

Cantaloupes

Although cantaloupes are raised for commercial shipment in many states, the bulk of the shipments originate in 16 states, which furnish nearly 98 per cent of the total. With the exception of Indiana, Michigan and Colorado, all of the more important shipping states are in the southern half of the United States.

California is by far the largest shipper of cantaloupes. The average annual shipments from this state alone during the three years amounted to 16,267 carloads, or nearly 57 per cent of the average annual shipments of 28,679 cars for all states combined during the same period. Colorado ranked second with 3,151 cars; Arizona, third, with 2,689 cars; Arkansas, fourth, with 1,142 cars, and Maryland, fifth, with 1,033 cars.

MONTHLY SHIPMENTS OF CANTALOUPE IN CARLOADS

Origin State	Year Total	Average 3 years 1924, 1925 and 1926												
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Calif. ..	16,267	..	..	..	..	2,795	9,015	3,527	907	23	..	..	..
Ariz. ..	2,689	..	..	..	..	1	253	2,426	9	..	..	..	..
Tex.	458	..	..	..	..	2	32	20	100	295	9	..	..
Okla. ...	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	16	..	..	..
Ga.	280	..	..	..	..	..	90	190	..	..	..	..	..
S. C.	107	..	..	..	..	..	3	100	4	..	..	..	..
N. C.	484	..	..	..	..	..	..	441	43	..	..	..	..
Ark.	1,142	..	..	..	..	..	4	898	238	2	..	..	..
Del.	573	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	494	68	..	..	..
Md.	1,033	..	..	..	..	..	..	53	902	78	..	..	..
Ind.	835	..	..	..	..	..	..	249	575	11	..	..	..
Ill.	76	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	51	1	..	..	..
Mich. ...	115	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59	55	1	..	..
Nev.	247	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	101	99	..	..	..
N. M.	577	..	..	..	..	..	..	141	429	7	..	..	..
Colo. ...	3,151	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,093	1,950	102	1	..
Other ..	590	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	86	357	128	11	..
U. S. ...	28,679	2	2,828	9,393	8,332	5,578	2,431	114	1	..

The cantaloupe season is comparatively short, lasting about three months in each state except California and Texas, where it lasts ordinarily four months or longer.

For the United States as a whole the cantaloupe season begins in California in May, and moves gradually northward, opening in the northernmost states and the Rocky Mountain states in August. By the end of October, the season is at an end. The heaviest shipments are during the months of June, July and August. More than 81 per cent of the movement occurs during these three months.

The peak of the season is reached in June, when nearly 33 per cent of the shipments are made. The movement in July is the second largest of the year, with 29 per cent of the annual average movement.

At the height of the season in June, the shipments are almost entirely from California; in July, California and Arizona are the largest shippers; in August, Colorado, California and Maryland are the heaviest shippers; while in September, the greater part of the movement is from Colorado.

The development of the shipping season varies somewhat in the several states. California and Colorado begin their seasons with heavy shipments in the initial month. Each of the other states have moderate shipments in the initial month. In many of the states, shipments increase with great rapidity to a peak, then drop off abruptly. In California the shipments taper off to a greater extent than in most of the other shipping sections.

Ten of the important cantaloupe shipping states, namely, California, Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Arkansas, Maryland, Indiana and Illinois, are also listed among the watermelon shipping states. The season for cantaloupes precedes that for watermelons by approximately one month. The monthly distribution of shipments, on a percentage basis, of these two commodities for the United States are as follows:

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Cantaloupes	9.9%	32.8%	29.0%	19.4%	8.5%	.4%
Watermelons .....	.8%	20.5%	50.8%	23.1%	4.6%	.2%

MONTHLY SHIPMENTS OF CANTALOUPE BY STATE GROUPINGS

Scale—Hundreds of cars

