

which may have been equally important early or late in the season, was that celery may have been of such poor quality that there was little benefit to be gained from Federal-State inspection.

Of the Golden and Pascal celery shipped during 1945, approximately the same proportions of the various grade classifications were handled. About three-fourths of both Golden and Pascal celery met the requirements for U. S. No. 1 grade (Table 43). The 80-89% U. S. No. 1 grade was next in importance, accounting for about 13 to 14 percent of shipments. The 70-79% U. S. No. 1 grade ranked third with 4.5 to 5.5 percent. Only about 2 percent of both types were in the U. S. No. 2 grade classifications. The three grade classifications "U. S. No. 1," "80-89% U. S. No. 1," and "70-79% U. S. No. 1," thus accounted for nearly 95 percent of all celery shipments. Many comparisons between grades must obviously be limited to these three classifications.

Although three-fourths of the Golden type celery graded U. S. No. 1 during the season, the proportion which met that grade each month varied considerably (Table 44). In general, as the season progressed more and more celery failed to meet the standards for U. S. No. 1 grade. In December over 98 percent of the Golden celery graded U. S. No. 1, compared with only about 47 percent in May and 32 percent in June. During the spring months growing conditions are less favorable. Consequently, a higher proportion of the celery falls into the lower grade classification. During February, the peak month of shipments for Golden celery, 87.4 percent graded U. S. No. 1. About 18 percent graded 80-89% U. S. No. 1 in March, and about 30 percent during April and May. One-fourth of the shipments during June graded under 80% U. S. No. 2. This was poorly developed celery with short midribs.

Average net seasonal prices to shippers were lowest during the months when the greatest volume was shipped and when a large proportion of the celery graded U. S. No. 1. During the peak of the shipping season quality was at a peak. When the supply was scarce, however, prices were relatively high despite the fact that the quality was low. During the peak months when shipments of Golden celery averaged 87 percent U. S. No. 1 grade, prices received for that grade averaged \$3.21 per crate, compared with \$2.87 for the 80-89% U. S. No. 1 grade, or a price differential of 34 cents per crate (Table 45). In March,