

Vegetables



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Fresh Vegetables Down 5 Percent; Onion Production Record High

The prospective area for harvest of 13 selected **fresh market vegetables** during the fall quarter is estimated at 162,600 acres. This is 5 percent below last year and off 2 percent from 1992. Acreage for harvest decreased for all selected crops except cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, and eggplant. Sweet corn acreage and escarole/endive acreage showed the largest percentage decreases at 17 and 25 percent, respectively. Cabbage and eggplant showed the largest percentage increases at 16 and 11 percent, respectively.

Acres harvested of cantaloups and honeydew melons are estimated at 10,700 acres, down 14 percent from last year and off 4 percent from 1992. This is due to a decrease in acreage of cantaloups. Total acreage of vegetables and melons for harvest in the fall quarter is estimated at 173,300 acres, down 6 percent from 1993 and off 2 percent from 1992.

Storage onion production (excluding California) is forecast at 35.4 million cwt, up 15 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. This brings the annual production of onions to 63.5 million cwt, up 11 percent from last year and 16 percent above two years ago.

For information call David Mueller at (202) 720-6054. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Onion Production Record High

Storage Onions: Production of summer storage onions (excluding California) is forecast at 35.4 million cwt. up slightly from last month and 15 percent above last year. Harvest area is estimated at 80,750 acres, a 10 percent gain from last year. The average yield of 439 cwt per acre rose 21 cwt. California summer onions (used mostly for processing) are forecast at 12.7 million cwt. down 2 percent from 1993 but 23 percent above 1992.

Harvest is drawing to a close in the North Central States. Actual yields turned out a little better than anticipated a month ago from Minnesota to New York. Weather during digging was favorable and quality of onions excellent. Michigan's yields are higher than a month ago, but heavy local rains kept the average below last year. Yields in Minnesota and Wisconsin are much better than last year's rain and flood shortened crops. New York's onion yields gained during September and are equal to last year but larger acreage has swelled the crop by 3 percent.

A heat wave in late summer limited sizing in Colorado and Utah, pulling yields down from last month's expectations. In the Northwest, hot summer weather produced variable yields with an average above a year ago. Harvest in Idaho is more than three-fourths finished. Washington's growers are harvesting a good quality onion crop with variable yields. California's harvest follows a normal pace with good yields and quality.

Spring Onions, 1995: Texas onion growers expect to plant 17,200 acres of onions for harvest in the spring of 1995. This is down 8 percent from 1994 but 19 percent above 1993. Heavy production in 1994 and low prices forced the acreage reduction.

Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Season,
and Crop, Major States, 1992-93 and Prospective Area 1994
(Domestic Units)

Season and Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For
	1992	1993	Harvest 1994
	Acres		
Winter	188,500	186,700	191,500
Spring	406,300	367,600	353,100
Summer	468,450	459,790	466,400
Fall			
Snap Beans	18,700	20,000	18,500
Broccoli <u>1/</u>	22,000	23,000	22,000
Cabbage <u>2/</u>	6,700	7,600	8,800
Carrots <u>1/</u>	14,900	14,500	15,800
Cauliflower <u>1/</u>	10,500	10,500	10,000
Celery <u>1/ 2/</u>	7,300	7,200	6,900
Sweet Corn <u>2/</u>	10,300	11,200	9,300
Cucumbers <u>2/</u>	12,700	9,100	9,700
Eggplant	900	900	1,000
Escarole/Endive <u>2/</u>	1,100	1,200	900
Head Lettuce <u>2/</u>	35,700	37,000	33,200
Bell Peppers <u>1/ 2/</u>	10,900	11,400	9,800
Tomatoes <u>2/</u>	13,600	18,000	16,700
Total 13 Vegetables	165,300	171,600	162,600
Cantaloups	8,200	10,300	7,800
Honeydew Melons	2,900	2,200	2,900
Total Fall Crop	176,400	184,100	173,300

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ 1993 revised.

Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Season,
and Crop, Major States, 1992-93 and Prospective Area 1994
(Metric Units)

Season and Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For
	1992	1993	Harvest 1994
	Hectares		
Winter	76,300	75,550	77,500
Spring	164,420	148,760	142,900
Summer	189,580	186,070	188,750
Fall			
Snap Beans	7,570	8,090	7,490
Broccoli <u>1/</u>	8,900	9,310	8,900
Cabbage <u>2/</u>	2,710	3,080	3,560
Carrots <u>1/</u>	6,030	5,870	6,390
Cauliflower <u>1/</u>	4,250	4,250	4,050
Celery <u>1/</u> <u>2/</u>	2,950	2,910	2,790
Sweet Corn <u>2/</u>	4,170	4,530	3,760
Cucumbers <u>2/</u>	5,140	3,680	3,930
Eggplant	360	360	400
Escarole/Endive <u>2/</u>	450	490	360
Head Lettuce <u>2/</u>	14,450	14,970	13,440
Bell Peppers <u>1/</u> <u>2/</u>	4,410	4,610	3,970
Tomatoes <u>2/</u>	5,500	7,280	6,760
Total 13 Vegetables	66,890	69,430	65,800
Cantaloups	3,320	4,170	3,160
Honeydew Melons	1,170	890	1,170
Total Fall Crop	71,380	74,490	70,130

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ 1993 revised.

Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Crop,
State, and Total, Fall Season, 1992-93 and Prospective Area 1994

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area			Area for Harvest 1994/1993
		Harvested		For	
		1992	1993	1994	
		Acres			Percent
Snap Beans					
FL	Oct-Dec	4,900	7,300	5,800	79
GA	Oct-Dec	6,000	5,000	5,800	116
MD	Oct-Nov	400	400	300	75
NJ	Aug-Oct	3,500	3,500	3,200	91
SC	Oct-Dec	1,100	600	400	67
VA	Sep-Oct	2,800	3,200	3,000	94
Total		18,700	20,000	18,500	93
Broccoli <u>1/</u>					
CA	Oct-Dec	22,000	23,000	22,000	96
Cabbage					
FL <u>2/</u>	Oct-Dec	1,500	500	400	80
GA	Oct-Dec	3,000	5,000	6,400	128
NJ	Sep-Oct	1,400	1,200	1,100	92
TX	Aug-Nov	800	900	900	100
Total		6,700	7,600	8,800	116
Cantaloups					
AZ	Oct-Dec	3,200	5,300	5,000	94
CA	Oct-Dec	5,000	5,000	2,800	56
Total		8,200	10,300	7,800	76
Carrots <u>1/</u>					
CA	Oct-Dec	14,000	13,500	15,000	111
TX	Aug-Nov	900	1,000	800	80
Total		14,900	14,500	15,800	109
Cauliflower <u>1/</u>					
CA	Oct-Dec	10,500	10,500	10,000	95
Celery <u>1/</u>					
CA	Oct-Dec	6,000	*	*	
FL <u>2/</u>	Nov-Dec	1,300	*	*	
Total		7,300	7,200	6,900	96
Sweet Corn					
CA	Oct-Dec	2,500	2,500	2,800	112
FL <u>2/</u>	Oct-Dec	7,800	8,700	6,500	75
Total		10,300	11,200	9,300	83

See footnotes at end of table.

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Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Crop, State, and Total, Fall Season, 1992-93 and Prospective Area 1994 (continued)

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area			Area for Harvest 1994/1993
		Harvested		For Harvest 1994	
		1992	1993		
		Acres			Percent
Cucumbers					
FL <u>2/</u>	Oct-Dec	5,200	3,000	3,500	117
SC	Oct-Dec	800	300	400	133
TX	Aug-Nov	1,100	1,000	1,200	120
VA	Sep-Oct	5,600	4,800	4,600	96
Total		12,700	9,100	9,700	107
Eggplant					
FL	Oct-Dec	900	900	1,000	111
Escarole/Endive <u>1/</u>					
FL <u>2/</u>	Oct-Nov	600	800	500	63
NJ	Sep-Oct	500	400	400	100
Total		1,100	1,200	900	75
Honeydews					
AZ	Oct-Dec	400	200	400	200
CA	Oct-Dec	2,500	2,000	2,500	125
Total		2,900	2,200	2,900	132
Head Lettuce					
AZ - Other	Oct-Dec	1,500	1,000	600	60
CA	Oct-Dec	31,000	33,000	30,500	92
FL <u>2/</u>	Oct-Dec	1,000	1,000	500	50
NJ	Sep-Nov	800	700	600	86
NM	Oct-Nov	1,400	1,300	1,000	77
Total		35,700	37,000	33,200	90
Bell Peppers <u>1/</u>					
FL <u>2/</u>	Oct-Dec	7,200	7,700	6,800	88
TX	Aug-Nov	3,700	3,700	3,000	81
Total		10,900	11,400	9,800	86
Tomatoes					
FL <u>2/</u>	Sep-Dec	13,300	17,700	16,400	93
TX	Aug-Nov	300	300	300	100
Total		13,600	18,000	16,700	93

* Combined to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ 1993 revised.

**Onions: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Season, State, and United States, 1992-94**

Season and State	Area			Yield per Acre		
	Harvested		For Harvest 1994	1992	1993	1994
	1992	1993				
	Acres			Cwt		
Spring	31,200	30,600	35,400	264	268	291
Summer						
Non-Storage	12,700	13,400	13,000	341	376	386
Storage						
CO	14,000	15,500	17,000	390	370	360
ID & OR-Mal	19,200	19,700	21,000	610	540	610
MI	7,200	7,100	7,200	340	310	300
MN	950	110	860	300	200	400
NY	12,200	12,000	12,400	360	310	310
OH	480	470	490	240	350	370
OR - West	4,200	5,800	7,000	410	420	420
UT	2,000	1,800	2,100	525	440	440
WA	8,300	9,500	10,700	470	490	500
WI	1,800	1,700	2,000	430	255	380
Subtotal	70,330	73,680	80,750	453	418	439
CA 1/	27,500	33,000	31,000	375	395	410
Summer Total	110,530	120,080	124,750	421	407	426
US	141,730	150,680	160,150	386	379	396
	Production					
	1992		1993		1994	
	1,000 Cwt					
Spring	8,229		8,193		10,313	
Summer						
Non-Storage	4,330		5,036		5,012	
Storage						
CO	5,460		5,735		6,120	
ID & OR-Mal	11,712		10,638		12,810	
MI	2,448		2,201		2,160	
MN	285		22		344	
NY	4,392		3,720		3,844	
OH	115		165		181	
OR - West	1,722		2,436		2,940	
UT	1,050		792		924	
WA	3,901		4,655		5,350	
WI	774		434		760	
Subtotal	31,859		30,798		35,433	
CA 1/	10,313		13,035		12,710	
Summer Total	46,502		48,869		53,155	
US	54,731		57,062		63,468	

1/ Primarily for processing.

Onions: Area Planted by Season, Texas, 1993-95

Season and State	Area Planted			1995 as Percent of	
	1993	1994	1995	1993	1994
	Acres			Percent	
Spring TX	14,400	18,700	17,200	119	92

Snap Beans: Fall acreage for harvest in the six selected States is estimated at 18,500 acres, down 7 percent from last year and off 1 percent from 1992. Harvest of the north Florida crop is underway. Adequate rainfall in September boosted crop growth and established good stands in Dade County. Abundant rains during September limited plantings along the Florida east coast. Soil moisture in Georgia has been mostly adequate for the fall crop. Maryland growers reduced fall plantings due to previous problems with deer and weather. The New Jersey fall crop was generally good. However, an early frost would shorten the harvest period.

Broccoli: California's acreage for harvest is estimated at 22,000 acres, down 4 percent from last year but unchanged from 1992. The crop was in good condition but some whitefly problems were occurring in the Riverside acreage.

Cabbage: During the fall season, acreage for harvest in the four selected States is estimated at 8,800 acres, up 16 percent from last year and 31 percent from 1992. Ample rainfall during September and early October slowed planting in west central Florida, and prevented planting in the Hastings region. Planting conditions have been favorable in Georgia, where soil moisture has been mostly adequate. Although the season started normal in New Jersey, recent hail storms damaged some cabbage fields in the south. Supply is steady at current time.

Cantaloups: Acreage for harvest of the two selected States is estimated at 7,800 acres, down 24 percent from last year and off 5 percent from 1992. The California crop was planted without problems and is progressing normally. However, whiteflies problems have occurred in the Palo Verde Valley.

Carrots: During the fall season, harvested acreage is estimated at 15,800 acres, 9 percent greater than last year and up 6 percent from 1992. California's fall carrot crop was progressing normally on October 1 with no unusual problems.

Cauliflower: Acreage for fall harvest in California is estimated at 10,000 acres, off 5 percent from last year and 1992. The crop was progressing normally with no unusual problems reported.

Celery: Fall harvested acreage in two selected States is estimated at 6,900 acres, a decline of 4 percent from last year and down 5 percent from 1992. California celery was planted without problems and the crop was progressing normally. Harvest in the Oxnard area will start by mid-November. Wet weather in late August caused Florida growers to replant some fields that developed poorly. Storms during late September delayed other Florida plantings.

Sweet Corn: Acreage for fall harvest in two selected States is estimated at 9,300 acres, down 17 percent from 1992 and off 10 percent from

1992. The California sweet corn crop was planted without problems and was progressing normally. Rainfall hindered ear development during late September and early October in central Florida localities, and delayed planting in the southern areas. Picking of the northern Florida crop began in late September.

Cucumbers: During the fall season, harvested acreage is estimated at 9,700 acres in the four selected States, up 7 percent from last year but off 24 percent from 1992. Cucumber picking became active during the last week of September in southern Florida.

Eggplant: Florida's fall acreage for harvest is estimated at 1,000 acres, up 100 acres from 1992 and 1993. Florida's growers began cutting in late September. The crop is in mostly good condition, although some fields near the southeastern coast received abundant rainfall during September.

Escarole/Endive: Acreage for fall harvest in two selected States is estimated at 900 acres, down 25 percent from last year and off 18 percent from 1992. The Florida crop is in fair to good condition, although recent storms delayed some planting. The fall growing season has been normal for New Jersey.

Honeydews: Fall acreage for harvest in two selected States is estimated at 2,900 acres, up 32 percent from last year but unchanged from 1992. California's honeydews are progressing normally. Whiteflies caused some problems in the Palo Verde Valley.

Head Lettuce: Acreage for fall harvest in five selected States is estimated at 33,200 acres, off 10 percent from last year and down 7 percent from 1992. Planting of California's fall crop progressed normally with few interruptions. The crop is in good condition with no unusual problems. Rainfall in central and southern Florida during September and October slowed planting and crop development. The New Jersey fall head lettuce acreage declined as many growers planted other types of lettuce. The New Mexico crop was reported in good condition.

Bell Peppers: Harvested acreage for the fall crop is estimated at 9,800 acres, a decrease of 14 percent from last year and off 10 percent from 1992. The southern Florida crop is in good condition with the oldest acreage beginning to bloom and set fruit. Picking of the southern Florida crop is expected to start by mid-October.

Tomatoes: Fall acreage for harvest is estimated at 16,700 acres, 7 percent less than last year but 23 percent greater than 1992. The northern Florida tomato crop is in good to excellent condition with picking underway in late September. Wet weather during September caused some transplanting delays in some southern areas. However, drier weather near the end of September allowed most growers to get transplanting back on schedule.

The next "Vegetables" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 18, 1995.

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