

Wintery blast launches strawberry season

When you bite into the delicate, sweet strawberry, you could hardly think nature's first winter rose would be so brightly in the winter clime. Florida brings the first berries to market as early as January and sometimes late December, California, the major commercial supplier, begins shipping in February.

Usually by January, temperatures in Florida are a mild 60 to 70 degrees. But this year was unusually cold. Even so, winds that pelted a freezing blast on Florida's more than 3,000-acre strawberry patch, did little to slow harvest by two weeks, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture market reporter.

Florida growers saved their crop by sprinkling the plants with water to form an icy protective covering when temperatures dropped, explained G. Pelton Pittman, federal-state market news reporter at North Palm Beach, Fla.

Pittman's office keeps track of the volume and price of berries being shipped by air and truck across the United States from the Plant City-Bunka-Palmetto growing area. His counterpart in California takes a daily tally during strawberry season to update information on supply, demand and prices which is needed by wholesalers, growers and others. This information is gathered through the market news program administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

Currently, the amount of strawberries shipped from Florida is only about half of what it was last year at this time, said Pittman. But California growers are sending berries farther and sooner than ever before.

By the second week in February, 27,000 flats were being shipped per day from the Florida area, a figure which should grow to 100,000 when the season peaks in early March to mid-April, said Pittman. Florida utilizes about 10 percent of its crop and ships the rest across the United States, to Canada and into European markets.

The berries, which must be picked by hand, are packed 12 plants to a flat. Approximately 200 flats are loaded on a pallet for shipment by truck and into a "car" for shipment by air. This protects the berries from damage and helps maintain freshness.

During the slow winter season from December through March, Mexico also supplies strawberries for the fresh market. However, Mexico's processing or frozen strawberry exports are far greater than fresh shipments.

Strawberries in Florida are adapted to various climates are native to every major continent except Africa and Australia.

Commercial production in the United States began in the early 1800s in the vicinity of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. Strawberry cultivation moved with industrialization across the country and is now practiced in every state.

per-acre yields above the past two years. Average yield has been low for both the '79 and '80 crops. Though it gained 127 pounds average last year and was up to about 2,000 pounds.

Unfavorable growing conditions, with drought and disease two years in a row brought storage stocks to alarming levels, and resulted in a 7.5 percent national quota increase. Under normal production this would mean a crop of 601 million pounds, and an effective quota of 560 million pounds to reflect 1979 and 1980 under-marketing.

The burley community has been disturbed over rumors of non-quota Maryland burley being introduced into southern states, to be grown and marketed without price support. The Burley Growers Coop is watching and checking, especially on the legal aspects of the movement.

Maryland type tobacco closely resembles burley. It is grown and marketed outside the support program and without restrictions. Trade rumors say that where Maryland tobacco seed is undesirable burley seed is being substituted, resulting in a threat of non-quota burley being grown and marketed as Maryland. This would make serious inroads on legitimate production in the traditional burley belt.

Some "good news-bad news" reports were in the March 1981 "Situation" publication issued by the USDA this week at Washington. The "good news" listed burley as the only leaf type showing export gains for 1980 over the previous year. U.S. burley exports hit a record 115 million pounds for the crop year ending Sept. 30, 1980.

But burley officials say any rejailing over this is dampened by cigarette leaf imports into the United States, which seem to be gaining steadily each year. Last year burley grown abroad and shipped into the U.S. amounted to 46 million pounds, a gain of 220 percent over 1979 imports.

Meanwhile the tobacco program is standing up well under fire from its critics. Some banks in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and Missouri burley counties have been sponsoring half-price ads in local newspapers. "Texts of the ads were furnished by the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative.

More fields, higher yields hoped for '81 Burley crop

By Bennett Branch

Hailed by tobacco leaders as an emergency effort, production has begun on what is hoped to be a whopper burley crop for 1981. Growers are accepting the challenge and plucking in the industry-wide do-or-die drive to build up depleted burley stocks and supplies.

The Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association is getting reports of increased planting plans from around its five-state area. More plant beds than usual are in evidence, and acreage increases of 15 to 20 percent are indicated in the number of plowed fields earmarked for tobacco.

Recent rains over the belt have brought timely aid for plant growth. Some farmers are hopeful of boosting

More fields, higher yields hoped for '81 Burley crop

per-acre yields above the past two years. Average yield has been low for both the '79 and '80 crops. Though it gained 127 pounds average last year and was up to about 2,000 pounds.

Unfavorable growing conditions, with drought and disease two years in a row brought storage stocks to alarming levels, and resulted in a 7.5 percent national quota increase. Under normal production this would mean a crop of 601 million pounds, and an effective quota of 560 million pounds to reflect 1979 and 1980 under-marketing.

The burley community has been disturbed over rumors of non-quota Maryland burley being introduced into southern states, to be grown and marketed without price support. The Burley Growers Coop is watching and checking, especially on the legal aspects of the movement.

Maryland type tobacco closely resembles burley. It is grown and marketed outside the support program and without restrictions. Trade rumors say that where Maryland tobacco seed is undesirable burley seed is being substituted, resulting in a threat of non-quota burley being grown and marketed as Maryland. This would make serious inroads on legitimate production in the traditional burley belt.

Some "good news-bad news" reports were in the March 1981 "Situation" publication issued by the USDA this week at Washington. The "good news" listed burley as the only leaf type showing export gains for 1980 over the previous year. U.S. burley exports hit a record 115 million pounds for the crop year ending Sept. 30, 1980.

But burley officials say any rejailing over this is dampened by cigarette leaf imports into the United States, which seem to be gaining steadily each year. Last year burley grown abroad and shipped into the U.S. amounted to 46 million pounds, a gain of 220 percent over 1979 imports.

Meanwhile the tobacco program is standing up well under fire from its critics. Some banks in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and Missouri burley counties have been sponsoring half-price ads in local newspapers. "Texts of the ads were furnished by the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative.

per-acre yields above the past two years. Average yield has been low for both the '79 and '80 crops. Though it gained 127 pounds average last year and was up to about 2,000 pounds.

Unfavorable growing conditions, with drought and disease two years in a row brought storage stocks to alarming levels, and resulted in a 7.5 percent national quota increase. Under normal production this would mean a crop of 601 million pounds, and an effective quota of 560 million pounds to reflect 1979 and 1980 under-marketing.

The burley community has been disturbed over rumors of non-quota Maryland burley being introduced into southern states, to be grown and marketed without price support. The Burley Growers Coop is watching and checking, especially on the legal aspects of the movement.

Maryland type tobacco closely resembles burley. It is grown and marketed outside the support program and without restrictions. Trade rumors say that where Maryland tobacco seed is undesirable burley seed is being substituted, resulting in a threat of non-quota burley being grown and marketed as Maryland. This would make serious inroads on legitimate production in the traditional burley belt.

Some "good news-bad news" reports were in the March 1981 "Situation" publication issued by the USDA this week at Washington. The "good news" listed burley as the only leaf type showing export gains for 1980 over the previous year. U.S. burley exports hit a record 115 million pounds for the crop year ending Sept. 30, 1980.

But burley officials say any rejailing over this is dampened by cigarette leaf imports into the United States, which seem to be gaining steadily each year. Last year burley grown abroad and shipped into the U.S. amounted to 46 million pounds, a gain of 220 percent over 1979 imports.

Meanwhile the tobacco program is standing up well under fire from its critics. Some banks in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and Missouri burley counties have been sponsoring half-price ads in local newspapers. "Texts of the ads were furnished by the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative.

Now Open
Hair Hut
 Family Barber Shop
 228 Locust - Formerly Crouch's
 Joan Morris, Barber-Stylist
 Open Tues.-Fri. 8-5, Sat. 7-3
 289-7085

Remember your Secretary
 with a floral tribute
 from
Carol'n John's
 National Secretary, Week, April 20-26
 Phone 289-2717

We have a charming array of colorful, fresh cut flowers, silk/dried flowers, green plants and gifts to help you remember this occasion.

FOODTOWN **EASTER SAVINGS BLOOM**

C & G
 from 10 to 22 lb. turkeys Swift
 Butterball Turkeys lb. 89¢
 U.S. Choice, 4 to 5 lb. avg.
 Leg of Lamb lb. \$2.59
 U.S. Choice Beef
 Bottom Round Roast lb. \$2.29
 U.S. Choice Beef
 Bottom Round Steak lb. \$2.29
 U.S. Choice
 Eye of Round Roast lb. \$2.99

Dole Pineapple
 Chunk, Crushed, Sliced
 20 oz. can. In Heavy Syrup
69¢

Ground Chuck (3 lbs. or more)
 Boneless, 5 to 9 lb. avg.
Armour Hams lb. \$1.99
 (Halves, 3 to 5 lb. avg., lb. \$2.09)

Partridge Bacon lb. \$1.39

Whole Hog
Webber's Sausage lb. \$1.59
 (2 lb. pkg. \$3.17)

Armour Golden Star Dressing, 10 to 14 lb. avg.
Fresh Turkeys lb. 79¢

Smuckers 18 oz. jar
Grape Jam & Jelly
49¢ 89¢

Reynolds Wrap 25 ft.
49¢

Hersey Almonds 1 1/2 lb. \$1.19
Mr. Goodbar 1 1/2 lb. \$1.19
Reese Cup 1 1/2 lb. \$1.19
Kit Kat 1 1/2 lb. \$1.19
Whatchamacallit 1 1/2 lb. \$1.19

M&M's 16 oz. bag \$1.89
Reese Crunchy 1 1/2 lb. \$1.19
Hersey Kisses 1 1/2 lb. \$1.19
Milk Chocolate 1 1/2 lb. \$1.19

Krispy Crackers 16 oz. bag \$1.69
Job Squad Towels 16 oz. bag \$1.69

FOODTOWN COUPON

Fudge Family Brownie 99¢	Betty Crocker Box Frostings 99¢	Imperial Margarine 69¢	Saniflush 89¢	RC Cola, Diet Rite \$1.29
Bakers Coconut \$1.29	Tomato Ketchup 79¢	Dishwasher All \$1.89	Woolite Liquid \$1.59	Heinz Pork & Beans 3/89¢
Angel Food Cake Mix \$1.19	Mrs. Butterworth's Syrup \$1.49	Lifebuoy Soap 3/\$1	Sno Bowl Bowl Cleaner 69¢	Patridge Frontier Ham \$1.69
Betty Crocker Cake Mix 2/\$1.19	Mug-O-Lunch 2/89¢	Final Touch \$1.89	Heinz Baby Food 7/\$1	Orange or Grape Crush \$1.29

FOODTOWN **EASTER SAVINGS BLOOM**

C & G
Health & Beauty Aids
 Alka Seltzer 36 oz. \$1.69
 50's & 30's Shee & Plastic, Large & Wide
 Band Aids \$1.19
 Suppositor & Plus Suppositor
 Maalox 12 oz. \$2.19
 Reg. & Condition Shampoo, 7 oz.
 Head & Shoulders \$1.89
 Reg. (Mist) 6.4 oz. tube
 Crest Toothpaste \$1.39
 Skin Cream
 Noxema 6 oz. \$1.69

Large Eggs
 Grade A
69¢

Idaho Potatoes 10 lb. \$2.59
Celery Large Bunch 49¢

Green Giant Sale
 Cut Asparagus 10 oz. 99¢
 K.S. Green Beans 16 oz. 2/89¢
 Cut Green Beans 16 oz. 2/89¢
 F.S. Green Beans 16 oz. 2/89¢
 Niblets W.K. Corn 12 oz. 2/89¢
 Yellow W.K. Corn 17 oz. 2/89¢
 Golden C.S. Corn 17 oz. 2/89¢
 Canned Peas No. 303 can 2/89¢
 100% Veg. Oil
 Whole & Sliced Mushrooms 59¢

California Carrots
 2 lb. 69¢

Cottage Cheese
 Borden 24 oz. Small & Large Curd
59¢

Parkay Quarters
 2 lb. 69¢

Betty Crocker 16.5 oz. (11 Varieties)
 RTS Frosting \$1.09
 Pet Rit Z Shells
G.E. Light Bulbs, 4/119
 Pie Shells 69¢

Lloyd J. Harris
 3 Inch
Apple & Peach Pies
 \$1.39

Minute Maid
 Chilled 64 oz.
Orange Juice
 \$1.99

FOODTOWN COUPON

Fudge Brownie Supreme \$1.39	Wesson Oil \$1.89	Potato Noodles 89¢	Kix Cereal 79¢	Count Chocola \$1.19
Gold Medal Flour 79¢	Pam \$1.59	Wheaties \$1.19	Post Toasties Corn Flakes 89¢	Frankenberry Cereal \$1.19
Bakers Chips 99¢	Maxwell House Coffee \$4.89	Honey Grahams 89¢	Booberry Cereal \$1.19	Betty Crocker Snack Cake 99¢
Birdseye Cool Whip 59¢	Hunt's Tomato Sauce 5/\$1.09	Vanilla Wafers 69¢	Fruit Brute Cereal \$1.19	Walnut Family Brownie \$1.49

Red Ripe Fresh Strawberries
 Pint **69¢**

Select Cucumbers 2/59¢
Yellow Onions 2 lb. 89¢

Sweet Pickles 1 1/2 qt. \$1.39
Sweet Spears 99¢
Stuffed Olives 99¢
Cascade 50 oz. box \$1.99
Fresh Start 1.79

Smucker's Fresh Pack 16 oz. jar
Sweet Spears 99¢
Kosher Dill Spears 99¢
Nabisco Triscuit 89¢
Nabisco 3'S
Wheat Thins 89¢