

Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station

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Tifton, Georgia

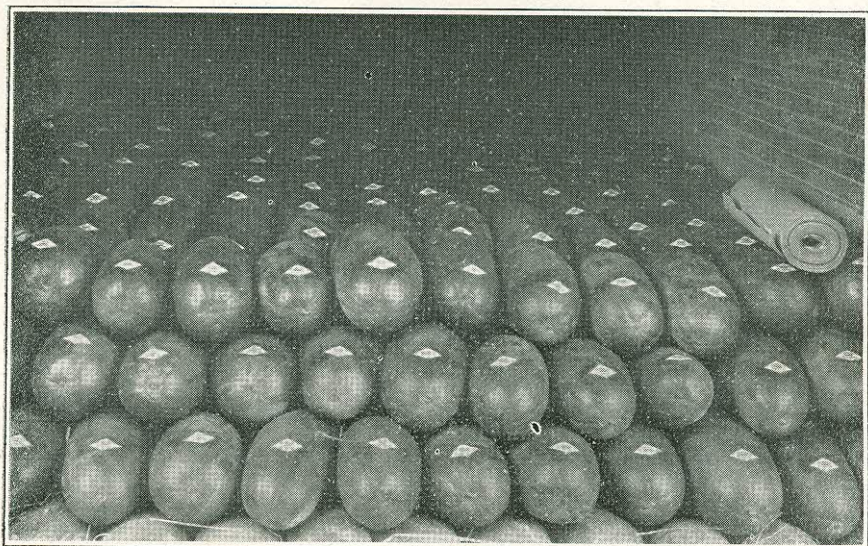
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Watermelon Culture in the Coastal Plain of Georgia

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INTRODUCTION

In comparison with other commercial crops in Georgia the watermelon is among the most important, standing about seventh in monetary value.

Georgia leads all other states in the production of this crop. During the years 1929 and 1930 this state shipped 43 per cent of the watermelons that were marketed in carlots in the United States. The major portion of the acreage planted to melons lies within the coastal plain area. The annual plantings in this state normally range between sixty and eighty thousand acres, with an average annual production of approximately twenty-two thousand cars and a valuation of more than three million dollars.

ADAPTATION

As a product for home consumption the watermelon is widely planted, although as a commercial crop its production is confined chiefly to the south Atlantic and Gulf states. It is well adapted to regions having relatively high temperature and liberal rainfall. Both of these requirements are amply satisfied in the coastal plain of Georgia.

TABLE I.—RAINFALL AT TIFTON, GEORGIA

This table shows the number of inches of rain received each month during the years 1923 to 1931 inclusive.

MONTH	1923 to 1931											Ave. Mo. Rainfall
	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931			
January	7.04	5.77	8.76	11.02	.38	1.36	5.11	5.41	2.54	5.01		
February	1.97	4.43	2.37	4.66	2.93	7.39	4.45	2.56	2.75	3.81		
March	5.24	4.82	.69	8.30	2.93	5.55	6.19	5.70	2.84	4.64		
April	1.38	5.41	1.28	3.55	2.58	11.57	3.69	5.95	2.92	3.86		
May	4.67	1.52	2.88	3.35	.66	3.41	2.34	1.20	3.24	3.03		
June	8.87	6.50	6.00	2.88	8.40	4.27	7.04	7.22	2.48	5.66		
July	4.51	5.43	3.34	7.56	6.70	7.93	4.87	5.62	7.11	5.88		
August	4.14	3.21	1.94	4.20	9.66	18.36	3.29	3.82	4.77	5.56		
September	1.05	12.01	2.91	2.86	.74	6.72	6.41	3.78	1.56	3.95		
October	.58	1.01	6.63	1.13	.55	.40	3.31	.23	1.47	1.91		
November	2.01	.26	2.93	4.02	.92	1.11	4.16	2.84	.00	1.90		
December	2.17	6.63	4.65	2.39	7.70	2.48	4.36	3.72	2.73	4.15		
Total for Year	43.63	57.00	44.38	55.92	44.15	70.55	55.22	48.05	34.41			

