

VEGETABLES

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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. 7	27,540	3,830	31,370	27,200	4,300	31,500	50	150	31,420	31,650
14	1,070	530	1,600	1,880	80	1,960	50	450	1,650	2,410
21	2,980	640	3,620	1,090	170	1,260	150	---	3,770	1,260
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	1,000	350	1,350	2,900	3,950	3,920	5,300
18	460	160	620	440	620	1,060	1,350	1,800	1,970	2,860
25	410	100	510	420	140	560	1,700	2,600	2,210	3,160
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	700	700	860
22	170	60	230	30	---	30	500	450	730	480
Total through Feb. 22	37,190	6,860	44,050	35,460	7,850	43,310	11,850	14,800	55,900	58,110
Feb. 29	210	20	230	---	---	---	600	100	830	---
Mar. 7	---	---	---	10	---	---	350	200	350	---
14	---	---	---	---	---	---	100	---	100	---
21	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Season to date	37,400	6,880	44,280	35,470	---	---	12,900	15,100	57,180	---

Plant Development and Progress of Harvest 3/ - March 21, 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	6,490	7,840	12,900	15,100	19,390	22,940
Fruit set						
Early development	7,110	5,830	---	---	7,110	5,830
Har. expected next 2 weeks	2,320	1,100	---	---	2,320	1,100
Times harvested						
Once	2,920	1,950	---	---	2,920	1,950
Twice	2,410	1,900	---	---	2,410	1,900
Three or more	5,330	5,180	---	---	5,330	5,180
Harvest completed	17,680	19,520	---	---	17,680	19,520

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.

(See comments on reverse side.)

March 24, 1964

Temperatures in Florida's tomato producing areas averaged above normal for the third consecutive week. Showers occurred on the 16th and 17th and again on the 20th. In the Pompano vine-ripe area, hail and wind struck on March 17 in the Boynton and Delray section causing some severe damage and acreage loss in a small area. Fruit quality in the Pompano area remains good but size is starting to decline. Volume is expected to decrease slightly this week and continue its seasonal decline. Tomatoes in Dade County, the current source of mature greens, are making good progress. Fruit quality and size are fair to good. Volume is increasing as more acreage moves into production. Plants for spring harvest are making good progress. First harvest in the Fort Myers-Immokalee area is expected the week ending April 4, 1964.

In Texas, fair weather prevailed most of the week for the Rio Grande Valley tomatoes. Growing conditions continued to improve despite intermittent high winds. In the upper and middle sections of the Valley, plants have good color and are making fair to good growth. Plants in many early fields are blooming but are not holding blooms. Growers are weeding and thinning stands. In the lower section of the Valley, plants show good color and are making satisfactory growth. Plants range from one to eight inches tall and blooms are expected soon in earliest fields.