

GRAPEFRUIT

In the main the consumers of grapefruit have for several years been dependent on locally grown fruit. The whole of the Australian grapefruit crop was reserved for juicing for the Armed Forces, leaving nothing for the Australian consumer or for export to New Zealand. Supplies from this source this coming year are still unlikely.

Small shipments of first-class fruit continue to arrive from Rarotonga. It was possible, also, to arrange with Jamaica for one consignment of grapefruit to come forward with the oranges which landed in December last. If shipping arrangements can be made, further Jamaican supplies will be purchased during the coming year. Importations from 1939 to 1945 inclusive were as follows:—

	Year ended 31st March,							
	1939.		1940.		1941.		1942.	
	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.
Australian	50	0.56	3,007	22.31	3,991	69.40	1,889	68.69
Jamaica ..	4,053	45.53	8,869	65.81	1,760	30.60	..	..
Cook Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	861	31.31
Samoa ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
U.S.A. ..	4,800	53.91	1,600	11.88	..	..	..	..
	8,903	..	13,476	..	5,751	..	2,750	..

	Year ended 31st March,							
	1943.		1944.		1945.			
	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.
Australian	1,767	64.72	..	..	..	..
Jamaica	5,412	81.59
Cook Islands	963	35.28	385	75.2	545	8.22
Samoa	127	24.8	676	10.19
U.S.A.
			2,730	..	512	..	6,633	..

PINEAPPLES

Responsibility for arranging to import and distribute pineapples was placed with the Division in 1940, and, although the quantities imported have not been large, it has accepted all available pineapples from the Pacific islands and Australia. Australian shipments are not expected to be any larger next year, since the continued presence of servicemen reduces the local surplus formerly available for export.

	Year ended 31st March,									
	1941.		1942.		1943.		1944.		1945.	
	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.
Pacific islands ..	2,426	25.9	4,211	43.40	336	11.7	853	21.9	2,061	42.8
Australia ..	6,942	74.1	5,509	56.60	2,528	88.3	3,033	78.1	2,750	57.2
	9,368	..	9,720	..	2,864	..	3,886	..	4,811	..