



**AgEcon** SEARCH  
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

*The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library*

**This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.**

**Help ensure our sustainability.**

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

May, 1948.

### FRUIT.

#### Rates for Apples Increase.

Offerings of apples from New South Wales growing districts were lighter during the month under review. Choice large coloured dessert lines, in particular, were scarce and met a keen retail demand at higher prices. However, good grade fruit, and fancy grade lacking in colour, were neglected by buyers. In addition to local supplies, moderate quantities were available from Victoria and fairly large shipments came to hand from Tasmania. Representative quotations were as follow: *New South Wales*: Delicious 10s. to 18s., large coloured to 22s., late sales to 25s.; Jonathan 8s. to 16s., choice large to 20s., few 22s.; Rome Beauty 10s. to 16s., odd higher; Statesman 10s. to 14s., few 16s.; Stayman's Winesap 10s. to 16s., few 18s.; Granny Smith 8s. to 16s., late sales special to 18s. *Victorian*: Delicious and Jonathan 8s. to 14s., few 16s.; Rome Beauty 8s. to 12s., special to 14s., few 15s. *Tasmanian*: Delicious 10s. to 16s.; Jonathan 11s. to 13s., few special coloured 14s. to 15s.; Scarlet Pearmain and Geeveston Fanny 9s. to 12s.; Cleopatra 10s. to 12s.; London Pippin 9s. per bushel case.

#### Market for Pears Slightly Easier.

The improvement in values for pears recorded in last report was maintained during the first half of the current month, but an easier tendency was apparent in the third week and values reverted to those ruling during the greater part of April. Main realisations ranged according to size as follow: *New South Wales*: Packham's Triumph 8s. to 16s., early sales to 18s.; Beurre Bosc 8s. to 14s. few 15s.; Winter Cole 10s. to 16s.; Josephine 8s. to 14s., few 15s.; Winter Nelis 7s. to 12s., few 14s.; Keiffer 6s. to 10s., few 12s. *Victorian*: Packham's Triumph 8s. to 14s., special 15s. to 16s., few early sales to 18s.; Winter Cole 10s. to 15s., few 16s.; Josephine 7s. to 14s.; Beurre Bosc 10s. to 14s. per bushel case.

#### Offerings of Grapes Dwindle.

A gradual decline both in the size and quality of consignments of grapes from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and other inland growing districts was apparent. Values showed little alteration from those quoted previously, but had a firmer tendency towards the end of the month. Final quotations for Cornichon and Ohanez ranged from 10s to 16s. per half-case, with odd special higher.

**Bananas Considerably Dearer.**

Offering of coloured bananas from Northern New South Wales and Queensland continued to be insufficient for the requirements of the retail trade. Prices, which advanced sharply at opening, were well maintained throughout the month, some special large fruit bringing the maximum price of 48s., which has been imposed voluntarily by sellers since fixed maximum price regulations for bananas were suspended last year. Quotations covered a wide range according to colour, grading and quality, but representative prices were as follow:—Cavendish 9 inch and 8 inch 36s. to 44s., special to 48s., sevens 30s. to 40s., few to 44s., sixes 24s. to 34s., few 36s., small and inferior lower; Lady Finger 15s. to 25s., large to 30s., few special to 35s. per banana case.

**Rapid Increase in Supplies of Navel Oranges.**

Consignments of Navel oranges from coastal districts increased rapidly during the first few days of the month and, by the close of the second week, stocks were well in excess of retail requirements. Although opening quotations were as much as 20s., with odd sales higher, the market settled quickly to a maximum of 12s. per bushel case. For the balance of the period, main sales ranged from 7s. to 10s., with only choicest fruit to 12s. A fairly large carry-over remained on agents' floors at conclusion of trading on most days. Silettas brought as much as 12s. early, but in general were slow of sale at quotations varying from 3s. to 6s. The last few lines of second crop Valencias to come to hand met with practically no inquiry. Queensland Navels arrived mainly in good condition, and fruit from the Gayndah district, in particular, cleared well at from 10s. to 18s., with special brands to 22s. and early sales as high as 30s. Stocks from other Queensland districts were less popular at from 6s. to 12s., with early sales to 16s., per bushel case.

**Lemons Mainly Over-Supplied.**

Early in the period values for lemons were fairly well maintained and best packs brought from 10s. to 14s. per bushel. During the last two weeks of the month, however, stocks were far in excess of retail requirements and, although sellers were able to obtain as much as 8s. from the trade for single cases of selected counts, they were unable to find large scale buyers, even at prices ranging from 3s. to 5s. Moderate purchases by processors during the last week reduced the carry-over, but stocks continued to be in excess of the demand. Queensland lemons from Gayndah brought as much as 22s. and occasionally to 26s. early in the period, but rates later declined to range from 10s. to 16s. per bushel.

**New Season Mandarins Available.**

Moderate supplies of Imperial mandarins came to hand and sold steadily at 5s. to 8s., with choice large to 10s., and occasionally to 12s. per half-case. Wallents were less popular at from 5s. to 8s. Light consignments of Emperors were received late in the month and sold well at from 10s. to 16s., with a few special to 18s. per bushel case. In addition, some Queensland Glen Retreats were available at from 18s. to 30s. and Emperors at from 10s. to 20s.

**Choice Passionfruit Cheaper.**

Stocks of medium to good grade passionfruit continued to be sufficient for requirements and brought from 8s. to 16s. per half-case. Considerable quantities were cleared to factory buyers. Choice and special lots were more plentiful than previously and realised mainly from 18s. to 20s., with occasional early sales to 24s.

**Choice Queensland Papaws Generally Scarce and Dearer.**

Only 2,290 tropical cases of papaws were received from Queensland during the month. Early in the period, choice coloured fruit was available in moderate quantities and prices ranged from 16s. to 25s. per case. Subsequently, however, a large percentage of consignments arrived in a green condition and some lines showing no colour were unsaleable. Main realisations again varied from 15s. to 25s., but quotations for best packs advanced to 30s.

**Pineapples Slightly Cheaper.**

Offerings of pineapples from Queensland were heavier and totalled 23,440 tropical cases, including 1,240 from Northern Queensland. Prices showed considerable fluctuation, but in general were slightly lower than those ruling during the previous month. At opening as much as 26s. and occasionally 30s. was obtained for best packs, but, subsequently, rates declined, realisations seldom exceeding 18s. during the third week. A slightly firmer tendency was apparent at closing when main sales ranged from 10s. to 20s., with a few special 22s. to 24s. The percentage of popular counts included was smaller than previously and sellers experienced some difficulty in disposing of very large and very small sizes.

**Other Queensland Consignments.**

In addition to pineapples and papaws, the following quantities of fruit were included in consignments from Queensland:— Bananas, 8,902 cases; Custard Apples, 4,920 half-bushel cases; Citrus, 13,144 bushel cases.

**Other Fruit.**

Representative quotations for other main lines were as follow: Grapefruit (N.S.W.), 4s. to 8s., few special 10s., odd 12s. (Qld.) Gayndah, 10s. to 16s., few 18s.; Other districts, 6s. to 12s.; Quinces, 4s. to 8s., few 10s. per bushel case; Persimmons, 1s. to 5s.; Guavas, 5s. to 14s.; Custard Apples (Qld.), 4s. to 10s., early sales to 15s.; Avocados (Qld.), Fuerte and similar 8s. to 12s., few to 15s.; Other varieties 3s. to 6s., few to 8s., inferior lower, per half-bushel case. Honey Dews (M.I.A.), 12s. to 14s. per crate.

## VEGETABLES.

### **Peas and Beans Scarce Towards Closing.**

Offerings of peas and beans were light throughout the greater part of the month and particularly during the last two weeks. The shortage was due in part to normal seasonal conditions, western and southern production being replaced by that from more northern areas. In addition, however, recent floods have caused damage and delay in northern plantings, whilst unusually cold weather has retarded growth of new crops and has terminated production in other districts more abruptly than usual.

### **Peas Generally Dearer.**

Supplies of peas comprised approximately 21,000 bags consigned to agents by New South Wales growers and only 265 from Victoria. Early in the month, quotations ranged mainly from 16s. to 28s. per bushel, with odd sales to 32s. Quality covered a wide range, many frost and weather-damaged lines being included. Subsequently, quality improved as stocks were drawn mainly from near-metropolitan and northern districts, but daily offerings were lighter. Late realisations varied mainly from 24s. to 34s., with occasional sales to 38s. The consignments from Victoria were of medium quality only, and brought from 20s. to 24s. per bushel.

### **Realisations for Beans Much Higher.**

Only small quantities of beans were available in the producers' market to supplement the 16,500 bags consigned to agents. Early quotations ranged principally from 8s. to 18s. per bushel, with occasional sales to 20s. A sharp advance occurred on 20th May and prices subsequently were maintained at high levels, best lines bringing from 28s. to 32s. and occasionally to 35s. Only 85 cases were received from Queensland. Early prices ranged from 8s. to 14s., but as much as 30s. was obtained for choicest lines late in the month.

### **Rates for Cabbages Remain at Moderate Levels.**

Throughout the greater part of the period under review, offerings of cabbages in the producers' section were ample for the requirements of the retail trade and realisations varied mainly from 3s. to 8s. per dozen, according to size and quality. In the last week, however, a gradual advance was apparent from day to day and final quotations for choice large heads ranged from 14s. to 16s.

### **Cauliflowers Dear Towards Closing.**

During the early part of the month offerings of cauliflowers on most trading days were fairly large and prices remained at moderate levels, ranging mainly from 2s. to 12s., with choice large to 18s. On occasions of temporary scarcity as much as 24s. was obtained. During the final week, however, receipts were smaller and, as a result also of the shortage of peas and beans, prices reached much higher levels, selected heads bringing from 24s. to 30s., with occasional sales to 34s. At all times, however, a wide range of quality was apparent and prices varied accordingly.

**Values for Lettuce Generally Higher.**

The improved values ruling for lettuce at the close of the previous month were maintained throughout the month of May. In the main, realisations varied from 6s. to 14s. per case, but towards closing, a firmer tendency was apparent as a result of lighter supplies, and best packs brought 16s., with occasional sales to 20s.

**Ripe Tomatoes Scarce at Closing.**

Supplies of coloured tomatoes from near-metropolitan growing areas were only moderate on most trading days, but demand from the retail trade was limited as a result of the cool weather and values showed little fluctuation, ranging mainly, according to size and quality, from 8s. to 18s., with choice large fruit to 20s. per half-case. In the final week, however, fully ripened fruit was less plentiful and brought as much as 24s., with odd sales to 28s. Stocks of semi-coloured, however, continued to be sufficient for requirements and seldom realised more than 20s. Consignments from Queensland increased gradually throughout the period, a total of 16,850 half-bushel cases being received from the Bowen district of Northern Queensland and 2,750 from southern areas. Demand was good, northern lots bringing from 10s. to 16s., with a few special to 18s., except for one inferior consignment during the second week which was quoted mainly at from 5s. to 10s. Southern lots were quoted mainly at from 8s. to 16s., only a few fully-ripened packs bringing as much as 20s. at closing.

**Fairly Heavy Supplies of Brussels Sprouts.**

Supplies of Brussels sprouts from Victoria were fairly heavy, but demand was good owing to the shortage of green vegetables. Rates varied mainly from 6s. to 12s. during the first three weeks, but towards closing from 10s. to 16s. per 12 lb. box was obtained. Small quantities were received from New South Wales growing areas and brought from 6s. to 10s. per 12 lb. lot, with late sales to 12s.

**Other Main Vegetable Lines.**

Representative ranges of prices for other main lines of vegetables were as follow: Carrots, 14s. to 26s., occasional sales to 32s., odd 36s.; Parsnips (N.S.W.), 14s. to 22s., occasional sales to 28s., odd sales to 40s., (Vic), 16s. to 22s., occasional sales to 34s., odd sales to 40s.; Potatoes: No. 1 grade, 10s. (fixed maximum price); Onions (Vic.) Brown, 22s. 6d. to 23s. 6d., White, 23s. 6d. (23s. 6d. is fixed maximum price); Swedes (N.S.W.), 8s. to 16s., few special to 20s. (Tas.), 12s. to 16s., few to 20s.; Pumpkins, 7s. to 9s., few sales to 12s.; Sweet potatoes, 8s. to 18s., few early sales to 36s. per cwt.; Celery (local), 8s. to 15s., few special to 20s., per dozen bunches; (South Australian) 18s. to 28s., few special brands to 32s. per crate. Cucumbers (Qld.), green, 6s. to 8s., few 10s., odd 12s., per half-bushel case.

T. M. McKEON.