# VEGETABLES

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## SPRING QUARTER FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES AREA UP 6 PERCENT

The prospective area for harvest of 14 fresh market vegetables in major producing States during the spring quarter (April, May and June of 1979) is estimated at 260 thousand acres (105 thousand hectares), 6 percent more than the area harvested during the spring quarter of 1978. Potential production of these 14 crops based on the average yield for the last three years is projected at 46.1 million cwt. (2.09 million metric tons), also up 6 percent from a year ago. The 14 crops included in this group are snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, escarole-endive, lettuce, green peppers, spinach and tomatoes.

Melon area for harvest, which includes cantaloups, honeydew melons and watermelons, in the spring quarter of 1979 is estimated at 124 thousand acres (50.2 thousand hectares), 2 percent less than the area harvested during the spring of last year. Projected production for these 3 melon crops based on average yield per acre for the past three years is 16.6 million cwt. (751 thousand metric tons), also 2 percent less than the spring quarter production of 1978.

The prospective area of asparagus for harvest in major producing States during 1979 is 71.1 thousand acres (28.8 thousand hectares), virtually the same as a year ago. Area of strawberries for harvest in major producing States during the spring quarter of 1979 is placed at 22.3 thousand acres (9020 hectares), 10 percent smaller than the 1978 spring area.

The second production forecast for the spring onion crop in Texas is placed at 3.88 million cwt. (176 thousand metric tons), 16 percent larger than the 1978 spring crop and 12 percent above the March 1 forecast. Production forecasts for all spring States will be published on May 4, 1979.



For Information Call: (202) 447-7720

PROSPECTIVE AREA AND PRODUCTION, SPRING QUARTER 1/, UNITED STATES
(DOMESTIC UNITS)

| CROP | AREA | | | | PRODUCTION | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1977 | HARVESTED 1978 | | FOR HARVEST: MAJOR STATES: 1979 | 1977 | 1978 | | MAJOR STATES 1979 2/ |
| | TOTAL | TOTAL | MAJOR STATES | | TOTAL | TOTAL | MAJOR STATES | |
| | ACRES | | | | 1,000 CWT | | | |
| WINTER | 152,810 | 182,150 | 178,550 | 186,000 | 29,222 | 33,511 | 33,273 | 34,284 |
| SPRING | | | | | | | | |
| SNAP BEANS | 22,600 | 21,150 | 21,150 | 23,150 | 820 | 730 | 730 | 833 |
| BROCCOLI 3/ | 23,000 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 17,500 | 1,955 | 1,383 | 1,383 | 1,523 |
| CABBAGE 3/ | 18,710 | 18,730 | 17,200 | 16,900 | 4,116 | 4,265 | 3,968 | 3,718 |
| CARROTS | 15,000 | 15,900 | 15,900 | 19,000 | 3,423 | 3,352 | 3,352 | 4,218 |
| CAULIFLOWER 3/ | 5,900 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 6,100 | 590 | 421 | 421 | 549 |
| CELERY 3/ | 9,400 | 9,480 | 9,480 | 10,750 | 4,304 | 4,154 | 4,154 | 4,902 |
| SWEET CORN | 43,200 | 39,300 | 37,500 | 35,800 | 4,464 | 4,230 | 4,068 | 3,831 |
| CUCUMBERS | 18,850 | 19,200 | 19,200 | 19,400 | 2,254 | 2,258 | 2,258 | 2,309 |
| EGGPLANT | 900 | 800 | 800 | 1,300 | 221 | 176 | 176 | 312 |
| ESCAROLE-ENDIVE | 2,030 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 276 | 324 | 324 | 302 |
| LETTUCE | 54,450 | 54,400 | 54,400 | 61,700 | 14,286 | 15,700 | 15,700 | 16,597 |
| GREEN PEPPERS 3/ | 11,500 | 11,800 | 10,800 | 12,000 | 1,266 | 1,118 | 1,068 | 1,320 |
| SPINACH | 3,140 | 3,070 | 1,340 | 1,350 | 226 | 220 | 159 | 157 |
| TOMATOES | 36,470 | 34,620 | 34,100 | 33,300 | 5,622 | 5,989 | 5,942 | 5,561 |
| TOTAL 14 VEGETABLES | 265,150 | 251,650 | 245,070 | 260,350 | 43,823 | 44,320 | 43,703 | 46,132 |
| CANTALOUPS | 26,700 | 31,800 | 31,800 | 30,100 | 3,631 | 4,557 | 4,557 | 4,003 |
| HONEYDEW MELONS | 5,100 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 5,800 | 500 | 600 | 600 | 638 |
| WATERMELONS | 101,400 | 90,600 | 90,600 | 88,200 | 14,012 | 11,810 | 11,810 | 11,907 |
| TOTAL MELONS | 133,200 | 126,400 | 126,400 | 124,100 | 18,143 | 16,967 | 16,967 | 16,548 |
| TOTAL SPRING CROP | 398,350 | 378,050 | 371,470 | 384,450 | 61,966 | 61,287 | 60,670 | 62,680 |

PROSPECTIVE AREA AND PRODUCTION, SPRING QUARTER, UNITED STATES
(METRIC UNITS)

| CROP | AREA | | | | PRODUCTION | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1977 | HARVESTED 1978 | | FOR HARVEST: MAJOR STATES: 1979 | 1977 | 1978 | | MAJOR STATES 1979 |
| | TOTAL | TOTAL | MAJOR STATES | | TOTAL | TOTAL | MAJOR STATES | |
| | HECTARES | | | | METRIC TONS | | | |
| WINTER | 61 840 | 73 720 | 72 260 | 75 280 | 1 325 490 | 1 520 000 | 1 509 210 | 1 555 090 |
| SPRING | | | | | | | | |
| SNAP BEANS | 9 150 | 8 560 | 8 560 | 9 370 | 37 190 | 33 110 | 33 110 | 37 780 |
| BROCCOLI | 9 310 | 6 430 | 6 430 | 7 080 | 88 680 | 62 730 | 62 730 | 69 080 |
| CABBAGE | 7 570 | 7 580 | 6 960 | 6 840 | 186 700 | 193 460 | 179 980 | 168 640 |
| CARROTS | 6 070 | 6 430 | 6 430 | 7 690 | 155 260 | 152 040 | 152 040 | 191 320 |
| CAULIFLOWER | 2 390 | 2 100 | 2 100 | 2 470 | 26 760 | 19 100 | 19 100 | 24 900 |
| CELERY | 3 800 | 3 840 | 3 840 | 4 350 | 195 230 | 188 420 | 188 420 | 222 350 |
| SWEET CORN | 17 480 | 15 900 | 15 180 | 14 490 | 202 480 | 191 870 | 184 520 | 173 770 |
| CUCUMBERS | 7 630 | 7 770 | 7 770 | 7 850 | 102 240 | 102 420 | 102 420 | 104 730 |
| EGGPLANT | 360 | 320 | 320 | 530 | 10 020 | 7 980 | 7 980 | 14 150 |
| ESCAROLE-ENDIVE | 820 | 850 | 850 | 850 | 12 520 | 14 700 | 14 700 | 13 700 |
| LETTUCE | 22 040 | 22 020 | 22 020 | 24 970 | 648 000 | 712 140 | 712 140 | 752 820 |
| GREEN PEPPERS | 4 650 | 4 780 | 4 370 | 4 860 | 57 420 | 50 710 | 48 440 | 59 870 |
| SPINACH | 1 270 | 1 240 | 540 | 550 | 10 250 | 9 980 | 7 210 | 7 120 |
| TOMATOES | 14 760 | 14 010 | 13 800 | 13 480 | 255 010 | 271 660 | 269 520 | 252 240 |
| TOTAL 14 VEGETABLES | 107 300 | 101 830 | 99 170 | 105 380 | 1 987 760 | 2 010 320 | 1 982 310 | 2 092 470 |
| CANTALOUPS | 10 810 | 12 870 | 12 870 | 12 180 | 164 700 | 206 700 | 206 700 | 181 570 |
| HONEYDEW MELONS | 2 060 | 1 620 | 1 620 | 2 350 | 22 680 | 27 220 | 27 220 | 28 940 |
| WATERMELONS | 41 040 | 36 660 | 36 660 | 35 690 | 635 570 | 535 690 | 535 690 | 540 090 |
| TOTAL MELONS | 53 910 | 51 150 | 51 150 | 50 220 | 822 950 | 769 610 | 769 610 | 750 600 |
| TOTAL SPRING CROP | 161 210 | 152 980 | 150 320 | 155 600 | 2 810 710 | 2 779 930 | 2 751 920 | 2 843 070 |

1/ APR, MAY, AND JUN. 2/ BASED ON AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE, 1976-78. 3/ FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT.

PLANTING INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST,
SPECIFIED CROPS, FALL QUARTER

| CROP AND STATE | AREA PLANTED AND TO BE PLANTED | | | | SPRING AREA | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | PLANTING PERIOD | YEAR OF PLANTING 1977 | YEAR OF PLANTING 1978 | INTENDED 1979 | HARVESTED 1977 | HARVESTED 1978 | FOR HARVEST 1979 |
| | | | | ACRES | | | |
| CABBAGE: | | | | | | | |
| CALIF | NOV-FEB | 2,300 | 2,000 | 2,200 | 2,300 | 2,000 | 2,200 |
| FLA 1/ | SEP-MAR | 17,100 | 17,700 | 18,200 | 5,600 | 6,000 | 5,500 |
| GA | DEC-JUL | 3,900 | 3,700 | 3,500 | 2,600 | 2,000 | 1,700 |
| N J | MAR-AUG | 4,800 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 900 | 500 | 900 |
| N C | JAN-MAR | 2,700 | 2,400 | 2,500 | 2,200 | 1,900 | 2,300 |
| OHIO | FEB-APR | 500 | 500 | 350 | 450 | 400 | 300 |
| TEX 1/ | JUL-JAN | 15,800 | 20,100 | 22,500 | 3,200 | 4,400 | 4,000 |
| SUBTOTAL | | 47,100 | 50,700 | 53,550 | 17,250 | 17,200 | 16,900 |
| MINOR STATES 2/ | | 1,570 | 1,670 | | 1,460 | 1,530 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 48,670 | 52,370 | | 18,710 | 18,730 | |
| CANTALOUPS: | | | | | | | |
| ARIZ | JAN-APR | 9,600 | 9,100 | 9,500 | 5,300 | 6,000 | 7,000 |
| CALIF | DEC-MAR | 10,700 | 12,600 | 11,400 | 10,700 | 12,600 | 11,400 |
| TEX | JAN-MAR | 11,100 | 14,100 | 12,500 | 10,700 | 13,200 | 11,700 |
| GROUP TOTAL | | 31,400 | 35,800 | 33,400 | 26,700 | 31,800 | 30,100 |
| CELERY: | | | | | | | |
| CALIF - S COAST 1/ | JUL-APR | 11,000 | 11,100 | 12,000 | 4,800 | 4,300 | 5,400 |
| C COAST | JAN-SEP | 9,600 | 8,380 | 9,200 | 600 | 480 | 550 |
| FLA 1/ | AUG-APR | 10,700 | 11,300 | 12,300 | 4,000 | 4,700 | 4,800 |
| GROUP TOTAL | | 31,300 | 30,780 | 33,500 | 9,400 | 9,480 | 10,750 |
| ESCAROLE-ENDIVE: | | | | | | | |
| FLA 1/ | AUG-MAR | 6,900 | 6,600 | 7,200 | 1,600 | 1,800 | 1,700 |
| N J | MAR-AUG | 1,200 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 330 | 250 | 350 |
| OHIO | APR-SEP | 850 | 950 | 650 | 100 | 50 | 50 |
| GROUP TOTAL | | 8,950 | 8,550 | 8,850 | 2,030 | 2,100 | 2,100 |
| HONEYDEW MELONS: | | | | | | | |
| TEX | JAN-MAR | 5,300 | 4,100 | 6,000 | 5,100 | 4,000 | 5,800 |
| TOMATOES: | | | | | | | |
| ALA | APR-JUL | 8,400 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 2,200 | 2,100 | 2,100 |
| ARK | APR-MAY | 4,000 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,400 | 2,700 | 2,800 |
| CALIF - DESERT | NOV-JAN | 2,300 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,300 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| OTHER | FEB-JUL | 27,300 | 28,800 | 27,300 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 |
| FLA 1/ | JUL-APR | 43,200 | 42,100 | 41,300 | 16,400 | 16,700 | 15,600 |
| S C | MAR-APR | 9,200 | 7,700 | 7,600 | 7,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| TEX | JAN-APR | 6,100 | 6,600 | 6,800 | 2,600 | 2,700 | 2,900 |
| SUBTOTAL | | 100,500 | 98,200 | 95,900 | 35,800 | 34,100 | 33,300 |
| MINOR STATES 2/ | | 700 | 700 | | 670 | 520 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 101,200 | 98,900 | | 36,470 | 34,620 | |
| WATERMELONS: | | | | | | | |
| ALA | MAR-JUN | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 4,500 |
| ARIZ | JAN-MAR | 3,800 | 3,800 | 4,400 | 1,200 | 1,900 | 2,000 |
| CALIF - DESERT | NOV-MAR | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,400 | 3,500 | 3,700 | 3,900 |
| FLA | DEC-MAR | 65,000 | 59,000 | 53,000 | 51,000 | 50,000 | 46,000 |
| GA | FEB-MAY | 34,000 | 32,000 | 29,400 | 14,200 | 7,500 | 8,800 |
| TEX | JAN-APR | 62,000 | 55,000 | 54,000 | 28,000 | 24,000 | 23,000 |
| GROUP TOTAL | | 184,000 | 169,000 | 160,200 | 101,400 | 90,600 | 88,200 |

1/ PLANTED AND INTENDED PLANTINGS ARE FOR PREVIOUS YEAR'S FALL CROP AND CURRENT YEAR'S WINTER AND SPRING CROPS. 2/ INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES WHICH ARE LIMITED TO END-OF-SEASON ESTIMATES ONLY; CABBAGE - S C, TENN; TOMATOES - LA.

PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, SPRING QUARTER

| CROP AND STATE | SPRING AREA HARVESTED 1977 | SPRING AREA HARVESTED 1978 | SPRING AREA FOR HARVEST 1979 | 1979 AREA FOR HARVEST AS PERCENT OF 1978 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ACRES | | |
| SNAP BEANS 1/: | | | | |
| CALIF | 900 | 650 | 850 | 131 |
| FLA | 13,500 | 12,600 | 13,200 | 105 |
| GA | 2,300 | 2,600 | 2,800 | 108 |
| N J | 1,200 | 600 | 1,600 | 267 |
| N C | 2,700 | 2,600 | 2,700 | 104 |
| S C | 2,000 | 2,100 | 2,000 | 95 |
| GROUP TOTAL | 22,600 | 21,150 | 23,150 | 109 |
| BROCCOLI 1/: | | | | |
| CALIF | 23,000 | 15,900 | 17,500 | 110 |
| CARROTS 1/: | | | | |
| ARIZ | 1,200 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 92 |
| CALIF - DESERT | 5,700 | 5,200 | 6,600 | 127 |
| OTHER | 4,900 | 4,700 | 5,500 | 117 |
| TEX | 3,200 | 4,700 | 5,700 | 121 |
| GROUP TOTAL | 15,000 | 15,900 | 19,000 | 119 |
| CAULIFLOWER 1/: | | | | |
| CALIF | 5,900 | 5,200 | 6,100 | 117 |
| SWEET CORN 1/: | | | | |
| ALA | 1,000 | 900 | 900 | 100 |
| CALIF | 6,600 | 6,100 | 5,100 | 84 |
| FLA | 32,500 | 30,500 | 29,800 | 98 |
| SUBTOTAL | 40,100 | 37,500 | 35,800 | 95 |
| MINOR STATES 2/ | 3,100 | 1,800 | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 43,200 | 39,300 | | |
| CUCUMBERS 1/: | | | | |
| CALIF | 850 | 800 | 1,000 | 125 |
| FLA | 8,000 | 8,000 | 7,900 | 99 |
| N C | 3,000 | 3,400 | 3,700 | 109 |
| S C | 4,100 | 3,600 | 4,100 | 114 |
| TEX | 2,900 | 3,400 | 2,700 | 79 |
| GROUP TOTAL | 18,850 | 19,200 | 19,400 | 101 |
| EGGPLANT 1/: | | | | |
| FLA | 900 | 800 | 1,300 | 163 |
| LETTUCE 1/: | | | | |
| ARIZ | 7,400 | 7,700 | 13,600 | 177 |
| CALIF | 41,800 | 40,400 | 41,000 | 101 |
| FLA | 2,800 | 3,600 | 4,200 | 117 |
| N J | 1,700 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 100 |
| N MEX | 750 | 1,300 | 1,500 | 115 |
| GROUP TOTAL | 54,450 | 54,400 | 61,700 | 113 |
| GREEN PEPPERS 1/: | | | | |
| CALIF | 400 | 400 | 400 | 100 |
| FLA | 7,800 | 8,100 | 8,900 | 110 |
| TEX | 2,000 | 2,300 | 2,700 | 117 |
| SUBTOTAL | 10,200 | 10,800 | 12,000 | 111 |
| MINOR STATES 2/ | 1,300 | 1,000 | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 11,500 | 11,800 | | |
| SPINACH 1/: | | | | |
| CALIF | 700 | 800 | 700 | 88 |
| N J | 560 | 540 | 650 | 120 |
| SUBTOTAL | 1,260 | 1,340 | 1,350 | 101 |
| MINOR STATES 2/ | 1,880 | 1,730 | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 3,140 | 3,070 | | |

SEE FOOTNOTES ON PAGE 5.

AREA AND ESTIMATED PRODUCTION REPORTED TO DATE

| CROP AND STATE | AREA HARVESTED 1977 | AREA HARVESTED 1978 | AREA FOR HARVEST 1979 | YIELD PER ACRE 1977 | YIELD PER ACRE 1978 | YIELD PER ACRE 1979 | PRODUCTION 1977 | PRODUCTION 1978 | PRODUCTION 1979 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ACRES | | | CWT | | | 1,000 CWT | | |
| ASPARAGUS 3/: | | | | | | | | | |
| CALIF | 30,300 | 28,000 | 26,400 | 37 | 28 | | 1,121 | 784 | |
| ILL | 4,500 | 4,200 | 3,000 | 11 | 9 | | 50 | 38 | |
| MICH | 17,300 | 17,300 | 17,600 | 11 | 13 | | 190 | 225 | |
| N J | 2,300 | 1,900 | 1,700 | 14 | 14 | | 32 | 27 | |
| WASH | 20,200 | 20,000 | 22,400 | 33 | 32 | | 667 | 640 | |
| SUBTOTAL | 74,600 | 71,400 | 71,100 | 28 | 24 | | 2,060 | 1,714 | |
| MINOR STATES 2/ | 11,220 | 9,030 | | 11 | 9 | | 121 | 81 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 85,820 | 80,430 | | 25 | 22 | | 2,181 | 1,795 | |
| ONIONS 4/: | | | | | | | | | |
| SPRING | | | | | | | | | |
| ARIZ 5/ | 1,400 | 1,800 | 1,500 | 440 | 410 | | 616 | 738 | |
| CALIF 5/ | 5,700 | 5,300 | 5,600 | 345 | 300 | | 1,967 | 1,590 | |
| TEX | 16,900 | 22,300 | 22,800 | 165 | 150 | 170 | 2,789 | 3,345 | 3,876 |
| GROUP TOTAL | 24,000 | 29,400 | 29,900 | 224 | 193 | | 5,372 | 5,673 | |
| STRAWBERRIES 3/: | | | | | | | | | |
| WINTER | 1,500 | 2,000 | 2,300 | 145 | 145 | 130 | 218 | 290 | 299 |
| SPRING | | | | | | | | | |
| CALIF | 11,600 | 13,700 | 11,500 | 450 | 375 | 400 | 5,220 | 5,138 | 4,600 |
| MICH | 2,800 | 2,700 | 2,600 | 54 | 57 | | 151 | 154 | |
| OREG | 5,300 | 5,000 | 5,200 | 66 | 68 | | 350 | 340 | |
| WASH | 3,300 | 3,300 | 3,000 | 61 | 53 | | 201 | 175 | |
| SUBTOTAL | 23,000 | 24,700 | 22,300 | 257 | 235 | | 5,922 | 5,807 | |
| MINOR STATES 2/ | 9,800 | 9,600 | | 38 | 39 | | 369 | 379 | |
| GROUP TOTAL | 32,800 | 34,300 | | 192 | 180 | | 6,291 | 6,186 | |
| U S | 34,300 | 36,300 | | 190 | 178 | | 6,509 | 6,476 | |

1/ ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR SPECIFIED PERIODS ARE NOT ESTIMATED NATIONALLY.
2/ SWEET CORN - TEX; GREEN PEPPERS - LA; SPINACH - MD AND VA; ASPARAGUS - DEL, IND, IOWA, MD, MINN, OREG, AND VA; STRAWBERRIES - ARK, LA, N Y, N C, OHIO, PA, AND WIS.
3/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.
4/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET.
5/ FIRST FORECAST WILL BE PUBLISHED ON MAY 4.

ASPARAGUS: Preliminary area for harvest in 1979 in major producing States is estimated at 71.1 thousand acres (28.8 thousand hectares), virtually the same as the area harvested last year.

In New Jersey, spring weather has been fairly favorable. Growth on asparagus has measured 1 to 1 1/2 inches to date. Michigan's asparagus came through the extremely cold winter in good condition. Unseasonably warm and variable temperatures in March did not break the crop's dormancy.

In Washington, growers expect a normal season for the 1979 asparagus crop. There were few reports of winter damage. Soil moisture improved dramatically in February and no water supply problems are anticipated. Warm spring weather is bringing the crop along on schedule.

SNAP BEANS: Prospective area for harvest during the spring quarter of 1979 is 23.2 thousand acres (9370 hectares), 9 percent more then the area harvested during the spring of 1978. Based on average yield of recent years, production is projected at 833 thousand cwt. (37.8 thousand metric tons), 14 percent more than last year.

In New Jersey, a few early fields of snap beans have been planted. However, planting is not expected to become general until the first or second week of April. Weather conditions were wet in North Carolina during March but April crop prospects are good at this time.

In Florida, the Pompano area is supplying a steady volume of very good quality beans. The overall crop condition is very good to excellent. Yields are generally above normal. In the Dade County area, the crop condition is good. Yield prospects have been reduced in a few fields by dry soil conditions. Quality is good. In the central, north and west areas, planting is active. Stands are good and plants are making good growth.

California's season to date has been nearly normal. Supplies will be available from the South Coast, San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast areas throughout the quarter.

BROCCOLI: Prospective area for harvest during the 1979 spring quarter is estimated at 17.5 thousand acres (7080 hectares), an increase of 10 percent from last year's spring quarter. Production projected at 1.52 million cwt. (69.1 thousand metric tons) is also up 10 percent from the 1978 spring crop.

In California, spring broccoli is making good progress after being slowed by cool, damp weather. Strike activities will have some effect on the crop.

CABBAGE: Prospective area for harvest in major spring producing States is placed at 16.9 thousand acres (6840 hectares), down 2 percent from the spring quarter of 1978. Production is projected at 3.72 million cwt. (169 thousand metric tons), a decrease of 6 percent from last year's spring crop.

In New Jersey, recent weather has been fairly warm with the soil dry enough to work satisfactorily. Transplanting of cabbage is underway with a number of plants coming in from Georgia. Seeding of cabbage has been limited so far. Transplanting of Ohio's 1979 crop started on a limited basis early in March and by mid-month was on schedule. Setting is expected to be complete by April 10. The early set appears to be off to a good start, although temperatures have remained cool.

In Florida, harvest is active in all areas with good supplies moving from the southeast and Everglades. Supplies from the Hastings and north central areas has been lighter than average but is expected to increase by mid-April. Quality has been variable from the northern growing areas, with heads running smaller than normal. Yields have been fair. Both yield and quality are expected to improve on those fields planted after January. Light transplanting continues but is nearing completion.

In North Carolina, weather conditions were wet in March and some plantings were delayed. April prospects are good.

Weather was generally satisfactory for crop growth in California. Supplies will be available from south and central coastal areas through June.

CANTALOUPS: The 1979 prospective area for harvest during the spring quarter is placed at 30.1 thousand acres (12.2 thousand hectares). This is 5 percent less than the areas harvested during the spring quarter of 1978. Production from this area is projected at 4.00 million cwt. (182 thousand metric tons), 12 percent below the comparable period in 1978.

Some replanting was necessary in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas as a result of cool soil temperatures during January and February which affected seed germination. Initial harvest is expected to begin in late May.

Cantaloup planting is running late again this year in Arizona and is expected to be finished about mid-April. Harvest in the western areas is expected to begin in May and continued until late June or July. Harvest in the central area should run from June through July. Early planted fields are up to good stands.

In California, weather caused some planting problems in January as rains fell in the Desert areas each week. The farm worker strike also caused delays in planting. Harvest should begin in mid to late May and peak in the last half of June.

CARROTS: Prospective area for harvest during the 1979 spring quarter is estimated at 19.0 thousand acres (7690 hectares), 19 percent above the area harvested during the same period last year. Projected spring production based on the most recent three-year average yield is placed at 4.22 million cwt. (191 thousand metric tons), 26 percent more than the 1978 spring crop.

In Arizona, carrot harvest has been steady but has not reached full volume. Harvest is expected to peak in May and extend well into June.

Wet weather again delayed carrot planting in California and caused some delays in harvesting. Major harvest of the spring crop, excluding the Desert, will begin in late May. California's Desert carrots are in good supply and harvest is active. Supplies should remain heavy through May.

CAULIFLOWER: In California, the prospective area for harvest during the 1979 spring quarter is placed at 6100 acres (2470 hectares), 17 percent above the 1978 spring quarter. The spring crop production is expected to total 549 thousand cwt. (24.9 thousand metric tons) based on a three-year average yield, which would be nearly a third more than the 1978 spring crop.

Spring cauliflower is making good progress after being slowed by cool weather. Strike activity will have some effect on the crop.

CELERY: Prospective area for harvest during the 1979 spring quarter is estimated at 10.8 thousand acres (4350 hectares), 13 percent more than the area harvested during the comparable period a year ago. Production of 4.90 million cwt. (222 thousand metric tons) is projected, 18 percent more than 1978 spring production.

Florida's crop is making good progress. Harvest is active in the Everglades and Zellwood areas. Quality is good to very good. Mild nights and warm days have been favorable. Yields have been good. Transplanting is winding down for the season.

Harvest of celery in California's central coast will start in June. New plantings are making good growth after being delayed slightly by cool weather. The majority of celery during the spring quarter will be from the south coast areas of California. The Oxnard area will supply most of the volume with some production coming from Orange County.

SWEET CORN: The 1979 prospective area for harvest in the major producing spring States is 35.8 thousand acres (14.5 thousand hectares), 5 percent below the area harvested during the 1978 spring quarter. Production from this area is expected to total 3.83 million cwt. (174 thousand metric tons) based on a three-year average yield. This would be 6 percent less than production for the same period in 1978.

In Florida, production is concentrated around the Pompano-Dade County areas. Yields are improving and quality is good. The spring crops in the Everglades and Zellwood areas are making excellent progress. Planting is virtually complete in the Everglades but continues active in the Zellwood area. First spring harvest is expected in the Everglades around April 10. Wet weather delayed planting about 2 weeks in Alabama.

The crop is progressing normally in California. Most supplies will be available from the Desert. A smaller amount will come later from the San Joaquin Valley and south coast areas.

CUCUMBERS: Area for harvest during the spring quarter of 1979 is placed at 19.4 thousand acres (7850 hectares), an increase of 1 percent from the same quarter last year. Production is projected at 2.31 million cwt. (105 thousand metric tons), 2 percent above the 1978 spring crop.

In Florida, the spring crop is in fair to very good condition and improving. Growth is good as the weather has been near ideal. Harvest is light in the southeast and southwest areas. Quality, color, fruit set, and size are good and volume is increasing gradually. Planting is active in the north central area.

In North Carolina, weather conditions were wet in March; however, April crop prospects are good at this time.

California's growing season has been wet at times but near normal. Supplies will come from the south coast followed by San Joaquin Valley and central coast areas.

EGGPLANT: In Florida, spring area for harvest is estimated at 1300 acres (530 hectares), nearly two-thirds more than a year ago. Based on average yield for the previous three years, production is projected at 312 thousand cwt. (14.2 thousand metric tons), above the 1978 spring output by 77 percent. Plant condition is very good. Warmer weather has improved growth and fruit set. Quality is fair to good. Strong winds have caused some fruit scarring. Volume is steady to a slight increase. In the southwest area, a limited supply of good quality fruit is available from a small acreage. Volume is expected to increase in April.

ESCAROLE-ENDIVE: Area for harvest during the 1979 spring quarter is placed at 2100 acres (850 hectares), the same as a year ago. Based on the three-year average yield, production is projected at 302 thousand cwt. (13.7 thousand metric tons), 7 percent less than the 1978 spring crop.

Planting started about the normal time in New Jersey. Weather is favorable for seeding and germination of the crop. In Ohio, weather conditions have been unfavorable for field preparation. Seeding of the crop had not started by April 1.

In the Florida Everglades, planting continues active. The crop is progressing well. Harvest is quite active with good size and quality. In the central areas, plantings continue on schedule. Harvest of good quality crops continue steady.

HONEYDEW MELONS: The 1979 spring quarter area for harvest in Texas is expected to total 5800 acres (2350 hectares), 45 percent more than the area harvested during the 1978 spring quarter. Production for the spring crop is projected at 638 thousand cwt. (28.9 thousand metric tons), 6 percent above production from the 1978 spring crop. Below average temperatures since January have slowed growth and plant development. Initial harvest is expected to begin in late May.

LETTUCE: Spring quarter prospective area for harvest in 1979 is placed at 61.7 thousand acres (25.0 thousand hectares), 13 percent above the area harvested during the spring of 1978. Projected spring 1979 production based on a three-year average yield, is 16.6 million cwt. (753 thousand metric tons) which is 6 percent above the 1978 spring production.

In New Jersey, planting began about March 20. Recent weather has been favorable for germination and early growth. The season has been fairly early.

In Florida, planting of lettuce is quite active in the Everglades and Zellwood areas. Harvest is steady with size and quality good. Iceberg and Romaine are in good volume while speciality types are in light to moderate supply. Good supplies are expected through April.

Lettuce harvest in the western area of Arizona has continued at a steady rate since November. Wet weather halted harvest operations several times during the quarter and delayed planting in the central areas. Harvest of the spring crop began in late March and is expected to continue into late May or early June depending on weather and price conditions. The crop is in fairly good condition in New Mexico. Cutting should start about the first of May.

In California, rain and cool weather during the winter months slowed growth and maturity of the spring crop. A few acres were harvested before April 1 in the Oxnard area of the south coast, Santa Maria area of the central coast and the Firebaugh area in the San Joaquin Valley. Volume from these areas will be quite light until about mid-month as the Desert deal winds up.

ONIONS: The spring onion crop in Texas is estimated at 3.88 million cwt. (176 thousand metric tons), 16 percent larger than the 1978 spring crop and 12 percent above the March 1 forecast.

Most fields in the Lower Rio Grande Valley made favorable progress during March although seed stems became evident in many early fields. Initial harvest began in late March and supplies will be light until mid-April. Yields from the early fields are expected to be below normal as a result of the seed stems as well as the presence of doubles and splits. Bulb sizing has lagged behind schedule and producers expect a shortage of jumbos, particularly in the early fields. Improved yields are anticipated from later fields. Harvest is expected to begin in early April at Laredo and around the first of May in the Winter Garden area.

GREEN PEPPERS: The 1979 spring quarter area for harvest in major producing States is placed at 12.0 thousand acres (4860 hectares), up 11 percent from the spring quarter of 1978. Production is projected at 1.32 million cwt. (59.9 thousand metric tons), 24 percent above last year's spring output.

In Florida, the crop condition is good to excellent. In the southwest areas, harvest is increasing gradually. Growth is good and fruit is sizing well. Quality, size and yields are mostly good to very good. In central areas, transplanting continues active. Some older plantings are beginning to show open blooms.

Planting of California's green pepper crop has been delayed by rain in the San Joaquin Valley. Early fields are growing well and harvest is expected to begin in May.

SPINACH: Prospective area for harvest during the 1979 spring quarter is estimated at 1350 acres (550 hectares), up 1 percent from the 1978 spring quarter. The 1979 spring production based on a three-year average yield is projected at 157 thousand cwt. (7120 metric tons), below last year by 1 percent.

In New Jersey, "Wintered-over" spinach is in good condition with early harvest of this portion of the crop expected to begin during the third week of April. Seeding of the crop is expected to begin shortly. California's planting period was near normal. Cool weather has slowed growth somewhat. Supplies will be available from the Oxnard area through June.

STRAWBERRIES: The 1979 area for harvest in major spring producing States is 22.3 thousand acres (9020 hectares), 10 percent smaller than the 1978 spring area. Michigan's strawberries were protected by deep snow cover from the extremely low winter temperatures. Variable temperatures during March did very little injury. Soil moisture is good.

Severe freezing weather occurred in Washington during January but the extent of damage will not be known until plants start blooming. Spring weather has been good so far.

Although Oregon had a hard winter, there was very little winter damage reported and disease and insect problems are expected to be minimal. The first pick in California's south coastal counties was mostly lost because of freezing temperatures and severe storms. Heavy rains in February and again in March reduced the next pick and shipments in late March were severely limited. Very light picking has started in the Santa Maria area and volume should increase by mid-April.

TOMATOES: The 1979 spring quarter area for harvest in major producing States is estimated at 33.3 thousand acres (13.5 thousand hectares). This is 2 percent below the 1978 spring area harvested. Production is projected at 5.56 million cwt. (252 thousand metric tons) based on average yield for the past three years. This is 6 percent less than the 1978 spring crop.

In Florida, tomato harvest is steady to increasing slightly. The volume leader is Dade County followed by the Ft. Pierce-Pompano and the southwest areas. Fruit quality, size and yield are generally good to very good, some excellent. Growth and fruit set have improved as the weather is near ideal. The crop is making excellent progress in the Palmetto-Ruskin area. Older acreage is setting fruit and bloom is abundant. Transplanting of the spring crop in the Gadsden County area is gaining momentum.

In Alabama, crop planting has been ahead of schedule this year with generally favorable conditions.

Planting of California's spring tomato crop was delayed by wet weather during February. Planting in San Diego County was disrupted by striking farm workers. Harvest should begin in May with volume light until late June. The Desert tomato crop is progressing well. Very light harvest is expected in April with little volume until June.

WATERMELONS: Prospective area for harvest during the 1979 spring quarter is placed at 88.2 thousand acres (35.7 thousand hectares), 3 percent less than the area harvested during the spring of 1978. Production during the 1979 spring crop is projected at 11.9 million cwt. (540 thousand metric tons), an increase of 1 percent over the 1978 spring output.

In Florida, the spring watermelon crop is later than usual but will be a little earlier than last year. In the southwest a few early planted fields have set fruit and light harvest is expected by mid-April. In the west central areas, growth has been slow because of cool weather. Planting is practically complete in the north central but continues active in the northern and western growing areas.

In Alabama, weather has been favorable for planting, which has proceeded on schedule. Heavy early rains did not adversely affect the crop.

Although plant development throughout South Texas has been slowed by cool evening temperatures, initial harvest is expected to begin in the Lower Rio Grande Valley around mid-May and in the Coastal Bend areas near the end of May. Most areas in the Coastal Bend region have adequate subsurface moisture as a result of winter rainfall.

In Arizona, planting of watermelons is normally complete by the end of March but adverse weather conditions have caused planting to run 2-3 weeks late in some areas. Early plant growth and germination was relatively slow because of the abnormally cool winter nights. A warming trend near mid-March and and again toward the end of March is expected to stimulate rapid crop development. Harvest is expected to begin in May and continue well into late July or early August depending on conditions.

California's spring watermelon plantings are complete in the Imperial and Palo Verde Valleys. Rain and the farm workers strike slowed planting. Peak harvest is expected in June.