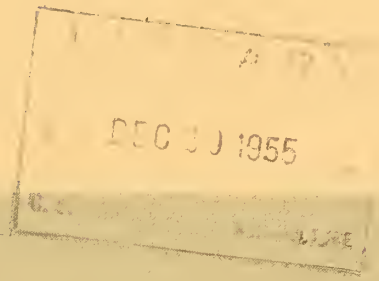


Reserve
A 280,39
M 34 Am

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NOVEMBER 1955



1956 ACREAGE-MARKETING GUIDES



Spring Vegetables



Spring Melons

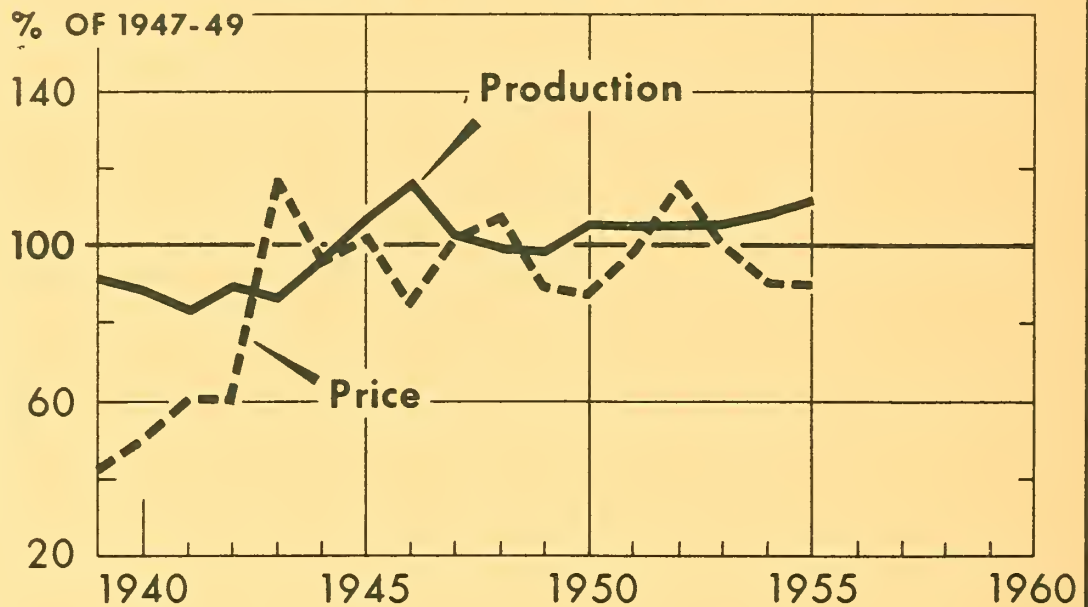


Spring Potatoes



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

SPRING COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1812-55 (10) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Production of commercial fresh vegetables during the spring season increased considerably during the latter years of World War II but since then has not changed significantly from year to year. Prices for spring vegetables increased sharply during the early 1940's but since 1943 there has been no definite trend. In general, prices received by growers for spring vegetables have tended to move in the opposite direction of changes in production and at a much sharper rate. A factor of equal importance in the determination of price levels for vegetables is the timing of harvest and movement to market. Normally, growers adjust their plantings of a particular commodity so as to provide a reasonably even supply throughout the season. But adverse weather conditions frequently delay crop development which ultimately results in marketing gaps and temporary surpluses. In 1955 many spring vegetable crops were heavily damaged by freezing weather early in the season and crop progress was retarded considerably. As a result supplies were relatively light early in the season and prices were high. But during the latter portion of the 1955 spring season supplies became heavy and prices declined to relatively low levels. The index of production for spring vegetables in 1955 was 111.6 compared to 108.0 in 1954. The index of season average prices received by growers was 90.3 in 1955 compared to 90.5 in 1954.

F O R E W O R D

The acreage-marketing guides program for vegetables, including potatoes and sweetpotatoes, is directed toward balancing the supply of each vegetable with the demand for it. The program is an attempt by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to provide the best possible estimates of the acreage of particular vegetables required, with average yields, to supply the quantity of these vegetables deemed necessary to meet the market need anticipated for the coming season.

The guide reports are prepared by specialists who follow the markets for the various commodities closely throughout the year and develop a record of happenings in the various markets, with explanations for unusual occurrences. On the basis of the latest and best available information, specific recommendations are developed for each commodity and a brief report is prepared explaining the reasons for each recommendation. Recognition is given to trends, both in recent years and for long time periods. Also, any abnormalities of preceding seasons are considered carefully. However, the recommendations are based upon the assumption that average conditions will prevail in the following season. The recommendation for each commodity is presented in terms of a percentage change from the acreage and production for preceding years, so as to permit each individual grower to apply this percentage-change recommendation to his individual operations. The recommendations are reviewed before publication by representatives of various agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

The grower is provided not only with the specialists' recommendation, but also with the latest possible information upon which the recommendation is based. The information is presented to the grower in sufficient time for him to consider the facts as he develops his plans for the forthcoming season. The fundamental concept behind the guide program is that, given the best information possible, the grower will make intelligent decisions for his and the industry's best interest. Compliance with the guides on the part of growers is voluntary. When growers have kept acreage within the levels recommended by the Department, few marketing difficulties have been encountered.

x
1956 ACREAGE-MARKETING GUIDES ;

Spring Vegetables, Spring Melons, and Early Commercial Spring Potatoes x

I. SUMMARY OF ADJUSTMENTS

The recommended acreage adjustments necessarily assume normal weather conditions and usual planting schedules so as to result in normal marketing patterns by commodities. The recommendations also assume average yields attained in recent years, although consideration has been given to trends in yields and the range in annual variations about yield trends. With these conditions, the anticipated production from the guide acreages will provide adequate supplies for all normal outlets under prospective demand conditions.

Spring Vegetables: The aggregate acreage guide for 18 spring vegetables in 1956 is 2 percent less than in 1955 and 7 percent less than in 1954. With average yields, this acreage will result in a 1956 production 5 percent less than in 1955.

The total production of the 18 spring vegetables in 1955 was 1.6 percent more than in 1954 on an acreage 4.5 percent less than in 1954. In the Spring-Acreage-Marketing Guides for 1955 the Department recommended an acreage 7 percent lower and a production 5 percent lower than in 1954. During the 1955 season many spring vegetables were damaged by freezing temperatures during the growing season. Considerable replanting was necessary and the progress of crops generally was retarded. The ultimate result of the freeze damage was an extensive disruption of harvesting schedules. Supplies of vegetables were relatively light and prices high early in the marketing season. Then during the latter portion of the season supplies became heavy and prices declined to lower levels. Prices in 1955 for spring vegetables averaged about equal to the relatively low prices in 1954. In 1955 and 1954 prices averaged 90.3 and 90.5 percent, respectively, of the 1947-49 average.

Spring Melons: The aggregate acreage guide for the two spring melon crops is an acreage equal to 1955. With average yields the 1956 production should be 6 percent smaller than in 1955. The production of cantaloups and watermelons in 1955 was 4 percent less than in 1954 on an acreage 10 percent below 1954. Prices were much higher in 1955 than in 1954, averaging 126.7 percent of the 1947-49 average prices compared to 98.7 percent in 1954.

Early Commercial Spring Potatoes: The aggregate acreage guide for 1956 is an acreage 13 percent less than in 1955. With average yields this acreage will result in a 1956 production 17 percent less than the large production in 1955. During 1955 prices were relatively high in April and May because of freeze damage in the southeastern states and delayed harvests. Supplies became heavy in June and prices declined to low levels.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Summary of Adjustments	1
Demand for Spring Vegetables in 1956	3
Production and Marketing Materials and Facilities	3
Surplus Removal Operations	5
Foreign Spring Vegetable Prospects	6
Canned and Frozen Vegetables	8
Acreage-Marketing Guides:	
Summaries - Vegetables	9-10
Melons	11
Commodity Tables and Statements:	
Spring Vegetables	12-40
Spring Melons	41-43
Early Commercial Spring Potatoes	44-45

Specific acreage guide recommendations for 1956 spring vegetables are as follows:

Commodity	:Percentage Change in 1956 Acreage :for Harvest Compared with 1955
<u>Spring Vegetables</u>	(Percent)
Beans, Lima -	No change
Beans, Snap -	<u>1/</u>
Early Spring	Plus 10
Mid Spring	No change
Late Spring	No change
Beets	No change
Broccoli -	No change
Early Spring	No change
Late Spring	No change
Cabbage -	Minus 5
Early Spring	Plus 10
Late Spring	Minus 35
Carrots -	No change
Cauliflower -	No change
Early Spring	No change
Late Spring	No change
Celery	No change
Sweet Corn -	<u>2/</u>
Early Spring	Minus 5
Late Spring	Plus 20
Cucumbers -	<u>3/</u>
Early Spring	No change
Late Spring	Minus 5
Eggplant	No change
Lettuce -	Minus 5
Early Spring	No change
Late Spring	No change
Onions -	No change
Early Spring	Minus 5
Late Spring	<u>4/</u>
Peas, Green -	No change
Early Spring	Minus 5
Late Spring	Minus 15
Peppers, Green	No change
Shallots	Minus 5
Spinach	No change
Tomatoes -	Minus 5
Early Spring	No change
Late Spring	No change
<u>Spring Melons</u>	
Cantaloups	No change
Watermelons	No change

- 1/ Snap Beans, Early Spring: Acreage for harvest 10 percent less than in 1955 in Florida but equal to 1955 acreage in Texas.
- 2/ Sweet Corn, Early Spring: Acreage for harvest 10 percent less than in 1955 in Florida and 15 percent more than in 1955 in Texas.
- 3/ Cucumbers, Late Spring: Acreage for harvest 15 percent less than in 1955 in North Carolina and the same in other states as in 1955.
- 4/ Green Peas, Early Spring: Acreage for harvest in California equal to that in 1955 and in South Carolina 50 percent above that in 1955 but 10 percent below 1954.

II. DEMAND FOR SPRING VEGETABLES IN 1956

Consumer demand for 1956 spring vegetables is likely to be somewhat stronger than in the spring of 1955. Per capita consumer income, after taxes, by next spring is expected to exceed the second quarter of 1955, perhaps by 2 or 3 percent. But marketing charges are absorbing a higher proportion of the retail food dollar, and high marketing costs are likely to continue into 1956.

General economic activity, employment, and consumer incomes have risen rapidly so far this year reflecting increased demand by businessmen for new plant and equipment and for inventories as well as rising consumer outlays for goods and services, particularly automobiles and housing. Government demands on the economy declined slightly in the first half of 1955 as declines in Federal spending offset a continued rise in outlays by State and local Governments. The gross national product of the economy was valued at a record rate of 385 billion dollars in the second quarter of 1955.

Current prospects point to a continued rise in economic activity into the spring of next year though the rate of expansion may be slower than in the last 6 to 9 months. With rising economic activity and increased earnings businessmen have expanded investment in new plant and equipment so far this year and have scheduled further increases for the final quarter. This up-trend in investment is expected to continue into the spring months of 1956. Inventories have been increasing so far this year and current ratios of stocks to sales, together with expanded economic activity and price increases for some products, suggest a further increase in business inventories. Total construction activity is expected to hold near record levels despite possibilities of some decline in residential building. With rising incomes, consumer demand for goods and services in general will continue high even if there is some decline in outlays for automobiles and new housing. Federal Government demands may change little in coming months; outlays by State and local Governments will likely continue to rise.

Exports of U. S. farm products in fiscal 1954-55 totaled 3.1 billion dollars, about 7 percent above a year earlier. Generally buoyant economic conditions in foreign countries will continue to bolster foreign markets for U.S. farm products.

III. PRODUCTION AND MARKETING MATERIALS AND FACILITIES

The present ample supply situation indicates that the equipment, materials, and facilities needed to produce, package, and distribute vegetables during the 1956 spring season will be readily available.

Farm Machinery and Supplies: No shortages of farm machinery and equipment are anticipated which would affect the production of the 1956 spring vegetable crop. Manufacturers in general stepped up 1955 production schedules over the previous year and dealer inventories are adequate. Although the raw

materials situation has been somewhat tight, manufacturers have been able to obtain sufficient materials to satisfy their needs. Insofar as other production supplies, such as fuel, trucks, implement and truck tires are concerned, no shortages are anticipated. Crawler tractors are the one item for which delay in delivery may occur.

Fertilizer: Consumption of fertilizer continues to grow, but the supply for the spring of 1956 is expected to be ample to meet all demands. Nitrogen and potash supplies will exceed those for the spring of 1955, and phosphate supplies should be approximately the same.

Pesticides: Insecticides, fungicides, and weed killers are in plentiful supply although local or temporary shortages might occur, especially if unpredictable and severe infestations develop. Purchase of minimum requirements in advance of need will provide considerable insurance against loss if supplies later become depleted. Manufacturers are sometimes unable to meet the demand for recently introduced materials if these are more popular than expected, but stocks of alternate materials usually are available.

Containers: Materials for shipping containers are in adequate supply and there is no problem with respect to industrial capacity to meet all needs. The paper and plastic packaging materials industries have expanded their productive facilities to meet the growing demand for consumer-size containers for prepackaging vegetables and other foods.

The over-all demands for containers for food as well as for non-food products were high during 1955. Many of the industries producing containers for vegetables also manufacture containers for other products and it might be well to place orders for vegetable containers sufficiently in advance of need to assure delivery at the time required.

Processing machinery and facilities will be adequate to handle the spring vegetable crop.

Manpower: Supplies of manpower for spring vegetable operations are expected to be at least equal to those of a year ago. The loss of farm workers to non-farm employment has slowed down somewhat. The shortage of skilled workers, trained and experienced in modern farm technology and capable of operating mechanical equipment is expected to continue. In order to assure adequate supplies of labor in the amounts and at the times needed, labor requirements should be determined as early as possible to permit the advance planning of recruitment programs. The continuing opportunities for non-farm employment make it necessary to provide attractive employment conditions including adequate housing and continuous employment.

More adequate supplies of labor when needed and more efficient use of the hired farm work force are assured when planning is done in close cooperation with Employment Service offices. In addition to the recruitment of domestic labor these offices are in position to arrange for the employment under contract of off-shore domestic and foreign labor if local and migrant labor supplies prove inadequate. The supply of labor from these sources appears adequate to meet anticipated needs. Growers should keep the Employment Service offices informed as to labor needs as far in advance as possible.

Transportation: Ample facilities should be available for transporting the production from the recommended acreage of 1956 spring season fresh vegetables. Any shortages which may occur should be of a temporary nature.

The rail transportation outlook for the 1956 spring season is similar to the situation which existed during the 1955 season. The supply of refrigerator cars suitable for handling fresh fruits and vegetables has remained about stationary during the past year. If weather conditions permit normal patterns of production and loading in 1956, the car supply should be ample. The Association of American Railroads and the car lines continue to watch the distribution of refrigerator cars closely and, as far as possible, maintain adequate supplies in the various shipping areas.

Manufacture of trucks, trailers, and tires continues at a normal rate, and supplies are expected to be adequate.

IV. SURPLUS REMOVAL OPERATIONS

It is the policy of the Department to limit surplus removal assistance for potatoes and other vegetables to those areas where there has been substantial compliance with the acreage-marketing guides announced by the Department. Compliance with the guides program does not commit the Department to provide assistance for any commodity or area.

By providing growers with the necessary information, the Department expects that acreage can be adjusted so as to bring supplies in balance with demand and avoid marketing difficulties. Before planting time, growers should take precautionary measures to assure themselves of available marketing outlets for their production.

V. FOREIGN SPRING VEGETABLE PROSPECTS

Imports: Practically all of the vegetables imported into the United States during the spring season originate in Mexico and Cuba. Mexico is the leading source of supply for all of the major vegetables, except cucumbers. The imports of cucumbers, mostly from Cuba, drop sharply after March, usually.

Imports of spring vegetables in 1955 were about one-half of the 1954 imports. Only cucumbers from Cuba and cantaloups and watermelons from Mexico showed an increase over 1954 levels. Vegetable growers in Mexico and Cuba generally change their acreages for the same reasons as do U. S. growers. According to Mexican reports the 1955 spring vegetable season was the most unprofitable in recent years. Unfavorable weather was the principal factor. It is probable that the 1956 acreage will be decreased but with average growing conditions the spring vegetable production should be larger than the small crop of 1955.

The following table shows the volume of the more important spring vegetables imported from Mexico and Cuba by months during the period March through June 1955 compared to totals during the same months in 1954:

SPRING VEGETABLES: Imports into the U.S. of specified kinds, by months, 1955, with comparisons for 1954.

Commodity :	March :	April :	May :	June :	Total	4 Months
and country :	March :	April :	May :	June :	1955 :	1954
of origin :	:	:	:	:	:	:
----- 1,000 pounds -----						
<u>Tomatoes</u>						
Mexico	12,177	12,895	3,952	43	29,067	69,804
Cuba	2,568	536	168	9	3,281	1,547
Total 1/	<u>14,995</u>	<u>13,431</u>	<u>4,120</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>32,628</u>	<u>71,551</u>
<u>Peppers</u>						
Mexico	367	422	247	160	1,196	6,268
Cuba	156	0	0	0	156	8
Total 1/	<u>523</u>	<u>422</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>1,352</u>	<u>6,285</u>
<u>Cucumbers</u>						
Mexico	120	271	0	0	391	383
Cuba	6,166	340	14	0	6,520	2,535
Total 1/	<u>6,345</u>	<u>730</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7,110</u>	<u>3,025</u>
<u>Onions</u>						
Mexico	3,668	0	10	0	3,678	6,278
Chile	1,878	567	539	0	2,984	0
Total 1/	<u>5,583</u>	<u>567</u>	<u>1,021</u>	<u>2/2,604</u>	<u>9,775</u>	<u>8,675</u>
<u>Watermelons</u>						
Mexico	132	2,881	10,575	3,696	17,284	11,760
Cuba	282	493	0	0	775	1,729
Total 1/	<u>414</u>	<u>3,374</u>	<u>10,575</u>	<u>3,696</u>	<u>18,059</u>	<u>13,039</u>
<u>Cantaloups</u>						
Mexico	3,832	18,523	13,351	991	36,697	29,406
Canada			23		23	0
Total	<u>3,832</u>	<u>18,523</u>	<u>13,374</u>	<u>991</u>	<u>36,720</u>	<u>29,406</u>

1/ Includes relatively small quantities from other areas.

2/ All from Italy. Source of Data: Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports: Canada takes practically all of the spring vegetable exports from this country. In 1955, exports of the principal vegetables were practically the same as in 1954. Business conditions in Canada for the past few years have closely paralleled those in the United States. If these favorable business conditions continue into the spring months, it is likely that the 1956 demand for spring vegetables in Canada will be slightly higher than in 1955. The following table shows a comparison of 1954 and 1955 exports of spring vegetables:

SPRING VEGETABLES: Exports from the United States, March through June 1955, with comparisons for 1954

Commodity	To	To	Total 4 Months	
	Canada	Other	1955	1954
	1,000 pounds			
Beans, Fresh	4,052	12	4,064	4,610
Cabbage	35,571	76	35,647	41,259
Carrots	48,210	736	48,946	49,913
Peas, Green	403	1	404	776
Celery	35,134	368	35,502	37,861
Lettuce	46,794	1,303	48,097	51,982
Peppers	2,270	36	2,306	2,109
Tomatoes	40,981	389	41,370	36,478
Spinach	2,361	0	2,361	2,515
Onions	37,682	17,762	55,444	44,607
Watermelons	27,276	277	27,553	28,613

Source of data: Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

VI. CANNED AND FROZEN VEGETABLES

Canned and frozen vegetables generally were in ample to heavy supply during the 1954-55 marketing season. However, the supply positions and apparent disappearance rates of the various commodities varied considerably. Stocks of canned lima beans, snap beans and sweet corn were very large. However, disappearance of all three also was very large - well above that in the previous year. Green peas and spinach stocks were relatively light and the movement was below that in 1953-54. Tomato stocks were slightly above the previous year but the movement was much heavier. Beet and carrot supplies and movement were about normal. Frozen lima beans, snap beans and corn were in heavy supply but movement was at very high rates. Cauliflower, green peas and spinach stocks were smaller than in 1953-54 and the movement was down accordingly.

Preliminary acreage and production data for vegetables for processing in 1955 indicate that packs larger than in 1954 are probable for green peas, spinach and tomatoes. However, these larger packs will be about offset by smaller carryover stocks from 1954 supplies. Smaller packs than in 1954 are likely for lima beans, snap beans, beets and sweet corn. Carryovers of these items were heavy and will offset to some extent the smaller packs. In total, supplies of canned and frozen vegetables in 1956 are expected to be slightly smaller than the ample supplies available in 1955 but should be adequate to meet requirements at reasonable prices.

The following table shows the supply position of canned and frozen vegetables and the apparent disappearance during the marketing seasons 1953-54 and 1954-55.

SUPPLY AND MOVEMENT OF CANNED AND FROZEN
VEGETABLES MARKETING SEASONS 1953-54 and
1954-55

Commodity	Total Supply		Disappearance	
	1953-54	1954-55	1953-54	1954-55
	-1000 cases basis 24/2's-		-1000 cases basis 24/2's-	
<u>Canned Vegetables</u>				
Lima Beans	3,769	4,442	2,847	3,024
Snap Beans	24,494	34,452	19,862	25,628
Beets	10,971	10,191	7,841	7,821
Carrots	3,778	3,553	2,321	2,272
Sweet Corn	36,216	38,546	28,289	30,336
Green Peas	34,585	31,035	27,501	26,412
Spinach	7,967	6,116	5,859	5,119
Tomatoes	31,682	32,908	23,877	27,203
<u>Frozen Vegetables</u>				
	-Thousand Pounds-		-Thousand Pounds-	
Lima Beans	163,166	164,458	128,382	123,965
Snap Beans	133,685	152,510	104,428	119,377
Broccoli	119,127	89,013	92,118	68,159
Cauliflower	46,475	27,560	36,003	22,221
Sweet Corn	129,038	128,756	95,282	91,041
Green Peas	292,614	267,630	231,838	225,518
Spinach	124,057	100,452	90,506	86,252

Spring Vegetables: 1956 Acreage Guide with Comparisons

Commodity	Acreage ^{1/}					:Percent Acreage Guide is of				
	1956	1955	1954	1949-53	1944-53	1955	1949-53	1944-53	1954	Avg.
	Guide	Prel.	1954	Avg.	Avg.	Prel:	1954	Avg.	Avg.	
	----- Acres -----					----- Percent -----				
Beans,										
Lima	4,200	4,200	4,500	5,780	6,430	100	93	73	65	
Beans, Snap										
Early	16,800	18,500	14,600	20,700	22,950	91	115	81	73	
Mid	20,500	18,600	21,900	23,040	24,860	110	94	89	82	
Late	13,900	13,900	14,700	15,160	16,280	100	95	92	85	
Beets	900	900	1,060	1,142	1,262	100	85	79	71	
Broccoli										
Early	12,400	12,400	10,900	9,260	7,810	100	114	134	159	
Late	400	400	300	380	2/	100	133	105	---	
Cabbage										
Early	18,700	19,700	19,800	20,940	25,630	95	94	89	73	
Late	9,200	8,400	9,700	10,204	10,787	110	95	90	85	
Carrots	2,300	3,500	2,300	3,040	3,780	66	100	76	61	
Cauliflower										
Early	7,000	7,000	6,500	7,330	8,399	100	108	95	83	
Late	1,220	1,220	1,050	1,026	961	100	116	119	127	
Celery	6,500	6,500	7,600	6,220	6,290	100	86	105	103	
Corn, Sweet										
Early	31,300	32,600	37,100	31,880	2/	96	84	98	---	
Late	14,200	15,000	15,200	15,860	2/	95	93	90	---	
Cucumbers										
Early	9,800	8,200	13,300	11,100	11,280	120	74	88	87	
Late	14,300	15,250	15,050	15,230	15,780	94	95	94	91	
Eggplant	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,300	1,490	100	100	77	67	
Lettuce										
Early	43,600	45,950	44,300	47,990	47,903	95	98	91	91	
Late	8,000	8,000	8,140	7,860	6,892	100	98	102	116	
Onions										
Early	37,600	37,600	39,500	34,740	44,510	100	95	108	84	
Late	14,900	15,700	14,800	17,866	18,500	95	101	83	81	
Peas, Green										
Early	5,400	5,100	7,800	8,360	14,360	106	69	65	38	
Late	730	730	610	1,706	3,350	100	120	43	22	
Peppers, Green	8,000	8,500	8,900	7,800	6,690	94	90	103	120	
Shallots	1,900	2,200	1,900	1,980	2,030	86	100	96	94	
Spinach	9,650	9,650	10,000	11,970	12,240	100	96	81	79	
Tomatoes										
Early	58,400	61,500	63,500	55,720	60,920	95	92	105	96	
Late	44,800	44,800	51,200	43,960	48,540	100	88	102	92	
Total	417,600	427,000	447,210	439,544	3/429,924	98	93	95	3/ 97	

1/ Available for harvest.

2/ Not available.

3/ Does not include corn and late broccoli.

Spring Vegetables: 1956 Marketing Guides with Comparisons

Commodity	Production <u>2/</u>					Probable Prod. from Acreage Guide as Percent of:			
	1956 Guide 1/	1955 Prel.	1954	1949-53 Average	1944-53 Average	1955: Prel:	1949-53 Avg:	1944-53 Avg:	
	Tons					Percent			
Beans, Lima	4,704	5,168	5,040	6,352	7,216	91	93	74	65
Beans, Snap									
Early	28,200	30,195	24,030	31,890	30,555	93	117	88	92
Mid	20,295	18,165	27,330	22,125	24,675	112	74	92	82
Late	27,315	29,175	29,355	28,050	26,430	94	93	97	103
Beets	4,732	3,718	5,590	7,488	5,798	127	85	63	82
Broccoli									
Early	38,535	40,362	34,335	27,069	22,596	95	112	142	171
Late	1,428	1,680	1,008	1,302	<u>3/</u>	85	142	110	-
Cabbage									
Early	118,000	106,100	117,500	129,400	149,000	111	100	91	79
Late	55,200	48,500	65,100	59,700	65,300	114	85	92	85
Carrots	22,650	30,625	20,700	33,075	41,600	74	109	68	54
Cauliflower									
Early	58,275	59,570	53,502	58,590	65,638	98	109	99	89
Late	13,338	13,376	10,656	10,748	8,750	100	125	124	152
Celery	180,180	192,180	202,560	163,260	139,740	94	89	110	129
Corn, Sweet									
Early	104,075	130,300	107,950	92,925	<u>3/</u>	80	96	112	-
Late	44,375	49,000	47,975	44,175	<u>3/</u>	91	92	100	-
Cucumbers									
Early	41,160	41,352	51,432	39,912	33,360	100	80	103	123
Late	42,144	45,480	45,576	40,728	41,208	93	92	103	102
Eggplant	6,122	6,105	6,435	7,095	7,953	100	95	86	77
Lettuce									
Early	242,620	241,465	247,520	255,990	245,350	100	98	95	99
Late	66,360	67,410	70,140	62,020	52,570	98	95	107	126
Onions									
Early	109,050	117,500	108,625	92,200	106,250	93	100	118	103
Late	104,300	105,250	99,800	115,275	106,100	99	105	90	98
Peas, Green									
Early	8,700	8,790	10,155	13,965	19,920	99	86	62	44
Late	2,010	2,310	1,680	3,915	6,555	87	120	51	31
Peppers, Green	25,800	28,150	25,588	24,738	19,850	92	101	104	130
Shallots	2,850	3,300	2,550	2,800	2,650	86	112	102	108
Spinach	31,270	32,220	32,430	38,070	39,400	97	96	82	79
Tomatoes									
Early	194,987	225,330	194,510	179,856	173,575	87	100	108	112
Late	73,670	73,670	79,606	75,048	87,185	100	93	98	84
Total	1,672,345	1,756,446	1,728,678	1,667,761	<u>4/</u> 1,529,224	95	97	100	<u>4/</u> 109

1/ Computed: Acreage guides for 1956 spring vegetables times average yield.
 2/ Includes some quantities not marketed. See individual statements for particulars.
 3/ Not available.
 4/ Sweet corn and late broccoli not included.

SPRING MELONS: 1956 Acreage and Marketing Guides with Comparisons

Commodity	Acreage 1 /		:1949-53		:1944-53		:1955		:1954		:1954		:1949-53		:1944-53	
	:1956	:1955	:Average	:Average	:Average	:Average	:Prel.	:Prel.	:Average	:Average	:Prel.	:Prel.	:Average	:Average	:Average	:Average
			(Acres)				(Percent)				(Percent)					
Cantaloups	50,300	50,300	54,500	31,580	29,595	100	92	159	170							
Watermelons	94,200	94,200	106,800	77,980	62,420	100	88	121	151							
Total	144,500	144,500	161,300	109,560	92,015	100	90	132	157							

1/ Available for harvest.

Commodity	Production 2 /		:1949-53		:1944-53		:1955		:1954		:1954		:1949-53		:1944-53	
	:1956	:1955	:Average	:Average	:Average	:Average	:Prel.	:Prel.	:Average	:Average	:Prel.	:Prel.	:Average	:Average	:Average	:Average
			(Tons)				(Percent)				(Percent)					
Canatloups	242,152	236,840	248,792	171,104	147,989	102	97	142	164							
Watermelons	426,250	471,675	488,475	326,812	255,250	90	87	130	167							
Total	668,402	708,515	737,267	497,916	403,239	94	91	134	166							

1/ Computed: Acreage guides for 1956 spring melons times average yield.

2/ Includes some quantities not marketed. See individual statements for particulars.

LIMA BEANS

(States: Florida and South Carolina)

Year	Acreage		Yield	Price		
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre	Production	Price	Value
	(Acres)		(Bu.)	(1000 bu.)	(\$per bu.)	(\$1000)
1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production (acreage equal to 1955)	4,200		<u>1</u> / 70	294		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	4,200	4,200	77	323	2.72	880
1954	4,500	4,500	70	315	2.61	823
1949-53 Average	5,800	5,780	69	<u>2</u> / 397	2.85	1,087
1944-53 "	--	6,430	70	<u>2</u> / 451	3.05	1,329

1/ 1953-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 14,000 bu. in 1945, 59,000 bu. in 1946, 11,000 bu. in 1947, 15,000 bu. in 1948, 19,000 bu. in 1950 and 25,000 bu. in 1952.

Comparisons and Comments: The acreage in 1955 was 7 percent less than in 1954, 27 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 35 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Yields averaged somewhat higher in 1955 compared with 1954, and the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Production was 3 percent more than in 1954 but 19 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 28 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Prices averaged only slightly more than in 1954 but less than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 average prices. Since 1942 the average annual price for the spring crop of lima beans has fallen below the 1955 level in only three years. The marketing pattern was distorted this spring by several cold waves during the growing season. The late March cold wave delayed progress of the Florida and South Carolina crops. Damage, however, was light, being limited to leaf burn on some of the crop in Florida. In South Carolina dry weather had delayed plantings so much that most fields had not germinated at the time of the freeze. The combination of dry weather and cold waves increased the gap in peak marketings between Florida and South Carolina so that no serious overlap between the two occurred. However, more than usual overlap occurred between the South Carolina spring crop and the summer crops in South Georgia and North Carolina. Heavy supplies and movement of frozen limas affected marketings of fresh market supplies. In 1956 frozen supplies are expected to be large but less than in the spring of 1955. The trend in acreage continues downward.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1953-55 average yield will result in a production 9 percent less than in 1955, 7 percent less than in 1954 and 26 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

SNAP BEANS - EARLY SPRING

(States: Texas and Florida)

Year	Acreage Planted: (Acres)	Yield For Harvest: (Bu.)	Production (1,000 bu.)	Price (\$ per bu.)	Value (\$1,000)
------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------

1956 Acreage Guide and
Probable Production
(acreage 10 percent less
than 1955 in Florida but
equal to 1955 in Texas)

16,800 1/ 112 1,880

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	19,300	18,500	109	2,013	2.57	5,164
1954	18,000	14,600	110	1,602	2.47	3,949
1949-53 Average	22,700	20,700	103	2/ 2,126	2.47	4,466
1944-53 "	--	22,950	91	2/ 2,037	2.50	4,395

1/ 1951-55 average yield by states.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value:
100,000 bu. in 1944, 402,000 bu. in 1945, 260,000 bu. in 1946, 435,000 bu.
in 1947, 352,000 bu. in 1949, 255,000 bu. in 1950, and 956,000 bu. in 1951.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 27 percent more than in 1954 but 11 percent below the 1949-53 average and 19 percent below the 1944-53 average. The 1955 acreage for harvest in Florida was considerably more than in 1954 but in Texas, in part due to the late March freeze and in part to less planted acreage, the acreage for harvest was much less in 1955 than in 1954. Yields were lower in both Texas and Florida compared to 1954 but, because of the shift in acreage for harvest to Florida where yields normally are higher, the average yield for the two states was only slightly less than in 1954 but higher than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Production was 26 percent more than in 1954, 5 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 1 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Prices were moderately higher than in 1954, and the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages. Weather conditions reduced supplies moving to market both immediately before and after the early spring marketing season. Prices were more favorable than normally could be expected. The late March freeze reduced supplies of Texas early spring snap beans, and in Central and North Florida. Also mid-spring crop damage necessitated considerable replanting and resulted in a delay in the harvesting and marketing period for the mid-spring crop. Supplies of canned and frozen snap beans were heavy at low prices, however, and the movement of these supplies resulted in heavier than usual competition with fresh market supplies. In 1956 supplies of processed snap beans are expected to again be heavy but to a lesser extent than in 1955.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 10 percent less than in 1955 in Florida and equal to that in 1955 in Texas. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields by states will result in a production 7 percent less than in 1955, 12 percent less than the 1949-53 average but 17 percent more than in 1954.

SNAP BEANS - MID-SPRING

(States: Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi and Alabama)

Year	Acreage		Yield		Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per acre	Production		
	(Acres)		(Bu.)	(1000 bu.)	(\$ per Bu.)	(\$1000)
1956 Acreage Guide and probable Production (acreage 10 percent more than in 1955)	20,500		1/ 66	1,353		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	21,000	18,600	65	2/1,211	2.15	2,545
1954	21,900	21,900	83	1,822	1.64	2,987
1949-53 Average	23,160	23,040	64	1,475	2.34	3,410
1944-53 "	-	24,860	66	2/1,645	2.29	3,697

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 42,000 in 1947 and 28,000 in 1955.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 15 percent less than in 1954, 19 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 25 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Some planted acreage was lost due to the late March freeze and not replanted and some acreage was lost in Louisiana and Mississippi, particularly from heavy rains during the first half of April. Yields were lower than in 1954 but about equal to the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages. Some stands were spotty on acreage seeded but not germinated at the time of the freeze and yields on other acreage was reduced by the heavy rains. Production was 34 percent less than in 1954, 18 percent less than the 1949-53 average, and 26 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Prices were higher than in 1954 when the relatively large crop of that year depressed prices, but the 1955 average price was lower than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. The harvesting and marketing period was later than usual in 1955 due to the set-back from the late March freeze which necessitated considerable replantings. Marketing for the mid-spring group of states did not become general until the last half of May and the overlap with the late spring crop was more than usual. Prices were high at the start of the season, but declined to low levels toward the close of the mid-spring season in the first half of June. Supplies of processed snap beans continued heavy at low levels. In 1956 processed supplies are expected to be heavy also but to a lesser extent than in 1955.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 10 percent more than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 12 percent more than in 1955, 26 percent less than in 1954 and 8 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

SNAP BEANS - LATE SPRING

(States: California, North Carolina, Arkansas and Virginia)

Year	: Acreage : Planted: (Acres)	: For Harvest: (Acres)	: Yield: (Bu.)	: Per Acre: (1000 bu.)	: Production: (\$ per bu.)	: Price: (\$1000)	: Value
<u>1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production:</u> (acreage equal to 1955)							
	13,900		<u>1</u> / 131		1,821		
<u>Background Statistics:</u>							
1955 Prel.	13,900	13,900	140	<u>2</u> / 1,945	2.40	4,566	
1954	14,700	14,700	133	<u>2</u> / 1,957	2.70	5,122	
1949-53 Average	15,160	15,160	124	<u>2</u> / 1,870	2.31	4,292	
1944-53 "	--	16,280	109	<u>2</u> / 1,762	2.24	3,899	

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 79,000 bu. in 1947, 19,000 bu. in 1949, 60,000 bu. in 1954, and 43,000 bu. in 1955.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 5 percent less than in 1954, 8 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 15 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Acreage reductions compared with 1954 occurred in each state except California. Yields were moderately higher than in 1954 and considerably higher than the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages. California yields averaged 10 percent less than in 1954 but in Arkansas and Virginia yields were higher than a year earlier and the North Carolina yield was the same as in 1954. Production was only slightly less than in 1954 but 4 percent more than the 1949-54 average and 10 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Prices averaged somewhat lower than in 1954 but higher than the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages. Fairly high prices were realized in California but the average prices in the other three states were low, falling below the relatively low levels of 1954 for the respective states. The crop matured later than usual in California due to an unusually cool spring but in other states marketings were about on schedule. More competition than usual was encountered from the delayed mid-spring crop. The early summer crop was about on schedule. Relatively large supplies of processed snap beans were available at low prices throughout the marketing season. These supplies are expected to be large in 1956 but to a lesser extent than in 1955.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 6 percent less than in 1955, 7 percent less than in 1954 and 3 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

BEETS

(States: South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia)

Year	Acreage		Yield		Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre	Production		
	(Acres)		(Bu.)	(1000 bu.)	(\$ per bu.)	(\$ 1000)

1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production: (acreage equal to 1955)

900 1/ 202 182

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	1,020	900	159	143	2.74	392
1954	1,111	1,060	203	2/ 215	2.38	497
1949-53 Average	1,178	1,142	200	2/ 288	2.81	631
1944-53 "	--	1,262	180	2/ 223	2.75	603

1/ 1950-54 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 10,000 bu. in 1951 and 6,000 bu. in 1954.

Comparisons and Comments: In 1955 plantings in South Carolina and Virginia were slightly lower than in 1954 while North Carolina showed no change. The total spring planted acreage was 7 percent below 1955 and 13 percent below the 1949-53 average. The freeze in late March caused heavy damage in Virginia resulting in an acreage loss of about 55 percent. The total spring harvested acreage was 15 percent less than in 1954 and 21 percent below the 1949-53 average. Yields were moderately below average in North and South Carolina and were very low in Virginia. The smaller acreage and low yields resulted in a 1955 production 33 percent less than in 1954 and 37 percent less than the 1949-53 average. Marketing of the 1955 crop got underway in South Carolina in early April, several weeks later than usual. Prices were relatively low during most of April but improved near the end of the month and were at fairly high levels during May. Prices declined to low levels in June as harvest of summer crops began. Season average prices in all three states were moderately above the low levels of 1954. Prices were above the 1949-53 average in South Carolina but were below average in North Carolina and Virginia. During the 1956 season canned beets probably will continue to offer strong competition to the fresh. However, present indications are that supplies of canned beets during the 1955-56 marketing season will be slightly smaller than the preceding season when supplies were about in balance with requirements.

1956 Guide: The 1956 guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. The acreage guide with 1950-54 average yields will result in a production 27 percent more than in 1955 but 15 percent less than in 1954 and 37 percent below the 1949-53 average.

BROCCOLI - EARLY SPRING

(State: California)

Year	Acreage		Yield		Price (\$ per crate)	Value (\$1,000)
	Planted: (Acres)	For Harvest	Per Acre: (Crates)	Production: (1,000 crates)		
1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production (acreage equal to 1955)						
	12,400	1/ 148	1,835			
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	12,400	12,400	155	1,922	3.20	6,150
1954	10,900	10,900	150	1,635	2.75	4,496
1949-53 Average	9,260	9,260	138	1,289	3.60	4,580
1944-53 "	--	7,810	138	1,076	3.63	3,872

1/ 1953-55 average yield.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 14 percent more than in 1954, 34 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 59 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Yields were higher than in 1954 and substantially higher than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Production was 18 percent more than in 1954, 49 percent more than the 1949-53 average and almost twice the 1944-53 average. The level of acreage was about equal to 1953 but production was significantly higher than in 1953 due to higher yields. Marketings were delayed by abnormally cold weather in California in 1955. This cold weather continued throughout much of the marketing season and extended the marketing period longer than usual. Much of the increased production was planted for June and July harvest under contract with processors. Frozen holdings were considerably less this spring compared with the excessively large holdings of a year earlier, and movement was heavier than usual throughout the early spring marketing season. Prices averaged higher than in 1954 but moderately lower than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Prices remained fairly stable throughout the early spring marketing season except in March when heavy movement depressed prices moderately for about three weeks and again in May for about two weeks. Frozen holdings appear moderate.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1953-55 average yields will result in a production 5 percent less than in 1955, but 12 percent more than in 1954 and 42 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

BROCCOLI - LATE SPRING

(State: New Jersey)

Year	Acreage Planted	For Harvest	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price	Value
	(Acres)		(Crt.)	(1000 crts.)	(\$ per crt.)	(\$1000)

1956 Acreage Guide and
Probable Production:
(acreage equal to that
in 1955)

400 1/ 170 68

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	400	400	200	80	3.20	256
1954	300	300	160	48	3.45	166
<u>2/1949-53 Average</u>	380	380	161	62	3.69	222

1/ 1953-55 average yield.

2/ Estimates not available prior to 1949.

Comparisons and Comments; The 1955 acreage for harvest was 33 percent more than in 1954 and 5 percent more than the 1949-53 average. Yields averaged higher than in 1954 and higher than the 1949-53 average. The 1955 yield was second highest of the 7-year period for which data are available. Production was 67 percent more than in 1954 and 29 percent more than the 1949-53 average. Prices were moderately lower than in 1954 and the 1949-53 average. The marketing season was earlier than usual due to warm weather during the growing season. Frozen supplies were almost half the 1954 levels during the late spring marketing season and provided less competition with fresh market supplies. In 1956 moderate frozen supplies are anticipated.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1953-55 average yields will result in a production 15 percent less than in 1955, but 42 percent more than in 1954 and 10 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

CAPBAGE - EARLY SPRING

(States: Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia (South) South Carolina, California, and Mississippi)

Year	Acreage Planted (Acres)	Yield For Harvest (Tons)	Per Acre Production (1,000 tons)	Price (\$ per ton)	Value (\$1,000)
------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------	--	--------------------------	--------------------

1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production (acreage 5 percent less than in 1955)

18,700 1/ 6.31 118.0

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	20,400	19,700	5.39	2/ 106.1	45.93	4,689
1954	19,800	19,800	5.93	2/ 117.5	26.43	2,968
1949-53 Average	21,580	20,940	6.24	2/ 129.4	37.83	4,525
1944-53	—	25,630	5.88	2/ 149.0	37.50	5,202

1/ 1950-54 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 8,300 tons in 1946, 6,400 tons in 1948, 1,800 tons in 1949, 3,500 tons in 1950, 2,000 tons in 1951, 9,000 tons in 1953, 5,200 tons in 1954 and 4,000 tons in 1955.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 1 percent less than in 1954, 6 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 23 percent less than the 1944-53 average. The crop developed slowly during the winter growing season due to dry weather and suffered some damage from freezing temperatures, particularly the late March freeze, causing some acreage abandonment. Recovery from the late March freeze was spotty in the Southeastern States. Yields average less than in 1954, and somewhat less than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Production was 10 percent less than in 1954, 18 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 29 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Market conditions were generally favorable in part because of the short late fall and winter season crops and the small late spring crops that had also been damaged by the March freeze and had been delayed much later than usual. Prices, therefore were much higher than the relatively low prices of 1954, and substantially higher than in 1949-53 and the 1944-53 average.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1950-54 average yield will result in a production 11 percent more than in 1955, about equal to 1954, but 9 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

CABBAGE - LATE SPRING

(States: North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Maryland
Missouri, and Ohio S. E.)

Year	Acreage		Yield	Price		Value (\$1,000)
	Planted (Acres)	For Harvest	Per Acre (Tons)	Production (1,000 tons)	(\$ per ton)	
1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production (acreage 10 percent more than in 1955)						
	9,200	1/ 6.00	55.2			
<u>Background Statistics:</u>						
1955 Prel.	9,300	8,400	5.77	2/ 48.5	47.91	2,084
1954	9,700	9,700	6.71	2/ 65.1	27.97	1,558
1949-53 Average	10,304	10,204	5.85	2/ 59.7	42.90	2,289
1944-53 "	--	10,787	6.03	2/ 65.3	41.92	2,506

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 16,300 tons in 1946, 1,700 tons in 1948, 4,400 tons in 1949, 3,400 tons in 1950, 14,900 tons in 1951, 1,300 tons in 1952, 3,700 tons in 1953, 9,400 tons in 1954, and 5,000 tons in 1955.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 13 percent less than in 1954, 18 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 22 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Yields were lower than in 1954 and the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages. Production was 26 percent less than in 1954 and the 1944-53 average, and 19 percent less than the 1949-53 average. The short crop was due to dry weather and freezing temperatures that destroyed or damaged considerable acreage. A shortage of available plants prevented resetting much of the damaged acreage. Some of the acreage that was reset developed better and in many instances earlier than acreage set earlier. The marketing season was delayed considerably and, due to the late season, heads matured before attaining normal size. The delayed late spring crop marketings overlapped more than usual the early summer marketing season. Prices were higher than usual early in the marketing period but declined to low levels as the late spring crop overlapped the early summer marketing season. The season average price, however, was considerably higher than the relatively low prices in 1954 and somewhat higher than the 1949-53 and 1944-53 average prices.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 10 percent more than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 14 percent more than in 1955 but 15 percent less than in 1954 and 8 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

CARROTS

(State: Arizona)

Year	Acreage		Yield		Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre	Production		
	(Acres)	(Bu.)	(1000 bu.)	(\$ per bu.)	(\$1000)	
1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production (acreage 35 percent less than in 1955)						
	2,300	1/ 394	906			
<u>Background Statistics:</u>						
1955 Prel.	3,500	3,500	350	2/1,225	2.40	2,100
1954	2,300	2,300	360	828	3.15	2,608
1949-53 Average	3,040	3,040	430	2/1,323	1.80	2,240
1944-53 "	--	3,780	436	2/1,664	1.96	3,027

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 78,000 bu. in 1944, 87,000 bu. in 1946, 465,000 bu. in 1947, 81,000 bu. in 1949, 353,000 bu. in 1950 and 350,000 bu. in 1955.

Comparisons and Comments: After experiencing a relatively good marketing season for the small crop in 1954, growers expanded their carrot acreage considerably in 1955. In addition, because of cold weather, some carrot acreage in Arizona originally scheduled for harvest in the winter season was shifted to the spring harvest season. The total 1955 acreage for harvest was 52 percent above 1954 and 15 percent above the 1949-53 average. Yields were low in 1955 due in part to unfavorable weather conditions during the growing season and also to poor marketing conditions. Due to the increased acreage, the 1955 production was 48 percent more than in 1954 but 7 percent below the 1949-53 average. Shipments from the spring crop begin during March but because of cold weather did not reach volume until the last half of May, several weeks later than usual. Shipments continued in volume until late June then declined rapidly during July. Throughout most of the marketing season there was heavy competition from other producing areas. Texas shipments were in volume until mid-June; the California Imperial Valley had heavy supplies available during April and May; and the Central California harvest was active by mid-June. Prices were at low levels during the entire marketing season. About 29 percent of the crop was not marketed largely due to the prevailing low prices. The spring season average price was much below that in 1954 but was above average. However, the 1955 price is for film-packed carrots while season average prices in earlier years are heavily weighted by bunched carrot prices, and are not directly comparable.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 35 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 26 percent less than in 1954 and 32 percent below the 1949-53 average.

CAULIFLOWER - EARLY SPRING

(State: California)

Year	Acreage		Yield	Production	Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre			
	(Acres)	(Acres)	(Crates)	(1,000 Crates)	(\$ per crate)	(\$1,000)

1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production:

(acreage equal to 1955) 7,000 1/ 450 3,150

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	7,000	7,000	460	3,220	1.25	4,025
1954	6,500	6,500	445	2,892	1.15	3,326
1949-53 Average	7,450	7,330	434	2/ 3,167	1.22	3,875
1944-53 "	--	8,399	425	2/ 3,548	1.33	4,746

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes 3,000 crt. not marketed in 1949 and excluded in computing value:

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 8 percent more than in 1954, but 5 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 17 percent less than the 1944-53 average. The acreage increase in 1955 compared with 1954 was a reversal of trend in acreage of recent years. Yields averaged somewhat higher than in 1954 and higher than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Production was 11 percent more than in 1954, and 2 percent more than the 1949-53 average, but 9 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Prices were higher than in 1954, slightly higher than the 1949-53 average but less than the 1944-53 average. Cold weather delayed marketings of the early spring crop. Heaviest movement was concentrated in late March and early April. Freezers were active in acquiring supplies for processing. Frozen holdings were considerably below the heavy position of a year earlier but movement continued good throughout the marketing period for this crop. Cold storage holdings are not expected to be heavy in the spring of 1956.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yield will result in a production 2 percent less than in 1955, about equal to the 1949-53 average but 9 percent more than in 1954.

CAULIFLOWER - LATE SPRING

(States: New Jersey and Washington)

Year	: Acreage	: Yield :	:	:
	:Planted:For Harvest:	Per Acre:	Production:	Price : Value
	(Acres)	(Crates)	(1000 crates)	(\$ per(\$1,000 crate)

1956 Acreage Guide and
Probable Production
(acreage equal to 1955)

1,220 1/ 591 721

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	1,220	1,220	593	723	1.16	840
1954	1,050	1,050	549	576	1.20	691
1949-53 Average	1,026	1,026	567	581	1.48	867
1944-53 "	-	961	487	473	1.55	725

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 16 percent more than in 1954, 19 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 27 percent more than the 1944-53 average. The increased acreage in 1955 compared with 1954 was largely in the State of Washington where a large part of the production moves to processors for freezing. The 1955 average yield was more than in 1954 and more than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Higher yields in both New Jersey and Washington contributed to this above normal yield but the more significant increase in yield occurred in Washington. Production was 26 percent more than in 1954, 24 percent more than the 1949-53 average, and 53 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Prices were below those of 1954 and the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. The New Jersey crop matured for harvest about on schedule but the crop in Washington was late, due to prolonged cool weather that delayed some plantings and retarded crop development. Harvest of the New Jersey crop was largely completed by the end of June but in Washington active movement did not begin until late in June. The Washington crop, however, did not seriously overlap marketings from the summer season production, primarily because most of the crop in Colorado was planted for July-August harvest. Freezer holdings were much lighter than a year earlier throughout the marketing period for this crop. Movement of frozen supplies in competition with fresh market production was good.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yield will result in a production about equal to 1955, 25 percent more than in 1954 and 24 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

CELERY

(States: California and Florida)

Year	Acreage		Yield : (Crates)	Production: (1000 crt.)	Price (\$ per crate)	Value (\$1000)
	: Planted (Acres)	: For Harvest				
1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production: (acreage equal to 1955)						
	6,500		1/ 924	6,006		
<u>Background Statistics:</u>						
1955 Prel.	6,600	6,500	986	2/6,406	1.95	12,375
1954	7,800	7,600	888	2/6,752	1.77	11,163
1949-53 Average	6,340	6,220	877	2/5,442	2.35	12,632
1944-53 "	--	6,290	741	2/4,658	2.91	12,655

1/ 1952-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 72,000 crates in 1944, 20,000 crates in 1945, 75,000 crates in 1946, 393,000 crates in 1948, 159,000 crates in 1949, 96,000 crates in 1950, 43,000 crates in 1951, 23,000 crates in 1952, 27,000 crates in 1953, 456,000 crates in 1954, and 48,000 crates in 1955.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage was 14 percent less than in 1954, but 5 percent more than in the 1949-53 average. Acreage in Florida was 21 percent smaller than in 1954. Much of the Florida acreage is planted in the low yielding Everglades section. In California reduction in acreage from last year in the Venice and Gardenia sections was largely offset by increases at Oxnard and in Orange County. The 1955 average yield was record high, and was 11 percent above 1954 and 12 percent above the 1949-53 average. Production was 5 percent below the 1954 record high level, but 18 percent above the 1949-53 average. Though supplies were heavy, orderly markets prevailed as harvesting schedules did not "bunch." Crop quality was generally good. Prices averaged 10 percent above 1954, but appreciably less than average. Florida Pascal prices peaked in March and eased to lower levels as the spring marketing season progressed. California Pascal prices peaked in mid-May, eased downward during the remainder of May, and strengthened during June.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1952-55 average yield will result in a production 6 percent less than in 1955, 11 percent less than in 1954, but 10 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

SWEET CORN - EARLY SPRING

(States: Florida and Texas)

Year	Acreage		Yield	Production	Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre			
	(Acres)	(Acres)	(Unit - 5 doz. ears)	(1,000 units)	(\$ Per unit)	(\$1000)
1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production (Florida acreage 10 percent less than in 1955-Texas, acreage 15 percent more than in 1955)	31,300		<u>1</u> / 133	4,163		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	36,500	32,600	160	5,212	1.68	8,767
1954	43,500	37,100	116	4,318	1.73	7,471
1949-53 Average	34,680	31,880	117	<u>2</u> / 3,717	2.17	7,762

1/ 1952-55 average yield

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 455,000 units in 1950 and 177,000 units in 1952.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage was 12 percent less than in 1954, 7 percent more than in 1953 and 2 percent more than the 1949-53 average. A large acreage of corn in the Lower Valley of Texas was wiped out by freezing temperatures in February. Seed for replanting was not readily available. Yield was record high in Florida. Yields averaged 38 percent more than in 1954, and 37 percent more than average. Production was at a record high level due to high yield in Florida, and was 21 percent more than in 1954. Prices were slightly less than the low 1954 level and appreciably less than the 1949-53 average. The low price level was due in part to heavy supplies, and the simultaneous harvest of large acreages. Cold weather retarded growth and also resulted in some replantings which disrupted planned harvesting schedules. Shipments peaked the week ending May 7 when 1,100 carload shipments were reported. Heavy shipping continued the remainder of May and most of June. Early and late spring crop marketings overlapped to a greater extent than usual. Supplies of processed sweet corn which offer some competition to the fresh product are expected to be lighter during the spring of 1956 than in 1955 when supplies of canned corn particularly were very heavy.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 10 percent less than in 1955 in Florida, and 15 percent more than in 1955 in Texas. Such an acreage with 1952-55 average yield will result in a production 20 percent less than in 1955, 4 percent less than in 1954, but 12 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

SWEET CORN - LATE SPRING

(States: California, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina)

Year	Acreage		Yield		Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre	Production		
	(Acres)		(Unit 5 doz. ears)	(1000 units)	(\$ per unit)	(\$1000)
1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production (acreage 5 percent less than in 1955)	14,200		<u>1</u> / 125	1,775		
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	15,500	15,500	131	1,960	1.66	3,257
1954	15,800	15,200	126	1,919	1.72	3,292
1949-53 Average	17,360	15,860	113	1,767	1.93	3,385

1/ 1952-55 average yield.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 harvested acreage was slightly less than in 1954 and 5 percent less than the 1949-53 average. California accounts for more than half of the late spring acreage. South Carolina lost acreage due to cold weather. Yields averaged record high, continuing the upward trend, and were 16 percent more than the 1949-53 average. California's yield of 175 units was more than double that of the southeastern states. Production was record high and was 2 percent more than in 1954 and 11 percent more than the 1949-53 average. Prices were slightly less than the previous year and appreciably less than the 1949-53 average. Harvest in Alabama and Georgia began about 10 days later than usual and these States marketings coincided closely with South Carolina. At the same time Florida early spring crop marketings overlapped to an appreciable extent and affected the level of prices received.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1952-55 average yield will result in a production 9 percent less than in 1955, 8 percent less than in 1954, but about equal to the 1949-53 average.

CUCUMBERS - EARLY SPRING

(States: Florida and Texas)

Year	Acres	Planted For Harvest	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price	Value
	(Acres)	(Acres)	(Bu.)	(1,000 bu.)	(\$ per bu.)	(\$1,000)

1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production:
(acreage 20 percent more than in 1955)

9,800 1/ 175 1,715

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	11,400	8,200	210	2/ 1,723	3.26	5,377
1954	15,300	13,300	161	2/ 2,143	2.29	3,997
1949-53 Average	12,860	11,100	148	2/ 1,663	3.25	4,895
1944-53	--	11,280	122	2/ 1,390	3.28	4,213

1/ 1951-54 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 127,000 bu. in 1946, 36,000 bu. in 1950, 510,000 bu. in 1951, 396,000 bu. in 1954 and 76,000 bu. in 1955.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 38 percent less than in 1954 and about 26 percent less than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. The crop was badly damaged in South Texas and in central and north Florida by the late March freeze and also due to lack of adequate moisture. Yields on the remaining and replanted acreage were unusually high exceeding substantially the average yield in 1954 and the 1944-53 average. Production was 20 percent less than in 1954 but 4 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 24 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Prices were higher than in 1954 but equal to the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 average prices. Winter season shipments became light in the latter half of February and light shipments continued through March with prices at very high levels. In April the volume of shipments increased substantially and prices declined sharply to moderate levels for good quality. Quality generally was ordinary. The crop was retarded by both cold and dry weather and marketing generally was later than usual.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 20 percent more than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-54 average yield will result in a production about equal to 1955, 3 percent more than the 1949-53 average but 20 percent less than in 1954.

CUCUMBERS - LATE SPRING

(States: Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, California, North Carolina and Arkansas)

Year	: Acreage : Planted: (acres)	: For Harvest:	: Yield : : Per Acre: (bu.)	: Production: (1,000 bu.)	: Price : (\$ per bu.)	: Value (\$1,000)
------	------------------------------------	----------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------

1956 Acreage Guide and

Probable Production:

(acreage 15 percent less than in 1955 in N. Carolina and equal to 1955 in other states)

14,300 1/ 123 1,756

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	15,250	15,250	124	<u>2</u> /	1,895	1.69	3,109
1954	15,250	15,050	126		1,899	1.90	3,615
1949-53 Average	15,300	15,230	112	<u>2</u> /	1,697	2.04	3,303
1944-53		15,780	109	<u>2</u> /	1,717	1.99	3,295

1/ 1952-55 average yield by states.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 170,000 bu. in 1947, 168,000 bu. in 1949, 174,000 bu. in 1950 and 50,000 bu. in 1955.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was one percent more than in 1954, about equal to the 1949-53 average but 3 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Yields were slightly less than in 1954 but more than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 average. Production was slightly less than in 1954 but 12 percent more than the 1949-53 average, and 10 percent more than the 1944-53 average. A large acreage increase in North Carolina was almost entirely offset by acreage decreases in other southeastern states. Production was set back in the states from Louisiana to South Carolina by the late March freeze and subsequently by heavy rains, particularly in Louisiana. The reset acreage was late in maturing and normal marketing time schedules were upset. Prices were not greatly different from 1954 levels in states other than North Carolina, Arkansas and Alabama. Higher prices were obtained in Alabama and lower prices in North Carolina and Arkansas. Low prices, in North Carolina particularly, brought the group average price substantially below the 1954 average price and also substantially below the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 average prices.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 15 percent less than in 1955 in North Carolina but equal to 1955 in other states. Such an acreage with 1952-55 average yields by states will result in a production 7 percent less than in 1955, 8 percent less than in 1954 but 3 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

EGGPLANT

(State: Florida)

Year	Acreage		Yield		Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre	Production		
	(Acres)		(Bu.)	(1,000 bu.)	(\$ per bu.)	(\$1,000)

1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production

(acreage equal to 1955) 1,000 1/ 371 371

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	1,000	1,000	370	370	1.45	536
1954	1,000	1,000	390	390	1.25	488
1949-53 Averages	1,300	1,300	338	<u>2/</u> 430	1.40	568
1944-53 "	--	1,490	326	<u>2/</u> 482	1.51	629

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 40,000 bu. in 1944, 159,000 bu. in 1946, 230,000 bu. in 1948, 84,000 bu. in 1949 and 42,000 bu. in 1950.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was equal to that in 1954 but 23 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 33 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Yields were less than in 1954 but more than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 averages. Production was 5 percent less than in 1954, 14 percent less than the 1949-53 average, and 23 percent less than the 1944-53 average. The 1955 crop had a succession of setbacks including dry weather, several cold spells and some hail damage at Pompano. The crop in north Florida had to be reset after the late March freeze. Shipments were fairly steady from March through June from the various growing sections in the state even though weather conditions were not always favorable. Prices averaged higher than in 1954, slightly higher than the 1949-53 average but slightly lower than the 1944-53 average. Prices were fairly high early in the marketing period but declined throughout March and reached low levels early in April.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yield will result in a production about equal to that in 1955, 5 percent less than in 1954, and 14 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

LETTUCE - EARLY SPRING

(States: Arizona, California, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina)

Year	Acreage Planted: (Acres)	For Harvest: Per Acre: (Crates)	Yield : Per Acre: (1000 crates)	Production: Price : (\$per crate)	Value : (\$1000)
------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---	---------------------

1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production
(acreage 5 percent less than 1955)

43,600 1/ 159 6,932

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	46,300	45,950	150	6,899	3.13	21,573
1954	44,600	44,300	160	7,072	3.79	26,806
1949-53 Average	48,370	47,990	153	2/7,314	3.16	23,049
1944-53 "	-	47,903	147	2/7,010	3.17	22,097

1/ 1950-54 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value:
135,000 crt. in 1946, 24,000 crt. in 1947, 10,000 crt. in 1948, 48,000 crt. in 1949, 87,000 crt. in 1953.

Comparisons and Comments: In 1955 acreage increase in Arizona, California and North Carolina more than offset declines in Georgia and South Carolina resulting in a total spring acreage 4 percent above 1954 but 4 percent below the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages. Yields were very high in Arizona but were below average in all other states. The California crop was hampered by cold weather early in the growing season while the southeastern states had both dry weather and freeze damage during March. Production was 2 percent less than in 1954, and 6 percent below the 1949-53 average. Harvests of both the Arizona and California crops, which account for more than 95 percent of early spring production, were retarded by adverse weather conditions. Shipments from Arizona reached volume in late March and continued relatively heavy through Mid-May, about 2-3 weeks later than usual. Prices were high throughout most of the marketing season for the Arizona spring crop. In California, crops scheduled for early harvest were delayed for several weeks and as a result there was considerable "bunching" of harvests in mid-May. Due to a combination of heavy shipments from California and an early season in the late spring states, supplies were very heavy during the last half of May and prices were at extremely low levels. Since the bulk of the California crop was marketed during the period of very low prices, the season average price was very low. Season average prices for all other early spring states were high.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1950-54 average yields will result in a production about equal to that in 1955 but 5 percent less than the 1949-53 average and 1 percent less than the 1944-53 average.

LETTUCE - LATE SPRING

(States: New Jersey, Washington, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Idaho, Connecticut and Massachusetts)

Year	: Acreage :		Yield :		: Price : Value :	
	:Planted:	For Harvest:	Per Acre:	Production:	(\$ per	(\$1,000)
	(Acres)		(Crates)	(1,000	Crates)	crate)
1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production (acreage equal to 1955)	8,000		<u>1</u> / 237	1,896		
<u>Background Statistics:</u>						
1955 Prel.	8,300	8,000	241	1,926	2.40	4,627
1954	8,700	8,140	246	<u>2</u> / 2,004	3.12	6,150
1949-53 Average	8,290	7,860	225	<u>2</u> / 1,772	2.80	4,901
1944-53 "	--	6,892	216	<u>2</u> / 1,502	2.76	4,114

1/1951-55 average yield.

2/Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 22,000 crt. in 1946, 20,000 crt. in 1947, 50,000 crt. in 1948, 114,000 crt. in 1949, 73,000 crt. in 1950, and 30,000 crt. in 1954.

Comparisons and Comments: The planted acreage in 1955 was 5 percent less than in 1954 but about equal to the 1949-53 average. All of the reduction from 1954 occurred in New Jersey where weather was unfavorable during the planting season. The total harvested acreage was 2 percent below 1954 but 2 percent above the 1949-53 average and 16 percent above the 1944-53 average. Growing conditions were unfavorable early in the season but improved considerably during May and yields in most states were fairly high. The group average yield was 2 percent below the record high in 1954 but was 7 percent above the 1949-53 average and 12 percent above the 1944-53 average. Production was 4 percent below 1954 but 9 percent above the 1949-53 average. Harvest of the lettuce crop in most late spring states begins in May, is in volume during June and early July and ends during the last half of July. Connecticut and Massachusetts have light supplies until frost. Throughout the marketing season there is heavy competition with supplies from Central California and prices depend to a great extent upon the pattern of marketings from that state. In the 1955 season shipments from California were very heavy during May and early June and prices were extremely low. Shipments declined during the last half of June and prices were at high levels for a few weeks. Then supplies increased in July and prices dropped to moderate levels. Season average prices were low in all states and the group season average price was well below 1954 and the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 2 percent less than in 1955 but 7 percent above the 1949-53 average and 26 percent above the 1944-53 average.

ONIONS - EARLY SPRING

(State: Texas)

Year	: Acreage :Planted:For Harvest:	: Yield : :per Acre:	: Production: :(1,000 sacks)	: Price : :(\$ per sack)	: Value :(\$1,000)
	(Acres)	(50 lb. sacks)			
1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production (acreage equal to 1955)	37,600	<u>1</u> / 116	4,362		
<u>Background Statistics:</u>					
1955 Prel.	38,000	37,600	125	4,700	1.60 7,520
1954	39,500	39,500	110	4,345	1.25 5,431
1949-53 Average	45,880	34,740	123	2/3,688	2.01 6,766
1944-53 "	--	44,510	107	<u>2</u> /4,250	1.96 7,957

1/ 1952-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value:
148,000 sacks in 1944, 248,000 sacks in 1945, 376,000 sacks in 1950 and
1,165,000 sacks in 1953.

Comparisons and Comments: The early spring acreage for harvest in Texas has varied considerably from year to year but has not shown any definite trend since 1939. The 1955 acreage was 5 percent less than in 1954 and 16 percent below the 1944-53 average but 8 percent above the 1949-53 average. Yields were relatively high in the irrigated areas but were low in the Coastal Bend and other dry-farm areas. The average yield was 14 percent more than in 1954 and slightly above the 1949-53 average. Production was 8 percent more than in 1954, 27 percent above the 1949-53 average and 11 percent above the 1944-53 average. There were a few shipments late in February but movement continued relatively light through March. Shipments increased rapidly during April as late areas began harvesting and the movement reached a peak during the last week of April. Prices at f.o.b. levels were moderately high during March and the first week of April but declined rapidly to low levels as the movement became heavy in mid-April. Prices remained low the rest of the season. The season average price was moderately higher than the very low prices in 1954 and 1953 but it was well below the 1949-53 average. In many years there is some competition between early spring onions and storage supplies from the previous year's late-summer crop. In 1954 there was little competition due to the moderate storage stocks and to the late start of the spring harvest. The 1955 late summer crop currently is indicated to be relatively small, 11 percent below 1954 and 9 percent below the 1949-53 average.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1952-55 average yields will result in a production 7 percent less than in 1955 but 18 percent above the 1949-53 average.

ONIONS - LATE SPRING

(States: California, Arizona, Georgia, and Texas)

Year	Acreage		Yield	Production	Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre			
	(Acres)		(50-lb. sacks)	(1000 sacks)	(\$ per sack)	(\$1000)
<u>1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production</u> (acreage 5 percent less than 1955)						
	14,900		1/ 280	4,172		
<u>Background Statistics:</u>						
1955 Prel.	15,700	15,700	268	4,210	1.35	5,682
1954	14,800	14,800	270	3,992	1.40	5,577
1949-53 Average	18,192	17,866	261	2/ 4,611	1.62	6,695
1944-53 "	--	18,500	235	2/ 4,244	1.66	6,507

1/ 1952-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 216,000 sacks in 1944, 234,000 sacks in 1946, 560,000 sacks in 1951, and 1,382,000 sacks in 1953.

Comparisons and Comments: In 1955 an acreage increase of 22 percent in Texas more than offset declines in California and Georgia. Arizona acreage was unchanged. The total late spring acreage was 6 percent more than in 1954 but 12 percent below the 1949-53 average and 15 percent below the 1944-53 average. Average yields in the various states were fairly good even though weather conditions were not particularly favorable. In California and Arizona crop development was retarded by below normal temperatures, and yields in Arizona were below normal. In Georgia rainfall was short but because most of the crop was under irrigation yields were only slightly below average. The Texas crop was hit by the freeze in late March but recovered fairly well during April. The major factor in the high average yields obtained in Texas was the increased acreage in the higher yielding Panhandle area. The late spring group average yield was 1 percent below 1954 but 3 percent above the 1949-53 average. The 1955 production was 5 percent above 1954 but 9 percent below the 1949-53 average. Marketing of the late spring crop began during late April but volume remained light until about mid-May. During the last half of May all states were shipping in volume. Supplies were ample during June then tapered off in July. Prices were at low levels during May and the first week of June then improved rapidly. Prices were moderate until late June then declined to low levels again as harvest of the early summer crop started. Season average prices were slightly below the low levels of 1954 in all states except Georgia, which showed a slight improvement. All prices were well below average.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1952-55 average yields will result in a production 1 percent less than in 1955 and 10 percent below the 1949-53 average.

PEAS - EARLY SPRING

(States: California and South Carolina)

Year	: Acreage : Planted:	: Yield : For Harvest:	: : Per Acre:	: : Production:	: Price : (\$ per bu.)	: Value : (\$1,000)
	(Acres)	(Bu.)	(1,000 bu.)			
1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production: (acreage equal to 1955 in Calif. and 50 percent above 1955 but 10 percent below 1954 in So. Carolina)	5,400	1/ 107	580			
<u>Background Statistics:</u>						
1955 Prel.	5,400	5,100	115	586	2.51	1,470
1954	7,800	7,800	87	677	2.20	1,491
1949-53 Average	8,520	8,360	111	931	2.28	2,078
1944-53 "	--	14,360	100	1,328	2.24	2,930

1/ 1950-54 average yield by states.

Comparisons and Comments: The downward trend in production of early spring peas for fresh market continued in 1955 as both California and South Carolina reduced plantings substantially from the levels in 1954. The total planted acreage was 31 percent below 1954 and 37 percent below the 1949-53 average. There was a considerable acreage loss in South Carolina due to the late March freeze. The freeze also lowered yields substantially on the remaining acreage and South Carolina's crop was very small. The total acreage for harvest was 35 percent below 1954 and 39 percent below the 1949-53 average. Growing conditions generally were favorable in California and yields were well above the low levels in 1954 and slightly above average. Total production was 13 percent below 1954 and 37 percent below the 1949-53 average. Carlot shipments from California began the last week of March and were in volume during April and the first half of May. Movement dropped off rapidly during the last half of May. South Carolina shipped only a very small quantity during May. Prices were fairly high throughout most of the 1955 early spring season and season average prices to growers in both states were well above 1954 levels and were moderately above average. Most of the downward trend in acreage and production of fresh green peas has been due to the steadily increasing popularity of frozen peas. The 1955 frozen pea pack was about 7.5 percent above 1954. However, this larger pack was more than offset by a smaller carryover and total supplies for 1955-56 are slightly below those for the 1954-55 marketing season when a strong market prevailed.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest in California equal to that in 1955, and in South Carolina an acreage for harvest 50 percent more than in 1955 when acreage losses were heavy. This acreage guide for South Carolina is still 10 percent less than the acreage harvested in 1954. Such an acreage with 1950-54 average yields by states will result in a production about equal to that in 1955 but 14 percent below 1954 and 38 percent below the 1949-53 average.

PEAS - LATE SPRING

(States: Idaho and Washington)

Year	Acreage		Yield		Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre	Production	\$ per Bu.	(\$1000)
	(Acres)	(Bu.)	(1000 bu.)			
<u>1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production</u>						
(acreage equal to 1955)	730	<u>1/</u> 183	134			
<u>Background Statistics:</u>						
1955 Prel.	750	730	211	154	1.77	272
1954	670	610	184	112	2.04	229
1949-53 Average	1,706	1,706	164	261	1.63	424
1944-53 "	-	3,350	144	<u>2/</u> 437	1.64	687

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 37,000 bu. in 1944, 75,000 bu. in 1946, 12,000 bu. in 1947 and 81,000 bu. in 1948.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 20 percent more than in 1954, with both states having moderate increases. However, the total late spring acreage was still 57 percent below the 1949-53 average and 78 percent below the 1944-53 average. Growing conditions were generally favorable for green peas in both states and yields were above those in 1954 and the 1949-53 average. Production in 1955 was 38 percent more than in 1954 and but 41 percent below the 1949-53 average. Harvest of the Idaho crop began about on schedule during the first week of June. Shipments were in volume during the last half of the month and reached a peak in early July. The shipping season was practically over by mid-July. The Washington crop was delayed several weeks by cold weather and harvest began in early July. Supplies were light to moderate until the season ended in the latter part of August. Prices generally were moderate in early July but declined to low levels by the end of the month. Prices remained low until late July then increased rapidly to high levels. The Idaho crop moved at low prices and the season average price was considerably below last year and slightly below average. Prices generally were high during the marketing season for the Washington crop and the season average-price reached a record high.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 13 percent less than in 1955 and 49 percent less than the 1949-53 average.

GREEN PEPPERS

(State: Florida)

Year	Acreage Planted: (Acres)	For Harvest: (Acres)	Yield: Per Acre: (Bu.)	Production: (1000 bu.)	Price: (\$ per bu.)	Value: (\$1000)
<u>1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production</u>						
(5 percent less than in 1955)	8,000	1/ 258	2,064			
<u>Background Statistics:</u>						
1955 Prel.	8,500	8,500	265	2,252	2.00	4,504
1954	9,000	8,900	230 2/	2,047	2.20	4,349
1949-53 Average	8,360	7,800	253 2/	1,979	2.35	4,349
1944-53 "	---	6,690	232 2/	1,588	2.60	3,597

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 126,000 bu. in 1946, 237,000 bu. in 1948, 270,000 bu. in 1950, 129,000 bu. in 1951, and 70,000 bu. in 1954.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 4 percent less than in 1954 but 9 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 27 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Yields were more than in 1954 and more than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 average. Production was 10 percent more than in 1954, 14 percent more than the 1949-53 average, and 42 percent more than the 1944-53 average. This crop was beset with a succession of adverse weather conditions. Frequent cold spells caused re-setting in some sections, particularly following the late March freeze that caused some losses in the northern section of the state. The cold weather retarded development in most sections. The important Pompana section suffered a severe hail storm that resulted in some losses in volume for May shipment. Serious overlaps between the spring and summer crop were avoided by losses in the summer growing sections in Louisiana by heavy rains in late May. Prices were lower than in 1954 and the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages. Prices were high in the early part of the marketing season but declined sharply during April, when shipments were heaviest. Wide ranges in prices characterized the April-May part of the marketing season, due to wide ranges in quality.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yield will result in a production 8 percent less than in 1955, about equal to that in 1954 but 4 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

SHALLOTS

(State: Louisiana)

Year	Acreage		Yield	Production	Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre			
	(Acres)	(Acres)	(Bbl.)	(1000 bbl)	(\$ per bbl)	(\$1000)
1956 Acreage Guides and Probable Production (acreage 15 percent less than in 1955)						
	1900	1/ 30	57	-	-	
Background Statistics:						
1955 Prel.	2,200	2200	30	2/ 66	5.10	275
1954	1,900	1900	27	51	6.80	347
1949-53 Average	1,980	1980	27	56	6.71	353
1944-53 "	-	2030	26	53	6.99	357

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes 12,000 barrels not marketed in 1955 and excluded in computing value:

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 16 percent more than in 1954, 11 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 8 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Except for 1952 the 1955 acreage was the largest reported since 1946. The yield exceeded 1954 and the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages. Production was 29 percent more than in 1954, 18 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 25 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Except for 1952, this is the largest production reported since 1942. Prices were lower than in 1954 and the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages. Prices were the lowest except for 1952, since 1942. The crops developed slowly due to cold weather and marketings were developed to some extent. Even so, there was some overlap from the very large winter shallot crop, which also tended to depress prices for the winter crop. Marketing of green onions from the south Texas early spring onion crop may have exerted some influence on shallot marketings.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 15 percent less than in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yield will result in a production 14 percent less than in 1955, 12 percent more than in 1954 and 2 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

SPINACH

(States: Washington, Virginia, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, New York and Massachusetts)

Year	: Acreage :		Yield :	: Price :		Value :
	:Planted:	For Harvest:	Per Acre:	Production:	(\$ per	(\$1,000)
	(Acres)		(Bu.)	(1,000 bu.)	bu.)	

1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production (acreage equal to 1955)

9,650 1/ 324 3,127

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	10,300	9,650	334	2/ 3,222	.94	2,996
1954	10,650	10,000	324	2/ 3,243	.87	2,779
1949-53 Average	12,562	11,970	318	2/ 3,807	.92	3,426
1944-53 "	--	12,240	322	2/ 3,940	.89	3,466

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 16,000 bu. in 1944, 16,000 bu. in 1947, 14,000 bu. in 1948, 125,000 bu. in 1951, 42,000 bu. in 1953, 50,000 bu. in 1954 and 50,000 bu. in 1955.

Comparisons and Comments: The steady downward trend in acreage continued in 1955 when 9,650 acres were harvested. This was 4 percent less than in 1954, 19 percent below the 1949-53 average and 21 percent below the 1944-53 average. The freeze in late March resulted in some acreage loss in Arkansas and Oklahoma and retarded crops in most other States. However, other than the cold weather in March, growing conditions generally were favorable and yields in most States were above average. Production was only 1 percent less than in 1954 but was 15 percent below the 1949-53 average and 18 percent below the 1944-53 average. Harvest began about mid-March but supplies were relatively light and prices high through mid-April. During the last half of April movement increased and prices declined seasonally. Supplies were heavy and prices low during May, June and July. Prices increased to very high levels during the last half of July as the season drew to a close. Season average prices were well above 1954 levels in Virginia, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, which usually account for about one-half of the total spring crop. Prices were equal to 1954 in Maryland, Missouri, and Ohio but were relatively low in all other States. Fresh spinach will continue to have very strong competition from frozen spinach. Although the per capita consumption of fresh spinach is still about double that of frozen, consumption of the frozen product is expanding rapidly while fresh has shown a downward trend. At the present time it is estimated that frozen stocks in the spring of 1956 will be at least as large as in 1955.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 3 percent less than in 1955, 18 percent below the 1949-53 average and 21 percent below the 1944-53 average.

TOMATOES - EARLY SPRING

(States: Florida, Texas and California)

Year	Acreage		Yield		Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre	Production		
	(Acres)	(Acres)	(Bu.)	(1,000 bu.)	(\$ per bu.)	(\$1,000)

1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production:

(acreage 5 percent less than in 1955)

58,400 1/ 126 7,358

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	72,500	61,500	138	8,503	3.72	31,646
1954	68,700	63,500	116	<u>2/</u> 7,340	3.82	27,327
1949-53 Average	59,880	55,720	122	6,787	3.91	26,631
1944-53 "	--	60,920	109	<u>2/</u> 6,550	3.66	23,880

1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 49,000 bu. in 1945, 80,000 bu. in 1946 and 193,000 bu. in 1954.

Comparisons and Comments: In 1955 a decline in planted acreage in Florida was more than offset by increases in Texas and California. The total acreage was 6 percent above 1954 and 21 percent above the 1949-53 average. However, a freeze in mid-February caused heavy damage in Texas and 11,000 acres were lost. The total early spring harvested acreage was 3 percent less than in 1954 but 10 percent above the 1949-53 average. Yields were below average in Texas and California but were extremely high in Florida. The 1955 production reached a record high, 16 percent above 1954, 25 percent above the 1949-53 average and 30 percent above the 1944-53 average. The large crop was due entirely to the record yields achieved in Florida. Marketing started about April 1 with a light movement from Florida. Shipments were in volume by mid-April and continued heavy through the first half of May. The Texas harvest was late and did not reach volume until about mid-May. Shipments increased rapidly with the peak occurring during the first week of June. Shipments from California were light until the first half of July. Prices were fairly low as the season opened but improved to very high levels in mid-May. Then, under pressure of heavy supplies from Florida and Texas, prices declined to moderate levels. Season average prices in all States were slightly below 1954 levels. Two factors which probably benefited the marketing of the early spring crop considerably were the relatively light volume of imports and the delayed harvest of the late spring crops. Total imports during the May-June period were 20 percent smaller than in 1954.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest 5 percent less than 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yields will result in a production 13 percent less than in 1955 but 8 percent above the 1949-53 average and 12 percent above the 1944-53 average.

TOMATOES - LATE SPRING

(States: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Georgia)

Year	Acreage		Yield	Production	Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre			
	(Acres)	(Acres)	(Bu.)	(1000 bu.)	(\$ per bu.)	(\$1000)

1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production (acreage equal to 1955)

44,800 1/ 62 2,780

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	50,800	44,800	62	<u>2</u> /2,780	2.50	6,937
1954	62,200	51,200	59	3,004	2.11	6,336
1949-53 Average	50,460	43,960	64	2,832	3.59	9,675
1944-53 "	--	48,540	68	3,290	3.19	10,004

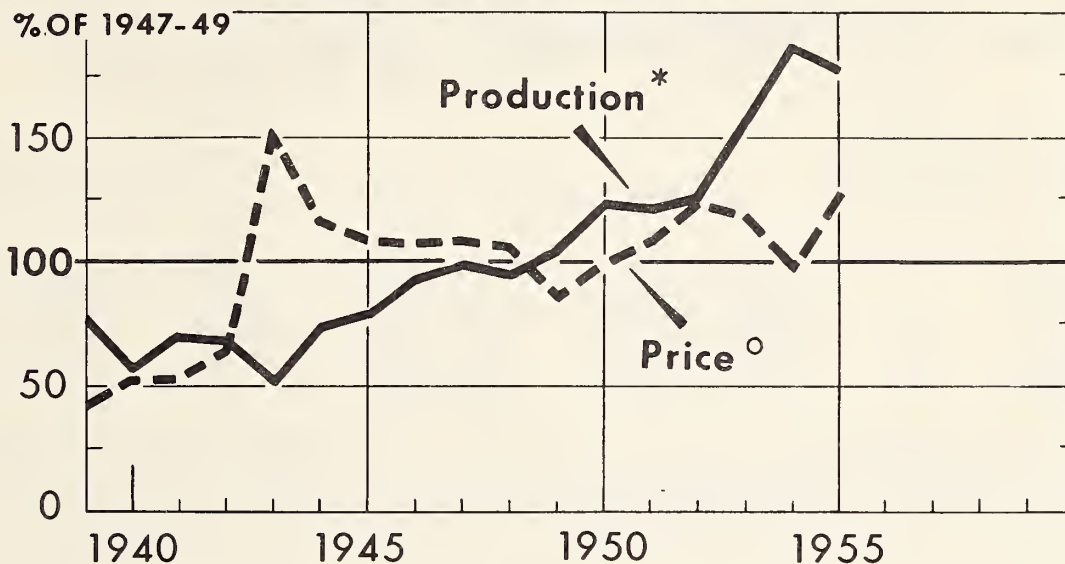
1/ 1951-55 average yield.

2/ Includes 5,000 bushels in 1955 not marketed and excluded in computing value.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 planted acreage was 18 percent less than in 1954 with an increase in South Carolina more than offset by decreases in all other states. The late March freeze caused considerable damage in all states. However, most of the acreage was replanted except in Texas where acreage loss amounted to slightly over 20 percent of the plantings. The total harvested acreage was 12 percent less than in 1954 but 2 percent above the 1949-53 average. Favorable growing conditions during May offset to some extent the early season set-backs, and the average yield was slightly above 1954 but below the 1949-53 and 1944-53 averages. Production in 1955 was 7 percent less than in 1954, 2 percent below the 1949-53 average and 16 percent below the 1944-53 average. Crop development generally was about two weeks later than usual with light harvest starting in Texas during the last half of May and in other states during June. The peak movement occurred about the middle of June with some supplies available into July. Prices generally were low as the season opened, improved slightly during June and were relatively high during the first half of July due to delayed harvest of the early summer crops. The bulk of the early spring crop sold at moderate prices. Season average prices in all states were above the very low levels of 1954 but were well below the 1949-53 averages.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1951-55 average yield will result in a production equal to that in 1955 but 2 percent below the 1949-53 average and 16 percent below the 1944-53 average.

SPRING COMMERCIAL MELONS * FOR FRESH MARKET



* CANTALOUPS, HONEYDEWS, AND WATERMELONS

° SEASON AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1734-55 (10) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Spring season production of watermelons and cantaloups has been expanded greatly since 1943. The 1955 crop of watermelons was 482 percent larger than the 1943 crop while the cantaloup crop in 1955 was 200 percent larger than in 1943. A portion of the apparent large increase in 1953 was due to a shift in classification of cantaloup production from mid-summer to spring of a part of the Texas crop. Spring honeydew melon production is relatively light and has been stable since 1939. Prices for all melons have shown a large amount of variation from year to year, particularly since 1948. In most years changes in production have been accompanied by changes in price in the opposite direction. The timing of harvests also exerts much influence upon prices. A delay in the progress of a crop is likely to result in over-lapping of supplies and low prices. An additional factor (which affects the marketing of melons to a greater degree than most other vegetables) is the weather in consuming markets. When temperatures are below normal there is a consequent lower demand for melons and prices decline. On the other hand, warm weather stimulates demand and prices tend to rise. In 1955, production of cantaloups, honeydews, and watermelons was slightly smaller than in 1954 and prices considerably higher. The index of melon production was 176.1 in 1955 compared to 185.0 in 1954. The index of prices was 126.7 in 1955 compared to 98.7 in 1954.

CANTALOUPS

(States: California, Florida, Arizona and Texas (South))

Year	Acreage		Yield		Production	Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre	(1000 crts.)			
	(Acres)	(Acre)	(Crate)	(1000 crts.)	(\$ per crate)	(\$1000)	
<u>1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production</u>							
(acreage equal to 1955)	50,300	1/	116	5,835			
<u>Background Statistics:</u>							
1955 Prel.	51,900	50,300	113	5,707	5.24	29,923	
1954	60,300	54,500	110	5,995	4.34	26,018	
1953	42,300	41,700	124	5,157	4.67	24,073	
1949-53 3/ Average	31,860	31,580	131	4,123	4.07	17,007	
1944-53 3/ "	--	29,595	121	2/3,566	4.03	14,497	

1/ 1953-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 4,000 crates in 1945, and 16,000 crates in 1946.

3/ Excludes acreage in Texas that, prior to 1953, was reported as Mid-Summer production.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage of cantaloups for harvest was 8 percent less than in 1954 but 21 percent more than in 1953. Acreage and production data for prior years is not comparable due to a change in the seasonal grouping of the data in which South Texas was shifted to this group from the Mid-Summer group of states. Yields were higher than in 1954 but less than in 1953. Production was 5 percent less than in 1954 but 11 percent more than in 1953. Production was reduced and the marketing season delayed in all areas due to cold weather, particularly the late March cold wave affecting states east of the Rockies and persistent cold weather affecting Arizona and California. The peak of the Texas shipments occurred well ahead of movement from the important Arizona-California sections. Early and mid-summer harvest also was delayed by weather conditions sufficiently for the spring crop to move to market without significant overlaps. Also, the short peach crop in the South tended to provide a stronger market for cantaloups than might otherwise have been expected. Prices were the highest since 1943, in part because of a combination of circumstances causing the marketing of the crop to be more or less ideally staggered. Imports from Mexico were about 25 percent higher than in 1954.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1953-55 average yield will result in a production 2 percent more than in 1955, 13 percent more than in 1953 but 3 percent less than in 1954.

WATERMELONS - LATE SPRING

(States: Florida and California)

Year	Acreage		Yield	Production	Price	Value
	Planted	For Harvest	Per Acre			
	(Acres)	(Acres)	(Melons)	(1,000 melons)	(\$ per 1000 melons)	(\$1,000)

1956 Acreage Guide and Probable Production

(acreage equal to 1955) 94,200 1/ 362 34,100

Background Statistics:

1955 Prel.	97,200	94,200	401	2/ 37,734	504	17,394
1954	113,800	106,800	366	2/ 39,078	332	12,003
1949-53 Average	81,980	77,980	346	2/ 26,145	457	11,607
1944-53 "	--	62,420	331	2/ 20,420	475	9,318

1/ 1953-55 average yield.

2/ Includes the following quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: 1,578,000 melons in 1947, 5,538,000 in 1950, 2,955,000 in 1954 and 3,190,000 in 1955.

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 12 percent less than in 1954, but 21 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 51 percent more than the 1944-53 average. Yields were the highest since 1935. Production was 3 percent less than in 1954 but 44 percent more than the 1949-53 average and 85 percent more than the 1944-53 average. The crop developed slowly due to cold weather particularly in central and north Florida and in California. In west Florida most of the acreage had to be replanted following the late March freeze and the replanted acreage developed slowly due to dry weather. The early summer crop was delayed about two weeks due to cold, dry weather and part of that crop encountered some flood damage in May. The late May rains, however, generally benefited the spring crop in north Florida and the early summer crop throughout the south. Weather conditions caused a marketing gap between north Florida spring crops and the early summer crop, extending the marketing time period for north Florida. The west Florida crop, however, overlapped the early summer crop significantly. In California, both the spring and the summer crops were late and serious overlaps were thus avoided. Acreage losses and economic abandonment were confined to Florida. Prices were considerably higher than in 1954 and moderately higher than the 1949-53 and the 1944-53 average prices.

1956 Guide: The 1956 acreage guide is an acreage for harvest equal to that in 1955. Such an acreage with 1953-55 average yield will result in a production 10 percent less than in 1955, 13 percent less than in 1954 but 30 percent more than the 1949-53 average.

1956 ACREAGE-MARKETING GUIDES
EARLY COMMERCIAL SPRING POTATOES

Comparisons and Comments: The 1955 harvested acreage was 9 percent more than in 1954, but 19 percent less than the 1944-53 average. As compared to 1954 significant increases in acreage occurred in California and Florida. California had an increase of 12,000 acres or 21 percent; Florida 4,200 acres or 20 percent. The average yield for the late spring group of 324 bushels per acre harvested was record high. California had a 465 bushel yield compared to the previous 1951 high of 445 bushels. Production amounted to 47 million bushels, 17 percent more than the 1954 crop of 40.3 million bushels, and 4 percent more than the 1944-53 average of 45 million bushels. California produced 32.1 million bushels which represented 68 percent of the 1955 spring production. Florida spring production totaled 6.3 million bushels, or 13 percent of the spring supply.

From January 1 to June 30, 1955 total supplies of potatoes approximated 174.5 million bushels, consisting of 118.2 million bushels of carryover on January 1, 1955 from the 1954 late crop, 50.8 million bushels of 1955 winter and spring commercial production, and 5.5 million bushels of Virginia summer production. During January, February, and March, 1955 prices received by farmers averaged \$1.16 per bushel or 79 percent of effective parity. In late March, 1955 freezing temperatures damaged or destroyed part of the crop in southeastern producing areas. Alabama lost about one-third of its acreage; production was about one-third as great as 1954. With prospects that new crop supplies would be reduced from the level previously anticipated, prices about doubled in a few days. In mid-April, 1955 prices received averaged \$2.17 per bushel, or 148 percent of parity.

Florida winter crop prices received by farmers ranged from \$1.85 to \$2.10 per bushel. Florida spring crop prices averaged about \$2.75 per bushel at the farm, with the bulk of shipments, or 9,000 carlot equivalents, moving in May.

The late spring crop reached maturity about a week to ten days later than usual. California long white harvest started about April 7 with a small volume moving to local markets. Volume shipments were not reached until the second week in May with sales reflecting \$4.00 to \$5.00 per hundredweight, f.o.b., Kern County points. California prices eased downward thereafter, and by the end of June reflected the season's low of \$1.45 per hundredweight, f.o.b. The bulk of California early crop shipments, as is usual, occurred in June when approximately 22,000 cars were shipped by rail. These heavy shipments were accompanied by a declining trend in the level of prices. An appreciable quantity of California potatoes was diverted for air-strip drying. Arizona red potatoes started moving to market around the first of June with prices reflecting a weak undertone. The Arizona price received by farmers as of mid-June 1955 was \$1.40 per bushel.

South Carolina's production was reduced by the March freeze and the small production returned relatively high f.o.b. prices - \$3.50 per hundredweight. North Carolina and Virginia harvests were delayed. Virginia marketings extended through June and July and were in competition with California marketings. Virginia and North Carolina farm prices reflected \$1.35 per bushel in June, with Virginia's price declining to \$0.75 per bushel in July.

The 1955 production in the 29 late states as of October 1, 1955 is indicated at 307.1 million bushels, 19.1 million bushels, or 6.6 percent more than the 1954 crop of 288 million bushels. January 1, 1955, merchantable stocks in the 29 late states totaled about 118 million bushels. It is expected that January 1, 1956 stocks will be appreciably greater than those of the previous year even though a large volume of potatoes will be diverted to starch and for livestock feed under Section 32 programs during the remainder of 1955. Large storage holdings of 1955 late crop potatoes will affect adversely the ability of growers of spring commercial potatoes to market their production.

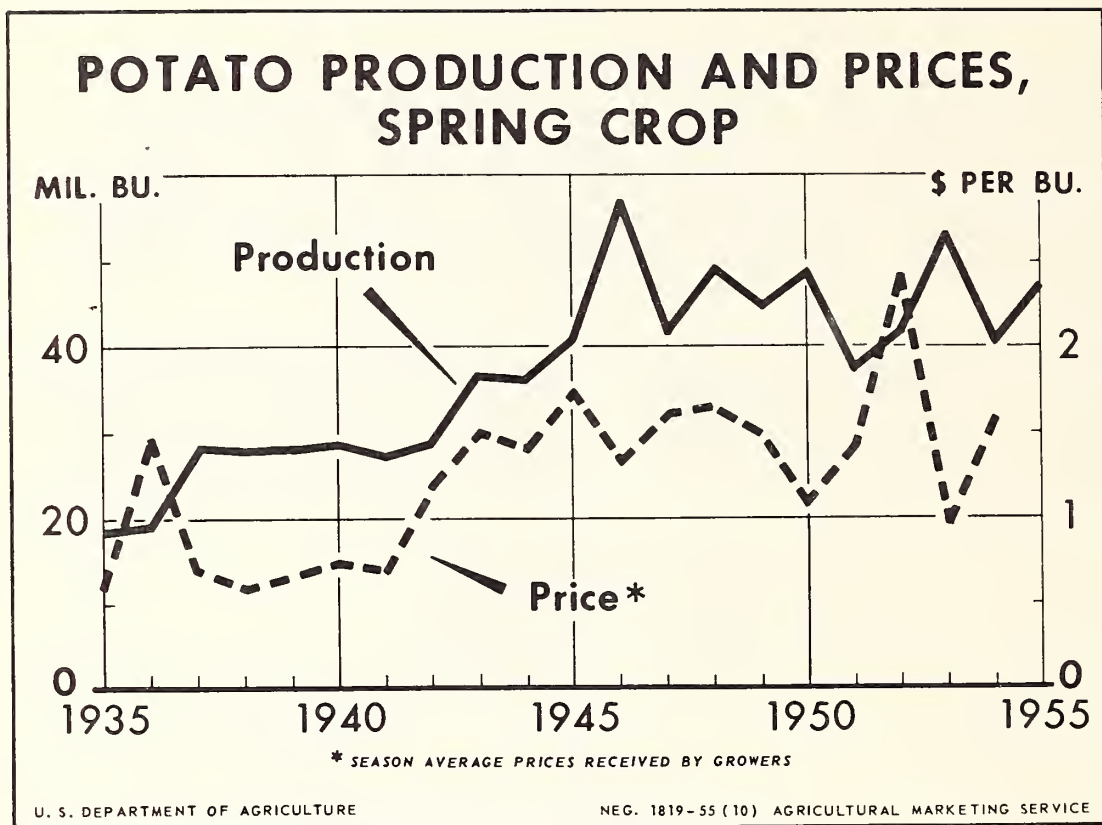
1956 Guide: The 1956 early commercial spring acreage guide is 131,020 acres, or 13 percent less than the 1955 harvested acreage, and with normal growing conditions should produce 39 million bushels. This quantity should be sufficient to meet anticipated market requirements. The 1956 guide is based on 1952-55 yield and production histories for each state, except Alabama. A 1951-54 history was used in Alabama as 1955 yield and production were reduced by freezing temperatures.

1956 ACREAGE-MARKETING GUIDES

EARLY COMMERCIAL SPRING POTATOES

State	1956 Acreage Guide (Acres)	Percentage Guide is of 1955 Harvested Acreage (Percent)
<u>Early Spring:</u>		
Florida	19,190	77
Texas	250	100
Group Total	19,440	77
<u>Late Spring:</u>		
California	56,400	82
Louisiana	4,585	99
Mississippi	500	77
Alabama	19,935	1/72
Georgia	590	98
South Carolina	6,500	100
Arizona	3,720	78
Texas	3,190	84
Oklahoma	500	100
Arkansas	1,270	98
Tennessee	1,300	100
North Carolina	13,090	94
Group Total	111,580	89
All States	131,020	87

1/ Percentage of 1955 planted acreage.



Spring crop potato production was relatively stable from 1937 through 1941, then expanded sharply in response to strong demand during World War II. Production was at a record level of 57 million bushels in 1946. Since then there has been considerable year to year variation but no definite trend. A major portion of the annual variation in production has been the result of acreage and yield changes in California which usually has accounted for more than 60 percent of the spring production. In general, production and prices for spring potatoes move in opposite directions. Prices also are strongly influenced by the volume of storage stocks remaining from the previous season's late crop and the timing of the spring harvest. For example, the 1952 spring crop was 4.4 million bushels larger than the 1951 crop, but as storage stocks were light, prices averaged 70 percent more than in 1951. In 1955, spring production was 5.7 million bushels, or 14 percent, more than in 1954. Prices were relatively high during the early part of the 1955 season because of freezing temperatures in late March which seriously damaged the southern crops and delayed harvests. Harvesting of the California crop also was delayed by below normal temperatures. In May, prices received by farmers in spring crop areas averaged \$2.60 per bushel. Prices dropped to \$1.20 per bushel in June as area marketings overlapped and heavy volume became available in California.

USDA AGRIC. RESEARCH SERVICE

CROPS RESEARCH

10-8-54 DIRECTOR

DIM