

TABLE 32.—COMPARISON OF TIME REQUIRED TO SORT AND PACK 10,000 STALKS OF CELERY BY NINE DIFFERENT FIRMS, FLORIDA, 1944 SEASON.

Area	Firm	Hours of Labor per 10,000 Stalks	
		Sorting and Packing	Total Field and Washhouse Root Trimming and Stripping Time
Sanford.....	C	21.2	32.2
	F	11.5	38.4
	D	24.1	40.0
Sarasota.....	P	21.0	47.2
	N	21.4	35.4
	O	22.9	38.7
Belle Glade.....	I	23.1	26.9
	M	17.0	43.1
	J	26.0	29.7

stalks, and firm F, which required only 11.5 hours for the same job, used modified systems which proved much more efficient.

The six firms C, D, P, N, O and M used about the same number of sorters and packers, while firms I and J used approximately 1½ packers for each sorter. This was done by having one sorter select two sizes and having one packer for each size. This was usually done only for the very large or very small sizes. For the more common sizes, these firms commonly used one sorter and one packer as a team. From observation, it appeared that the packer had less to do than the sorter. Some efforts were made to time both sorters and packers, but the problem of adjusting the time by the greatly varying rate of work could not be satisfactorily overcome. Nevertheless, it was quite obvious that many firms could have advantageously used a ratio of one packer to two sorters for such small sizes as 8's, 10's and XX's.

Firm M followed the practice of having one sorter and one packer work on two sizes, particularly the 2's, 2½'s, 8's, 10's and XX's. The volume of any one of these individual sizes was not large enough to keep one sorter and packer occupied over 50 percent of the time. Because firm M took advantage of an opportunity to adjust working conditions to the job to be done, only 17 hours of labor were used per 10,000 stalks.

With the exception of firm F, all firms made no apparent effort to keep all their sorters and packers busy.

Firm F made a large saving of labor by combining the jobs of the sorter and packer. Each worker was both sorter and packer. As stalks were selected from the chain they were placed