

VEGETABLES

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ACREAGE FOR HARVEST UP 15 PERCENT

Prospective acreage for harvest of 7 fresh market vegetables during winter quarter (January, February and March) estimated at 155 thousand acres (62.6 thousand hectares). This is 15 percent above 134 thousand acres (54.4 thousand hectares) for same period in 1982. Increases are expected for all 7 crops.

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PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, WINTER QUARTER 1/, UNITED STATES
(DOMESTIC UNITS)

CROP	AREA		
	HARVESTED		FOR
	1981	1982	HARVEST
			1983
	ACRES		
BROCCOLI 2/	15,700	17,400	19,800
CARROTS 2/	23,200	22,900	24,900
CAULIFLOWER 2/	5,700	6,000	7,800
CELERY 2/	9,500	8,700	8,900
SWEET CORN	7,900	7,800	10,400
LETTUCE	67,100	57,900	67,550
TOMATOES	16,000	13,600	15,400
TOTAL WINTER	145,100	134,300	154,750

PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, WINTER QUARTER, UNITED STATES
(METRIC UNITS)

CROP	AREA		
	HARVESTED		FOR
	1981	1982	HARVEST
			1983
	HECTARES		
BROCCOLI	6 350	7 040	8 010
CARROTS	9 390	9 270	10 080
CAULIFLOWER	2 310	2 430	3 160
CELERY	3 840	3 520	3 600
SWEET CORN	3 200	3 160	4 210
LETTUCE	27 150	23 430	27 340
TOMATOES	6 480	5 500	6 230
TOTAL WINTER	58 720	54 350	62 630

1/ JAN, FEB AND MAR. 2/ INCLUDE FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET, PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, WINTER QUARTER

CROP AND STATE	AREA			1983 AREA HARVESTED AS PERCENT OF 1982
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST 1983	
	1981	1982		
	ACRES			PERCENT
BROCCOLI: 1/ CALIF	15,700	17,400	19,800	114
CARROTS: 1/ CALIF - DESERT 2/ - OTHER	9,200 5,300	9,400 5,500	11,900 6,000	127 109
TEX GROUP TOTAL	8,700 23,200	8,000 22,900	7,000 24,900	88 109
CAULIFLOWER: 1/ CALIF	5,700	6,000	7,800	130
CELERY: 1/ CALIF - SOUTH COAST FLA	4,900 4,600	4,700 4,000	5,100 3,800	109 95
GROUP TOTAL	9,500	8,700	8,900	102
SWEET CORN: FLA	7,900	7,800	10,400	133
LETTUCE: ARIZ - YUMA 2/ - OTHER	14,400 1,200	15,000 600	17,500 750	117 125
CALIF - BLYTHE 2/ - IMPERIAL VALLEY 2/ FLA	4,500 36,900 6,700	3,500 30,300 5,400	5,100 35,700 6,000	146 118 111
TEX GROUP TOTAL	3,400 67,100	3,100 57,900	2,500 67,550	81 117
TOMATOES: FLA	16,000	13,600	15,400	113

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

2/ THE ACTUAL HARVEST PERIOD BEGINS BEFORE AND/OR EXTENDS BEYOND THE QUARTER IN WHICH THE CROP IS SHOWN TO BE HARVESTED.

ONIONS AND STRAWBERRIES PLANTING INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST

CROP, SEASON, AND STATE	PLANTED AREA			HARVESTED AREA		
	1981	1982	1983	1981	1982	FOR HARVEST 1983
	ACRES					
ONIONS 1/ SPRING:						
ARIZ 2/	1,100	1,700	1,600	1,100	1,700	
CALIF 2/	6,000	7,900	8,500	6,000	7,900	
TEX	18,500	19,800	16,500	18,000	19,400	16,300
GROUP TOTAL	25,600	29,400	26,600	25,100	29,000	
STRAWBERRIES 3/ WINTER:						
FLA	3,200	5,000	5,400	3,200	5,000	5,400

1/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET.

2/ 1983 - PLANTING INTENTIONS - FIRST HARVEST ACREAGE ESTIMATE PUBLISHED MAR 4.

3/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

ONIONS: Planted area 1983 spring onions estimated at 26.6 thousand acres (10.8 thousand hectares), down 10 percent from 1982 but 4 percent above 1981 planted acreage. Texas acreage for harvest estimated at 16.3 thousand acres, down 16 percent from last year.

Rio Grande Valley conditions remain good with mild temperatures and sufficient availability irrigation water. Very few problems with weeds, diseases or insects. Harvest expected on schedule, yield expectations good.

In the San Antonio -- Winter Garden area, conditions generally ideal for germination. A few fields have been too wet, however, and plantings are behind schedule. At Laredo, planting conditions were good. Stands are developing well.

Arizona growers have had difficulty planting onions due to wet, muddy conditions. Earliest plantings beginning to emerge; while others incomplete and may not fulfill intentions if field conditions don't improve soon. Earliest harvest is expected near May 1, will normally continue through mid-July.

California desert planting finished with onion acreage showing increase over last year. Acreage other areas of State about same as 1982. Planting underway in San Joaquin Valley.

BROCCOLI: During the 1983 winter quarter, California expects to harvest 19.8 thousand acres (8010 hectares) of broccoli, 14 percent above acreage harvested during same period a year ago. Crop is making satisfactory progress in Salinas-Watsonville and Santa Maria-Oceano areas of Central Coast. However, heavy winds mid-December damaged some of crop in Ventura County and South Coast areas.

CARROTS: Expected 1983 winter quarter carrot harvested acreage is 24.9 thousand acres (10.1 thousand hectares), 9 percent above 1982 winter quarter harvested acreage.

In Texas, crop is progressing normally. Weather has been mild but irrigation has been necessary.

Harvest of California desert carrots remains slow. Digging will increase as harvest in Salinas Valley draws to close. Carrot pulling decreasing California's Salinas Valley, moderate in San Joaquin Valley. Cool weather in San Joaquin Valley held back development, with carrots smaller than normal for this date.

CAULIFLOWER: Prospective acreage of cauliflower for harvest in California during 1983 winter quarter estimated at 7800 acres (3160 hectares), up 30 percent from same period a year ago. Crop progress Central Coast area satisfactory although cold, wet weather could slow growth. Heavy winds South Coast area damaged some fields reducing yield prospects, creating potential for some abandonment.

CELERY: The 1983 winter quarter prospective acreage for harvest is 8900 acres (3600 hectares), up 2 percent from a year ago.

In Florida, transplanting continues active pace in Everglades and central areas. Leaf miner a problem but most growers have it under control with stepped up spray programs. Cutting increasing seasonally in Everglades. Size, quality are improving.

California harvest getting well underway in southern area. Acreage in Desert, San Diego County up from last year.

SWEET CORN: Acreage of sweet corn for harvest in Florida during winter quarter estimated at 10.4 thousand acres (4210 hectares), 33 percent above freeze damaged 1982 winter quarter. Planting of winter acreage continues in Pompano and Dade areas. Steady volume expected during next several months from early plantings in Pompano area. Excessive rains November caused some damage to fields in Pompano area. Seedbeds were washed, fertilizer leached. Some replanting was necessary. Growth good Dade County, early planted fields tasselling.

LETTUCE: Prospective acreage for harvest of winter quarter lettuce estimated at 67.6 thousand acres (27.3 thousand hectares), up 17 percent from 1982 winter quarter.

In Florida, planting active in Everglades, winding down in Zellwood area. Harvest gaining, should reach good volume by early January. Iceberg and most specialty types available. Quality good. Recent cool weather beneficial to growth, development.

Planting for winter quarter virtually complete by end December in Arizona's Yuma area. Earlier plantings up to good stands, growing well. Harvest of Yuma deal began early November, expected to continue uninterrupted into next April. Overall quality appears good, yields running slightly above normal. Planting for late winter, spring harvest still active, expected to continue into February in "other" areas of Arizona. Harvest of fall crop completed December with good quality, yields. Plantings for earliest harvest in March up to stand, growing well. Later planting activity ranges from just planted to land preparations for planting later spring crop. Harvest of winter-spring deal expected begin March, continue well into June.

Lettuce harvest in Blythe (Palo Verde Valley) district of California to start again about mid-February, run until early April. Progress to date normal. Harvest in Imperial Valley fairly light December with market conditions generally unfavorable. White fly populations have been well below last year with resulting decrease of virus infections.

TOMATOES: Prospective tomato acreage for harvest during 1983 winter quarter in Florida is 15.4 thousand acres (6230 hectares), 13 percent above 1982 winter quarter. The crop progressing favorably, in good to excellent condition. Peak winter volume should occur during mid-January when Dade County crop reaches full production. Harvest virtually complete in Palmetto-Ruskin area; good volume continues to move from Ft. Pierce-Pompano area and the southwest. Fruit quality, yield mostly good. Size large from first pick but only small to medium from second, third picks.

STRAWBERRIES: Winter strawberries in Florida expected to be harvested from 5400 acres (2190 hectares), up 8 percent from 1982 winter crop. Crop making good progress with bloom and fruit set increasing. Harvest light with fair to good volume expected early January. Plant growth, fruit set have been good. Berry size mostly large, quality generally good. Most of light harvest has been from Hillsborough-Manatee and Dade County areas.

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