

1. Bend over and grasp the stalk so that the thumb and forefinger point toward ground, palm of hand down.

2. Grasp the stalk about 4 inches above the root. Avoid picking up stalk by the top.

3. Include in the grasp that part of the stalk which is to be kept, leaving the ribs which are to be stripped off free of the grasp.

4. Maintaining a bending position, strip off the ribs by grasping a handful at a time. Be sure that the root of the plant is facing toward the shoulder of the arm doing the first stripping, and in the opposite direction when the last stripping is done.

5. If the celery is brittle the ribs are easiest to remove by pulling them straight down toward the base of the plant. If the ribs are somewhat limber they are best removed by bending them down toward the base of the plant in a plane parallel with the stalk.

6. Once the ribs are torn loose from the stalk, release them. Do not throw them down or carry them in the hand any longer than is absolutely necessary.

7. While stripping, do not change position of grip holding the stalk.

8. When stripping off the last ribs the roots of the plant should be turned directly away from the worker so that the root may be trimmed.

9. Use the knife for trimming roots only when necessary.

10. If roots need trimming use only one stroke of the knife on small stalks, two strokes on larger stalks. Over three strokes should never be used.

11. The stalk should then be released as the reach is made for the next plant.

12. Rest a short period by standing erect after each 35 to 50 stalks (one down) have been stripped. Do not rest after each individual stalk is stripped. Fewer but longer periods of rest are much better.

#### FIELD PACKING

Among organizations there is wide variation in the amount of time required to pack the celery in field boxes (Table 19). This is due partly to the methods used and partly to the expertness of the packers. The crews observed had adjusted the ratio of strippers to packers. Organization P used 1.7 strippers for each packer, who took 13.0 hours to pack 10,000 stalks.