

White Potatoes

Potatoes are shipped from practically every state in the Union. There are three crops, the late or main crop, the early crop, and the second early crop. The second early crop consists for the most part of the early varieties and is usually considered therefore with the early crop. The late or main crop is produced in the states north of the 39th parallel.

The early crop, sometimes referred to as the supplemental crop, is raised in the Atlantic Coast states from New Jersey south, in the Gulf Coast states, and in Arizona and California. The second early crop is raised in the remaining areas.

The crop movement season for all potatoes extends over a period of sixteen or seventeen months and there is therefore an overlapping of seasons when new potatoes and old potatoes are in the market at the same time.

The following table shows the average monthly shipments of early and second early potatoes during the three years.

MONTHLY SHIPMENTS OF EARLY WHITE POTATOES IN CARLOADS

Average 3 years 1924, 1925 and 1926

Origin State	Year Total	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Calif. . . .	6,594	490	300	183	94	235	835	799	929	988	734	527	480
Fla.	4,776	1	12	173	1,902	2,600	85	2	..	..	..	..	1
Tex.	1,625	13	5	5	581	600	403	8	..	1	2	1	6
La.	1,379	1	..	..	73	804	473	24	1	..	..	..	3
Ala.	2,062	..	..	1	1,194	859	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ga.	391	2	1	..	1	129	229	22	4	1	1	1	..
S. C.	4,720	..	1	..	1,943	2,742	32	2	..	..	..	..	..
N. C.	5,777	5	3	2	2	189	4,456	937	124	50	6	3	..
Va.	18,656	26	18	65	26	8	5,168	11,563	1,406	218	61	59	38
Md.	2,184	32	58	49	44	9	14	1,528	374	31	15	18	12
Okla.	1,914	9	15	..	..	6	1,687	176	2	1	2	10	6
Ark.	505	3	4	1	1	3	439	49	2	..	1	1	1
Mo.	1,244	1	..	..	..	..	8	589	554	75	14	2	1
Kans.	3,866	..	1	1	1	1	38	2,360	1,323	118	18	4	1
Tenn.	262	..	..	1	1	..	102	135	14	5	3	1	..
Ky.	946	6	16	20	8	1	1	307	459	120	6	1	1
N. J.	5,616	9	13	57	12	3	..	149	3,467	1,593	213	89	11
Other	240	14	13	18	16	25	87	38	15	2	5	6	1
Total	62,757	612	460	576	2,763	7,750	17,626	18,725	8,676	3,203	1,081	723	562

The average annual shipments of early and second early potatoes during the period amounted to 62,757 cars. Of this amount Virginia shipped 18,656 cars, or nearly 30 per cent; California, 6,594 cars; North Carolina, 5,777 cars; New Jersey, 5,616 cars; Florida, 4,776 cars, and South Carolina, 4,720 cars.

Each of the states has a definite seasonal movement, but whereas some states make shipments in every month of the year, the shipping season for other states is limited to from five to nine months. For the United States as a whole, the peak movement of early and second early potatoes occurs in June and July. During these two months, 36,351 cars or nearly 58 per cent of the total annual shipment moved to market. February was the month of lightest shipments.

In the following table are shown the average annual shipments of the late potato crop, by states, during the three years. In considering this table, it should be remembered that the figures for some months relate to the movement of both old and new potatoes.

The table shows that with the exception of South Dakota (which made no shipments in July) all of the states indicated made shipments each month in the year. There is, nevertheless, a definite seasonal movement for each state, which varies slightly from those of the others. With the exception of Colorado, Wyoming and Oregon, all have one feature in common, namely, that the month of heaviest shipments was October. For Colorado the largest shipping month was September, although October was very nearly as great; Wyoming and Oregon shipped most heavily in September and November, respectively. For all the states combined, there is a definite minimum movement in July, a definite peak movement in October and an advancing wave from December to a crest in March, with a recession to the low mark in July.

MONTHLY SHIPMENTS OF LATE WHITE POTATOES IN CARLOADS

Average 3 years 1924, 1925 and 1926

Origin State	Year Total	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Colo.	14539	1827	1429	1358	740	648	87	356	799	2615	2515	1233	932
Ida.	15964	1899	1388	2128	1361	657	62	177	792	1510	2446	1912	1632
Nebr.	3994	627	581	374	205	95	17	18	216	471	712	449	229
Minn.	27301	2429	3382	3538	2006	1068	306	181	1399	2973	6741	2342	936
Wis.	16817	2024	1802	1985	1488	1421	496	6	334	1512	2785	1677	1287
N. D.	5800	456	651	972	443	115	33	1	10	677	1940	378	124
S. D.	1296	8	25	109	113	33	11	..	15	261	666	51	4
Mont.	928	57	49	120	181	46	7	1	7	34	249	138	39
Wyo.	870	60	66	62	40	17	4	3	66	269	142	99	42
Me.	39751	4516	4304	4759	3611	3132	1408	109	549	3966	6233	3555	3609
Mich.	17835	1533	1669	1947	1860	2085	841	12	378	1642	2983	1800	1085
N. Y.	16718	1622	1647	2011	1649	978	177	219	1314	1818	2633	1528	1122
Pa.	4508	506	386	368	323	164	20	1	40	540	1054	737	369
Oreg.	1553	87	117	145	173	42	7	54	119	54	199	409	147
Wash.	8280	800	557	930	826	316	251	273	368	796	1549	1084	530
Other	3102	158	135	135	159	51	57	430	446	304	723	404	100
Total	179256	18609	18188	20941	15178	10868	3784	1841	6852	19442	33570	17796	12187

The average annual shipments of late potatoes during the three years amounted to 179,256 carloads. Maine, the largest shipper, accounted for 39,751 cars, or over 22 per cent of the total; Minnesota was second with 27,301 cars; Michigan, third, with 17,835 cars; Wisconsin, fourth, with 16,817 cars; New York State, fifth, with 16,718 cars; Idaho, sixth, with 15,964 cars, and Colorado, seventh, with 14,539 cars. These seven states supplied over 83 per cent of total annual shipments.

The increase in the shipments of early and second early potatoes is in general offset by decreased shipments of late potatoes and conversely, so that the shipments of all potatoes unlike most of the vegetables, are rather evenly distributed throughout the year. The chart on page two definitely brings out this phase of the potato movement.

The chart at the foot of this column shows the average monthly movement of all potatoes, divided as between the early and second early and the late potato. The entire bar shows the total shipments of both crops combined; the black portion shows the shipments of late potatoes; the dotted portion shows the shipments of early and second early potatoes. The composition of potato shipments each month is thus clearly indicated, as well as the seasonal movement of each.

MONTHLY SHIPMENTS OF EARLY AND LATE POTATOES

Scale—Thousands of cars

