

38,329 were irrigated, or about 95 percent producing 98 percent of Jewish output.<sup>9</sup>

Government support and the use of more intensive methods of production led not only to a substantial increase of vegetable output, but also to a substantial decrease in imports. This can be seen in the absolute decline of imports from a high of 31,193 tons in 1938 to 4,919 and 9,737 tons in 1943 and 1944, respectively, and from the decline of imports as a percentage of total vegetable consumption. The latter went down from 22 percent in 1938 to 3 percent in 1944 (see Table 4.2).

It should be pointed out that the bulk of vegetable imports was for the use of urban Jewish Europeans, and that between 1928 and 1941, potatoes comprised 58 percent of total vegetable imports.<sup>10</sup> Thus, when potato production was introduced on a large scale, it was an important factor in the reduction of total vegetable imports.<sup>11</sup>

The increased production of vegetables was accompanied by the commencing of its integration with industry by the establishment of preservation and canning enterprises. By 1943, there were six establishments with an output valued at £P 488,000, that included fruits and vegetables, but predominantly the

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<sup>9</sup>*Survey I*, 325-6.

<sup>10</sup>Calculated from *Abstract 1939*, 62-3; and *Abstract 1942*, 46-7.

<sup>11</sup>See Kamen, 231-8, for a discussion of the evaluation of potato production as a cash crop and the government's effort in that regard.