
Vegetables



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ONIONS: Spring onion production is forecast at 6.65 million cwt (302 thousand metric tons), down 7 percent from last year and 9 percent below 1985. Area for harvest at 21.9 thousand acres (8860 hectares) is up 4 percent from last year but 16 percent short of 1985. The average yield is projected at 304 cwt per acre, down 36 cwt from last spring but 23 cwt above 1985.

In Texas, harvest in the Rio Grande Valley was virtually completed by the end of May. Quality turned out better than expected. Elsewhere, rain and wet soils have delayed harvest.

Arizona harvest began on schedule in early May. Movement is heavy with steady market demand, some growers are short of trucks to haul the crop to market. California growers have completed harvest, but high temperatures in May caused some cullage.

STRAWBERRIES: The crop is in good condition in New Jersey where winter kill was limited this year, and May frost caused minimal damage. Heavy bloom and set occurred in most of the fields. Cool and wet weather this spring delayed the growth in early stages, but a longer harvesting season is being expected. Harvest of early varieties started the third week of May, with good berry quality.

The Michigan strawberry crop got off to an early start with the aid of above normal temperatures. Irrigation has been active because of dry weather. There are no disease problems at this time. Harvest began about 10 days ahead of normal in southwest Michigan.

This has been a good year in Louisiana because of excellent weather conditions and a long growing season. Yields have been good primarily because of the new Chandler variety.

Washington's strawberry growers are expecting excellent yields this year. The biggest concern of many producers is the availability for picking labor. With the crop ripening earlier than normal and, in most areas, before the dismissal of school for the summer, labor shortages are expected.

Oregon's strawberry fields survived the winter season in excellent condition. Hot weather in late April and early May put the crop ahead of normal. Later cool, wet weather has been very good for ripening berries. Very little freeze damage occurred later in May. The major grower concern has been labor availability. Picking began around May 25 and is expected to peak about June 12. Size and quality of berries has been very good.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

CROP AND STATE	AREA			YIELD PER ACRE		
	HARVESTED		FOR	1985	1986	1986
	1985	1986	HARVEST			
			1987			
	ACRES			CWT		
ONIONS:						
SPRING						
ARIZ	1,200	1,200	1,200	470	550	520
CALIF	7,800	7,800	8,200	450	370	400
TEX	17,000	12,000	12,500	190	300	220
GROUP TOTAL	26,000	21,000	21,900	281	340	304
STRAWBERRIES: 1/						
WINTER						
FLA	5,300	4,900	4,900	200	185	235
SPRING						
CALIF	14,600	15,600	16,100	530	505	525
LA	550	550	600	55	62	72
MICH	2,500	2,400	2,300	65	60	64
N J	1,100	900	800	55	42	53
OREG	6,800	7,300	7,500	74	87	100
WASH	3,000	2,800	2,800	71	50	75
GROUP TOTAL	28,550	29,550	30,100	305	300	320
MAJOR STATES TOTAL	33,850	34,450	35,000	289	284	308
	PRODUCTION					
	1985		1986		1987	
	1,000 CWT					
ONIONS:						
SPRING						
ARIZ	564		660		624	
CALIF	3,510		2,886		3,280	
TEX	3,230		3,600		2,750	
GROUP TOTAL	7,304		7,146		6,654	
STRAWBERRIES: 1/						
WINTER						
FLA	1,060		907		1,152	
SPRING						
CALIF	7,738		7,878		8,453	
LA	30		34		43	
MICH	163		144		147	
N J	61		38		42	
OREG	503		635		750	
WASH	213		140		210	
GROUP TOTAL	8,708		8,869		9,645	
MAJOR STATES TOTAL	9,768		9,776		10,797	

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

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