

farmers in the area in arriving at a final figure. They represent the practices and yields most common in the area under normal conditions of weather and prices. Improved practices are based on experimental data and experiences of farmers and agricultural workers as to the most efficient fertilization, seeding rates, and insect and disease control programs.⁷ Rates of production under improved practices are those that could be expected if the improved practices were used, normal weather prevailed, and the cost and price relationships were about the same as existed in 1951.

Seed and Fertilizer.—Table 22 gives normal and improved rates of fertilization and seeding for principal crops grown in the area. In general, it would be desirable for the average farmer to increase the application of fertilizer on most crops. This is especially true of those crops that are grown less frequently in the area at the present time. In the case of strawberries, farmers are normally applying adequate amounts of complete fertilizer and top dressing, but it would be desirable to use 1,000 pounds of castor pomace per acre.

Insect and Disease Control.—Table 23 gives normal and improved amounts of poison materials for insect and disease control. The materials and amounts under improved practices are not meant to be recommendations. They represent the practices that agricultural workers and experienced farmers consider necessary to give an adequate control program. The amounts are based on the number of applications usually applied and cover the common diseases and insects. Materials for controlling diseases and insects that are encountered only occasionally are not included. Farmers are already following some program of insect and disease control on most crops. The main difference between normal and improved practices is that more effective materials are to be used. The value of any control

⁷Improved practices are based on the recommendation of the Experiment Station and Extension Service. In some cases, general recommendations were adjusted for the Plant City area where the experience of agricultural workers and leading farmers indicated such adjustments were desirable. Rates of production with improved practices are those that agricultural workers and leading farmers in the Plant City area thought farmers could expect if improved practices as indicated were used and there were no extreme variations in weather. For a discussion and recommendations for various crops see "Strawberries in Florida Culture, Diseases and Insects," Florida Agricultural Experiment Station bulletin 148 by A. N. Brooks and E. G. Kelsheimer, Production Guides for Peppers, Squash and Tomatoes, and issues of the Vegetarian published by the Agricultural Extension Service and Handbook on Pesticides and their use in Florida Agriculture.