

(shatter). There was one-third more shattering in the celery handled by the stripping method. Some of this difference in shattering was the result of washhouse root trimmers retrimming the roots too closely. There is a tendency among such workers to retrim all roots regardless of whether or not they need it. Also, the root cuts easier at the point where the ribs join the root. The root trimmers in some washhouses without doubt did more damage than good.

The third class of defects consisted of diseased and abnormal stalks which should have been stripped or completely discarded. The purpose of the comparison of this class of defects is to determine to what extent such defects pass by the strippers and reach the packed crate. Some of these defects are difficult to see and many stalks with such defects slip by unnoticed in either method of handling. This comparison is not as reliable as the other two classes because all the celery of a number of different growers is not affected to the same extent by diseases. It is possible that there was a difference in the original condition of the celery handled under the two methods contrasted. For example, it is evident from Table 31 that a higher proportion of celery handled by the stripping method was infected with mosaic virus than that handled by the dumping method. Despite this situation, it appears that natural defects were culled out slightly better by the stripping method.

Considering the labor saved by the dumping method, it probably is the most efficient method as long as the present practice of stripping in both field and washhouse is followed. Each stalk is stripped in the field and each individual stalk is selected for size by the sizers who also reinspect the stalk for defects. It should not be necessary for the strippers in the washhouse to handle each and every stalk a second time for the purpose of stripping.

Because the dumping method was the most common and probably most desirable procedure, the operation was studied in detail with the aim of simplifying the job. The procedure followed by all firms was essentially the same. The dumper turned around, picked up a field box of celery from the stack which the unloader previously had placed by the dumping table, then lifted the 50-pound field box of celery to the dumping table and turned the box over-end upside down. The dumper then either placed the empty crate on an overhead conveyor or stacked the empty box beside the dumping table. The dumper repeated this