



Vegetables

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Fresh Vegetable Harvested Acreage Up 4 Percent

The prospective area for harvest of 13 selected fresh market vegetables during the fall quarter is forecast at 177,400 acres, up 4 percent from last year. Acreage increased for snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, celery, sweet corn, head lettuce, bell peppers, and tomatoes, while cucumbers showed the only acreage decrease. Cauliflower, eggplant, and escarole/endive acreage were unchanged from a year ago. Area forecasted for melon harvest is 15,100 acres, up 9 percent from last year. Cantaloup acreage is forecast at 8,900 acres, up 3 percent from 2000. Honeydew acreage is forecast at 5,300 acres, up 23 percent from last fall. Watermelon acreage is forecast at 900 acres, down 10 percent from last year.

Summer Storage Onion Production Down 9 Percent

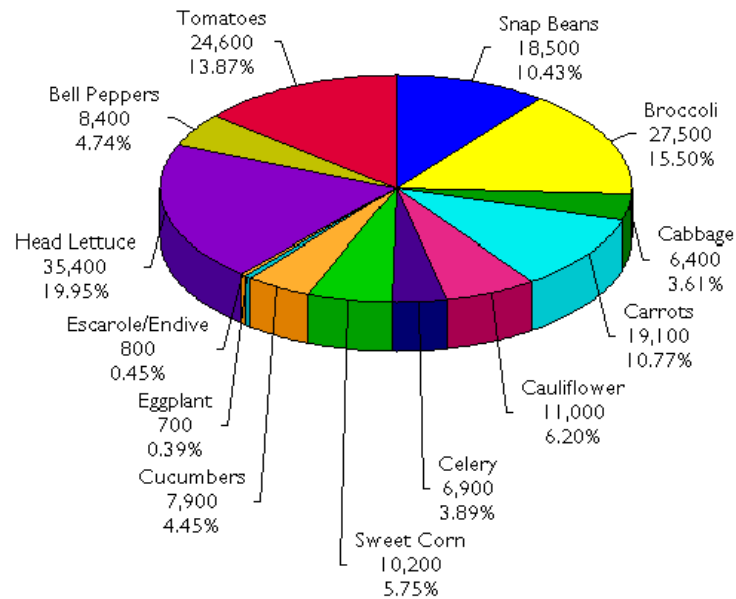
Summer storage onion production, including California, is forecast at 46.4 million hundredweight, down 9 percent from last year. Storage onion harvested acres are forecast at 104,190 acres, 4 percent below 2000. The California crop is expected to be 29,200 acres, down 20 percent from last year. California production, at 12.6 million hundredweight, is 22 percent less than 2000.

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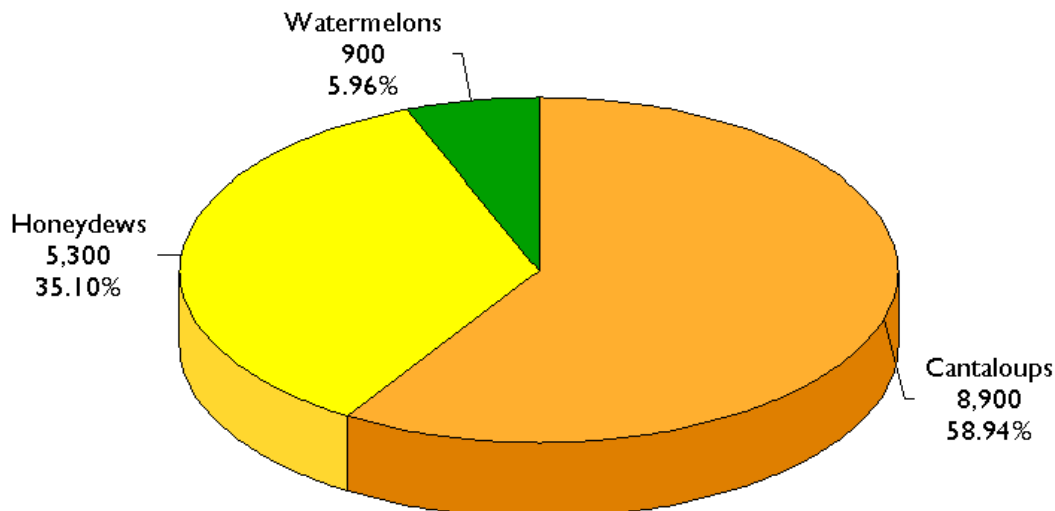
Fall Season Fresh Market Vegetables

Harvested Acres
Total: 177,400



Fall Season Melons

Harvested Acres
Total: 15,100



**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Season,
and Crop, Major States, 1999-2000 and Forecasted Area 2001
(Domestic Units)**

Season and Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2001
	1999	2000	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Winter	189,950	197,500	193,000
Spring	336,450	312,500	319,600
Summer	482,900	445,600	454,800
Fall			
Snap Beans	19,500	18,400	18,500
Broccoli ¹	28,500	27,000	27,500
Cabbage	6,400	6,200	6,400
Carrots	23,600	17,900	19,100
Cauliflower ¹	10,500	11,000	11,000
Celery ¹	6,900	6,400	6,900
Sweet Corn ²	7,900	8,200	10,200
Cucumbers	9,700	8,000	7,900
Eggplant	700	700	700
Escarole/Endive	750	800	800
Head Lettuce	34,700	34,400	35,400
Bell Peppers ¹	8,000	8,200	8,400
Tomatoes ²	29,100	23,900	24,600
Total 13 Vegetables ²	186,250	171,100	177,400
Cantaloups	11,300	8,600	8,900
Honeydew Melons	5,300	4,300	5,300
Watermelons	1,000	1,000	900
Total 3 Melons	17,600	13,900	15,100
Total Fall Crop ²	203,850	185,000	192,500

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² 2000 revised.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Season,
and Crop, Major States, 1999-2000 and Forecasted Area 2001
(Metric Units)**

Season and Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2001
	1999	2000	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Winter	76,870	79,930	78,110
Spring	136,160	126,470	129,340
Summer	195,420	180,330	184,050
Fall			
Snap Beans	7,890	7,450	7,490
Broccoli ¹	11,530	10,930	11,130
Cabbage	2,590	2,510	2,590
Carrots	9,550	7,240	7,730
Cauliflower ¹	4,250	4,450	4,450
Celery ¹	2,790	2,590	2,790
Sweet Corn ²	3,200	3,320	4,130
Cucumbers	3,930	3,240	3,200
Eggplant	280	280	280
Escarole/Endive	300	320	320
Head Lettuce	14,040	13,920	14,330
Bell Peppers ¹	3,240	3,320	3,400
Tomatoes ²	11,780	9,670	9,960
Total 13 Vegetables ^{2 3}	75,370	69,240	71,790
Cantaloups	4,570	3,480	3,600
Honeydew Melons	2,140	1,740	2,140
Watermelons	400	400	360
Total 3 Melons ³	7,120	5,630	6,110
Total Fall Crop ^{2 3}	82,500	74,870	77,900

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² 2000 revised.

³ Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Crop,
State, and Total, Fall Season, 1999-2000 and Forecasted Area 2001**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area			Area for Harvest Percent of 2000
		Harvested		For Harvest 2001	
		1999	2000		
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Snap Beans					
FL	Oct-Dec	10,500	10,000	10,300	103
GA	Oct-Dec	4,000	4,500	4,500	100
MD ¹	Oct-Oct	400			
NJ	Sep-Nov	2,100	2,000	1,800	90
SC ¹	Oct-Dec	600			
VA	Sep-Oct	1,900	1,900	1,900	100
Total		19,500	18,400	18,500	101
Broccoli ²					
CA	Oct-Dec	28,500	27,000	27,500	102
Cabbage					
FL	Oct-Dec	900	900	900	100
GA	Oct-Dec	3,400	3,000	3,500	117
NJ	Sep-Nov	700	700	600	86
TX	Sep-Nov	1,400	1,600	1,400	88
Total		6,400	6,200	6,400	103
Cantaloups					
AZ	Oct-Nov	6,300	4,600	4,600	100
CA	Oct-Dec	5,000	4,000	4,300	108
Total		11,300	8,600	8,900	103
Carrots					
CA	Oct-Dec	23,000	17,500	18,500	106
TX	Sep-Nov	600	400	600	150
Total		23,600	17,900	19,100	107
Cauliflower ²					
CA	Oct-Dec	10,500	11,000	11,000	100
Celery ²					
CA	Oct-Dec	6,900	6,400	6,900	108
Sweet Corn					
CA	Oct-Dec	4,000	4,000	4,400	110
FL ³	Oct-Dec	3,900	4,200	5,800	138
Total ³		7,900	8,200	10,200	124

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Crop, State,
and Total, Fall Season, 1999-2000 and Forecasted Area 2001 (continued)**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area			Area for Harvest Percent of 2000
		Harvested		For Harvest 2001	
		1999	2000		
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cucumbers					
FL	Oct-Dec	5,400	4,700	4,200	89
SC	Oct-Dec	900	600	900	150
TX	Sep-Nov	1,200	1,400	1,500	107
VA	Sep-Oct	2,200	1,300	1,300	100
Total		9,700	8,000	7,900	99
Eggplant					
FL	Oct-Dec	700	700	700	100
Escarole/Endive					
FL ⁴	Oct-Dec	350	400		
NJ ⁴	Sep-Nov	400	400		
Total		750	800	800	100
Honeydews					
AZ	Nov-Apr	1,400	1,300	1,300	100
CA	Oct-Dec	3,900	3,000	4,000	133
Total		5,300	4,300	5,300	123
Head Lettuce					
AZ - Other	Nov-Apr	1,700	1,000	1,100	110
CA	Oct-Dec	32,000	33,000	34,000	103
NJ	Sep-Nov	300	400	300	75
NM ⁵	Oct-Nov	700			
Total		34,700	34,400	35,400	103
Bell Peppers ²					
FL	Oct-Dec	7,000	7,400	7,700	104
TX	Sep-Nov	1,000	800	700	88
Total		8,000	8,200	8,400	102
Tomatoes					
CA	Oct-Dec	12,000	10,600	9,500	90
FL ³	Sep-Dec	17,100	13,300	15,100	114
Total ³		29,100	23,900	24,600	103
Watermelons					
AZ	Oct-Dec	1,000	1,000	900	90

¹ Seasonal estimate discontinued in 2000. Estimates to be published in the Vegetable 2001 Summary, released January 2002.

² Includes fresh market and processing.

³ 2000 revised.

⁴ Not published for 2001 to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

⁵ Estimate discontinued in 2000.

Snap Beans: Fall fresh market acreage for harvest is forecast at 18,500 acres, up 1 percent from last year but 5 percent below 1999. Florida's planting is active in the major growing areas. Conditions are reported to be good and the crop is on schedule. Planting in Georgia was active during most of August. The State had scattered showers during this time but they did not seem to affect planting schedules. Soil moisture conditions were mostly adequate. New Jersey's planting was on schedule this year. Despite heavy rains, Virginia's planting was on schedule. Prospects for the crop look excellent.

Broccoli: California's acreage for fall harvest is forecast at 27,500 acres, 2 percent above last year but 4 percent below 1999. Quality of the crop appears to be good due to cool temperatures which allowed the crop to grow well. Harvest is expected to start in November.

Cabbage: Fresh market acreage for harvest is forecast at 6,400 acres, up 3 percent from last year but unchanged from two years ago. Florida's cabbage planting is getting underway. In Georgia, weather conditions were favorable for planting. New Jersey's harvested acreage is down due to low market prices and unfavorable weather conditions. In Texas, the crop is progressing well with good moisture conditions. The fall harvest is mostly complete in the High Plains.

Cantaloups: Fall cantaloup acreage for harvest is forecast at 8,900 acres, up 3 percent from the previous year but 21 percent below 1999. Arizona experienced above average temperatures during planting and harvesting. However, because producers used irrigation, it does not appear to have damaged the crop. California's acreage is up for the fall, but yields are lower due to weather related problems.

Carrots: Acreage for fresh market harvest is forecast at 19,100 acres, up 7 percent from last year but 19 percent below 1999. California's carrot crop is in good condition. No unusual disease or pest problems were reported. In Texas, the crop is progressing well with good moisture conditions statewide.

Cauliflower: Acreage for fall harvest in California is forecast at 11,000 acres, unchanged from last year but 5 percent above the year before. California's crop is in good condition due to cooler temperatures.

Celery: California's fall acreage for harvest is forecast at 6,900 acres, up 8 percent in 2000 but unchanged from 1999. Celery production returned to normal for the fall season after erratic weather patterns caused disease and bolting problems the first half of 2001.

Sweet Corn: Fresh market acreage for harvest is forecast at 10,200 acres, up 24 percent from last year and 29 percent more than 1999. In California, the grounding of crop duster planes caused some problems with the crop. Occasional reports of worm damage resulted from spraying intervals that went beyond three days. Most of Florida's crop was planted by early-to-mid September. Heavy rains and strong winds from Tropical Storm Danielle caused no significant damage to the crop.

Cucumbers: Acreage for fall harvest is forecast at 7,900 acres, 1 percent below last year and 19 percent less than 1999. Planting in Florida is active in the major growing areas. Conditions are reported to be fair to good and the crop is on schedule. In South Carolina, precipitation has been below normal thus far. Additional rainfall is needed to make a good crop. In Texas, the crop is developing well with good moisture conditions. Planting in Virginia was on schedule despite heavy rains. Harvest will continue until a heavy frost arrives.

Eggplant: Fresh market acreage for fall harvest in Florida is forecast at 700 acres, unchanged from both 2000 and 1999. Planting is active in the major growing areas. Conditions are reported to be good and the crop is on schedule.

Escarole/Endive: Fresh market acreage for fall harvest is forecast at 800 acres, the same as 2000 but 7 percent above 1999. In Florida, planting began in September with favorable conditions. Most acreage escaped damage from the wind and rain caused by Tropical Storm Danielle. New Jersey's higher than normal temperatures during late summer adversely affected growth of the crop. Growing conditions improved during the fall.

Honeydews: Fresh market acreage for fall harvest is forecast at 5,300 acres, up 23 percent from last year but unchanged from 1999. Arizona experienced above average temperatures during planting and harvesting. However, with the use of irrigation, the hot weather has not damaged the crop. In California, delays in planting due to water uncertainties resulted in some acreage being harvested in the fall that would normally have been harvested in the summer.

Head Lettuce: Acreage for fall harvest is forecast at 35,400 acres, up 3 percent from last year and 2 percent above the year before. In Arizona, above average temperatures during planting and harvesting does not appear to have damaged their head lettuce crop. In California, early wet conditions in the spring caused some of the crop to fall a little behind schedule, but warm, sunny weather during the remainder of the spring helped the lettuce get back on track.

Bell Peppers: Fall acreage for harvest is forecast at 8,400 acres, up 2 percent from 2000 and 5 percent more than 1999. Florida's planting increased during September in the Southwest, East Coast and West Central regions. Tropical Storm Danielle's strong winds and heavy rains caused some bloom drop near mid-September with only minimal damage expected. In Texas, the crop is progressing well with good moisture reported. Newly planted peppers are maturing well.

Tomatoes: Fresh market acreage for fall harvest is forecast at 24,600 acres, up 3 percent from last year but 15 percent below 1999. California experienced ideal growing conditions in early July. However, by mid-to-late July the weather was cooler than normal. By July's end through mid-August ideal growing conditions returned, however, hot weather set in by late August. Despite these weather fluctuations, the crop is progressing normally. In Florida, harvesting around Quincy is expected to begin by early October. Almost daily showers during August and the first half of September kept soil moisture supplies adequate over the southern Peninsula but delayed some plantings. The formation off the west coast and the passage over the central and northern Peninsula of Tropical Storm Danielle in mid-September brought significant rains and strong winds to some southern fields. Growers reported only minor damage from the storm with some leaves broken and some blooms blown off plants. Most blooms were not open when the storm passed. Drier and somewhat cooler temperatures during late September boosted plant growth and development.

Watermelons: Arizona acreage for fall harvest is forecast at 900 acres, down 10 percent from both 2000 and 1999. Above average temperatures had no influence on harvest and use of irrigation prevented damage to the crop.

**Onions: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Season,
State, and United States, 1999-2000 and Forecasted 2001**

Season and State	Area			Yield per Acre		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2001	1999	2000	2001
	1999	2000				
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>
Spring	37,500	36,200	36,000	299	326	306
Summer						
Non-Storage	14,400	21,500	20,600	454	410	486
Storage						
CA ¹	39,000	36,300	29,200	435	445	430
CO	14,500	11,500	14,000	375	355	330
ID	7,900	7,400	7,500	700	650	630
MI	4,000	3,500	3,400	270	270	260
MN	420	90	210	280	210	260
NY	12,600	12,300	12,500	280	380	320
OH	480	480	480	285	350	370
OR						
Malheur	12,900	11,600	11,400	670	600	560
Other	7,200	6,100	7,000	500	520	500
UT	2,700	2,400	2,200	465	475	470
WA	18,000	15,000	14,500	490	550	540
WI	1,800	1,800	1,800	380	395	330
Total	121,500	108,470	104,190	459	471	445
Summer	135,900	129,970	124,790	459	461	452
US	173,400	166,170	160,790	424	432	419
Production						
	1999		2000	2001		
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>		
Spring	11,222		11,812	11,014		
Summer						
Non-Storage	6,541		8,823	10,012		
Storage						
CA ¹	16,965		16,154	12,556		
CO	5,438		4,083	4,620		
ID	5,530		4,810	4,725		
MI	1,080		945	884		
MN	118		19	55		
NY	3,528		4,674	4,000		
OH	137		168	178		
OR						
Malheur	8,643		6,960	6,384		
Other	3,600		3,172	3,500		
UT	1,256		1,140	1,034		
WA	8,820		8,250	7,830		
WI	684		711	594		
Total	55,799		51,086	46,360		
Summer	62,340		59,909	56,372		
US	73,562		71,721	67,386		

¹ Primarily for dehydrated and other processing.

Summer Storage Onion Production Down 9 Percent

Summer storage onion production, including California, is forecast at 46.4 million hundredweight, down 9 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is forecast at 104,190 acres, 4 percent below 2000. California growers reduced acreage as a result of poor prices in 2000. In addition, cold winter weather slowed planting and growth of the crop. Processing onions did well this year with many yellow and white varieties being harvested between late August and early September. Harvest was complete by late September with no major problems and good quality reported. In Colorado, scattered thunderstorms dumped damaging hail on some areas along the Front Range, and lightening storms were common throughout most of June and July. Following July, typical summer conditions, with high temperatures early in the day followed by thunderstorms, prevailed throughout the State. Idaho's weather has been warmer than normal and mostly dry during the month of September providing excellent harvest conditions. However, this warm, dry weather combined with minimal thrip and straw virus, reduced bulb size and yields. Most producers were able to manage their irrigation water supplies for this year's crop. Michigan's onion crop got off to a cool, wet start, followed by hot, dry weather from July through mid-August. Harvest activity progressed with reasonable yields and good quality. Onions are smaller this year due to hot weather. In Minnesota, after a hot, dry summer, September weather conditions have been cooler with several rain showers. New York harvest was near completion at the end of September. Most onions are still field curing and have not been moved into storage facilities. Growers indicate onion size ranges from small to average with very few large onions due to extremely dry conditions during the growing season. The Ohio crop is good with no problems reported. Onion harvest is in full swing throughout Oregon. Conditions remain hot and dry, although some parts of the State received precipitation the last week of September. The condition of Utah's onion crop is varied. Some growers have reported an above average crop. However, there were some complaints about damage from frost and strong winds. Washington bulb size is down slightly resulting from cool spring conditions. Onion quality has been good with a few selected fields experiencing hail damage from June storms. Timely rains in Wisconsin counteracted hot weather to produce average bulb size.

The next "Vegetables" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 10, 2002.

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