supplies are good but drying winds have reduced surface moisture and rain is needed. Peas in some early planted fields were emerging by the end of April.

Utah: By May 1, planting was nearly complete. Although temperatures have been a little too cool for good growth, conditions are generally favorable. Seed germination was good and stands thus far have been very good.

Idaho: Except for some minor local frost damage, conditions in Idaho have been favorable. Plantings are on schedule and nearing completion. Germination and stands are good. Soil moisture supplies are adequate.

Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington: Planting was completed on schedule about May 1. Cooler than normal temperatures have slowed crop growth and light frost damage has been reported in some localities. Moisture conditions are favorable and good stands have been obtained. Despite the frost damage, which may result in a maturity problem at harvest and slightly slower than normal growth caused by too cool weather, harvest of a generally good crop is expected to start on schedule.
Western Washington: Conditions in northwestern Washington pea producing areas are normal. Planting was in progress on May 1 and proceeding only slightly behind schedule. A good crop is expected.

California: Excessive temperatures in southern California curtailed yields in the area. Harvest was well along by May 1 in this area with only poor to average yields reported. The yields in the Santa Maria area are also low. Harvest in this area was about 75 percent complete by May 1. In the King City and Patterson Districts, the crop is considered to be average. Harvest on scattered acreages began in mid-April. Some production was lost earlier because of high temperatures and recently from early morning frosts in these two districts.