

Chapter 17. Yields of Vegetables

D.N. Maynard and B.M. Santos

Average yields of vegetables are of interest to growers, Extension agents, regulatory agencies, and others. They may be used to compare crop performance on an individual farm with the state average; as one basis for selecting alternative crops for a farm; or for settlement of claims resulting from natural causes or failure of a product to perform as advertised.

The commercial yields in Table 1 are statewide 10-year averages. Use of the 10-year average minimizes the effects of annual fluctuations due to weather or market conditions. At the same time, regular yield increases over the period due to improved varieties or cultural practices are masked by the 10-year average. In addition, use of statewide averages masks differences in yields from various Florida production areas.

The experimental yields in Table 1 are from variety trials conducted in various parts of the state for the number

of experiments indicated for each vegetable. The 10 highest yielding varieties in each trial were used to calculate an average for that trial, and all trials were combined to develop an overall average which is shown in the table. The validity of the experimental yield increases with the number of experiments. Experimental yields have the same deficiencies as commercially-reported yields except that they are not subject to the effects of depressed markets or lapses in the reporting system. Yields from experimental plots are almost always higher than those from commercial fields because of the greater control of plant growth factors that can be achieved in small plots and the absence of the effects of depressed markets.

With all of the above-stated qualifications, it is apparent that these yield figures, although useful, are guidelines rather than absolute figures, and they must be used judiciously.

Table 1. Yields of vegetables in Florida.

| Crop | Range | Average Yield per acre | Unit | Comments |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Bush Bean | 138-278 | 204 | 30-lb bu | 10-yr state average |
| | | 175 | 30-lb bu | Avg. of 7 expts. |
| Broccoli | | 486 | 23-lb crate | Avg. of 13 expts. |
| Cabbage | 488-732 | 567 | 50-lb crate | 10-yr state average |
| | | 1148 | 50-lb crate | Avg. of 7 expts. |
| Carrot | | 279 | 48 1-lb bags | 10-yr state average |
| | | 485 | 48 1-lb bags | Avg. of 4 expts. |
| Cauliflower | | 475 | 25-lb carton | Avg. of 9 expts. |
| Celery | | 668 | 60-lb crate | 10-yr state average |
| | | 1120 | 60-lb crate | Avg. of 19 expts. |
| Chinese Cabbage (napa) | | 895 | 50-lb crate | Avg. of 6 expts. |
| Chinese Cabbage (bok-choi) | | 410 | 50-lb crate | Avg. of 5 expts. |
| Collards | | 1145 | 25-lb crate | Avg. of 8 expts. |
| Corn, sweet | 243-353 | 312 | 42 lb crate | 10-yr state average |
| | | 385 | 42-lb crate | Avg. of 20 expts. |
| Cucumber | 420-694 | 537 | 55-lb 1 1/9 bu | 10-yr state average |
| | | 415 | 55-lb 1 1/9 bu | Avg. of 11 expts. |
| Eggplant | 639-853 | 761 | 33-lb bu | 10-yr state average |
| | | 550 | 33-lb bu | Avg. of 2 expts. |
| Escarole | | 581 | 25-lb crate | 10-yr state average |
| Honeydew melon | | 185 | cwt | Avg. of 6 expts. |

Table 1. Continued.

| Crop | Range | Average Yield per acre | Unit | Comments |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Leek | | 368 | cwt | Avg. of 3 expts. |
| Lettuce (crisphead) | | 1065 | 50-lb carton | Avg. of 3 expts. |
| Lettuce (romaine) | | 990 | 22-lb carton | Avg. of 2 expts. |
| Muskmelon | | 325 | cwt | Avg. of 17 expts. |
| Okra | | 770 | 30-lb bu | Avg. of 2 expts. |
| Onion (sweet, dry) | | 635 | 50-lb bag | Avg. of 10 expts. |
| Pepper (bell) | 789-1210 | 1052 | 28-lb bu | 10-yr state average |
| | | 1135 | 28-lb bu | Avg. of 15 expts. |
| Pepper (cubanelle) | | 1075 | 25-lb bu | Avg. of 3 expts. |
| Potato, Irish | 181-308 | 235 | cwt | 10-yr state average |
| | | 285 | cwt | Avg. of 11 expts. |
| Pumpkin | | 195 | cwt | Avg. of 6 expts. |
| Pumpkin (mini) | | 123 | cwt | Avg. of 3 expts. |
| Radicchio | | 1300 | 10-lb carton | Avg. of 4 expts. |
| Radish | 256-486 | 340 | 15-lb carton | 10-yr state average |
| | | 465 | 15-lb carton | Avg. of 1 expt. |
| Snowpea | | 815 | 10-lb carton | Avg. of 1 expt. |
| Southernpea | | 1725 | lb seed | Avg. of 4 expts. |
| Squash (zucchini) | 210-346 | 284 | 42-lb bu | 10-yr state average |
| | | 495 | 42-lb bu | Avg. of 9 expts. |
| Squash (yellow summer) | 210-346 | 284 | 42-lb bu | 10-yr state average |
| | | 430 | 42-lb bu | Avg. of 8 expts. |
| Squash (acorn) | | 205 | cwt | Avg. of 4 expts. |
| Squash (butternut) | | 200 | cwt | Avg. of 4 expts. |
| Sweetpotato | | 1480 | 50-lb carton | Avg. of 2 expts. |
| Strawberry | 2167-2917 | 2391 | 12-lb flat | 10-yr state average |
| | | 2440 | 12-lb flat | Avg. of 4 expts. |
| Tomato (staked) | 1250-1591 | 1416 | 25-lb carton | 10-yr state average |
| | | 2275 | 25-lb carton | Avg. of 24 expts |
| Tomato (cherry) | | 4010 | 15-lb flat | Avg. of 2 expts. |
| Tomato (plum) | | 1475 | 25-lb carton | Avg. of 2 expts. |
| Watermelon (icebox) | | 510 | cwt | Avg. of 2 expts. |
| Watermelon (seedless) | | 655 | cwt | Avg. of 10 expts. |
| Watermelon (standard) | 200-320 | 252 | cwt | 10-yr state average |
| | | 545 | cwt | Avg. of 17 expts. |