

Fig. 27.—Properly Stacked and Tied. These boxes do not “telescope” because they are stacked close together and firmly tied.

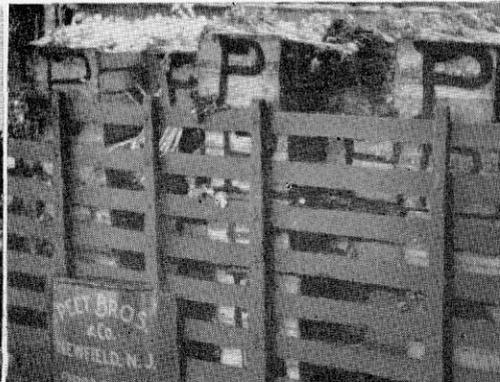


Fig. 28.—Method of Loading in Frame. Some support is gained from the stake body of the truck if the boxes are staggered against the sides of the frame.

The latter method requires a little more time, but saves breaking the backs of some of the boxes with the rope.

The proper loading of trucks, particularly in the muckland areas, is important. Muckland roads are usually very rough and the highways in such areas are commonly in poor condition. Even if celery field crates are carefully stacked a limited amount of load shifting will cause some crates to “telescope” and thus mechanically damage the stalks in the crates. Any celery found in the packed crates with three or more badly scarred or broken ribs was classed as being mechanically damaged. Damage caused by cutting the stalks too short was so tabulated, and thus excluded from the mechanically damaged category. A stalk with mechanical damage, under the definition used in this study, could not be classed as marketable celery. Most of the mechanical damage was caused by field crates crushing stalks while transporting the celery from the field to the washhouse.

In both Sarasota and Belle Glade areas 4.1 percent of the packed stalks were mechanically damaged (Table 24). This type of damage was much less severe in the Sanford area, amounting to only 1.1 percent of the stalks inspected. Organization F in the Sanford area, with 2.6 percent of the stalks damaged mechanically, had a large amount of muckland celery.

The strap illustrated in Fig. 19 would materially reduce mechanical damage, make loading easier and also reduce the loss of celery blown out of the top layer of boxes on the truck while it is in transit. The strap also serves the purpose of holding