

TABLE 24.—PROPORTION OF PACKED CELERY STALKS SHOWING MECHANICAL DAMAGE, 15 FLORIDA FIRMS, 1945 SEASON.

Sanford Area		Sarasota Area		Belle Glade Area	
Firm	Percentage of Packed Stalks Showing Mechanical Damage	Firm	Percentage of Packed Stalks Showing Mechanical Damage	Firm	Percentage of Packed Stalks Showing Mechanical Damage
A	0.2	N	3.9	G	4.3
B	0.6	O	1.1*	H	2.5
C	0.6	P	4.0	I	4.6
D	0.9	R	4.3	J	5.1
E	1.6			M	1.0**
F	2.6				
Average	1.1		4.1		4.1

* Omitted from average of area because celery was field packed in the rough, with all stripping done in washhouse. The strippings protect the stalk from mechanical damage.

** Omitted from average of area because washhouse was located in the celery field and truck hauling was not involved.

the celery in place for top cutting. When the crates are lifted on the truck they are jolted some so that an occasional stalk laps over the end of the crate or becomes crossed. When one crate is placed on top of another crate the displaced stalks in the first crate are commonly damaged. A great amount of this would be prevented by using the strap. In the Belle Glade and Sarasota areas some protection is needed for the top of the crate if mechanical damage is to be materially reduced.

HANDLING EMPTY BOXES

The truck drivers return the empty field crates to the field, taking out a load of "empties" after every third trip to the washhouse with filled crates. Some organizations had no definite system for returning empty field boxes to the field. This resulted in either running out of field boxes or of finishing out a field with a large excess of empty crates, which had only to be re-loaded and hauled to another field.

Most of the crews had two workers in the field crews handling empty field boxes. It was the duty of these workers to distribute the crates to the packers. The variation in rates of accomplishment of the empty box men depended upon the speed of the strippers and packers. There was some difference among the organizations concerning the manner in which the empty boxes were handled.