

and in arranging the tops in the package. These three factors were each measured by grading each of the 511 crates examined. Five letters, A, B, C, D and E, were used on the record form to indicate, respectively, "excellent," "good," "fair," "poor," "very poor." These were averaged by assigning arbitrary weights to each grade.¹⁷ Very little difference was found in the quality of job done in facing the packages, sizing the celery, or arranging the tops in the package under the various systems of sorting and packing. The three firms which used one packer for one sorter, but on occasion used two packers for each sorter, did the poorest job of facing the crates and sizing the celery.

In general, a slightly poorer job was done in facing the package, sizing the celery and arranging the tops in the package by the two firms using the system of packing directly from the belt into the crate. However, these same firms did a more accurate job of packing the correct number of stalks per crate. In view of this, and the fact that direct packing saves a tremendous amount of labor, other Florida firms would do well to consider the adoption of the direct packing technique. It can certainly be used to advantage for the less common sizes, on which a tremendous amount of labor per stalk is expended.

The direct packing method, insofar as the more common sizes are concerned, probably works best when there are two or three packers packing the same sizes. In this way there is less danger of a given size being allowed to pass by the packer while an empty crate is being placed in position.

LENGTH AND ARRANGEMENT OF PACKING CHAINS

The number of packing tables along the packing chain depends upon the length of the chain. The larger the number of tables, the greater is the flexibility in adjusting the number of packers for any given size. Such flexibility is important in the efficient use of labor. The proportion of celery in the various sizes varies markedly between different fields and types of celery. Golden type celery runs heavily to sizes 4 and 6-dozen to the crate while Pascal type runs more heavily to the larger sizes (Table 35). Of the Golden celery, 22 percent of the crates contained 8-dozen or smaller sizes, while only 12 percent of the crates of Pascal were of these small sizes. If space on the chain is limited so that only one worker can pack each size, the output of all the workers on the chain is limited by the size in greatest

¹⁷ See Tables 3, 4, and 5 of Appendix C.