

VEGETABLES



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INCREASE OF 10 PERCENT IN AREA FOR HARVEST DURING WINTER QUARTER

The prospective area for harvest in major producing States during the 1980 winter quarter (January, February, and March) for 13 fresh market vegetable crops is estimated at 197 thousand acres (79.9 thousand hectares). This is a 10 percent increase from the 1979 winter quarter harvested area of 180 thousand acres (72.9 thousand hectares).

Indicated increases in area for snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, eggplant, lettuce, green peppers, spinach, and tomatoes account for the increase. Cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, escarole/endive are expected to decline in harvest area from last year.

These 13 fresh market crops have a potential production of 36.4 million cwt. (1.65 million metric tons), 7 percent more than the 34.1 million cwt. (1.55 million metric tons) produced in the 1979 winter quarter.

Production projections in this report are based on average yields for the last three years.

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

CROP	(DOMESTIC UNITS)				PRODUCTION			
	AREA			FOR HARVEST MAJOR STATES 1980	1979			MAJOR STATES 1980 <u>2/</u>
	HARVESTED				1978 TOTAL	1979		
	1978 TOTAL	1979						
		TOTAL	MAJOR STATES			TOTAL	MAJOR STATES	
ACRES				1,000 CWT				
SNAP BEANS	14,400	15,300	15,300	18,200	302	444	444	528
BROCCOLI <u>3/</u>	17,100	17,750	16,500	17,200	1,180	1,422	1,353	1,359
CABBAGE	20,500	17,400	17,400	24,100	4,701	4,126	4,126	5,688
CARROTS <u>3/</u>	17,800	18,000	18,000	19,300	4,059	3,552	3,552	4,034
CAULIFLOWER <u>3/</u>	5,800	8,200	6,000	5,800	409	677	510	447
CELERY <u>3/</u>	8,700	10,000	10,000	9,900	4,149	4,890	4,890	4,782
SWEET CORN	10,800	11,100	11,100	11,000	767	833	833	814
EGGPLANT	450	500	500	600	99	128	128	135
ESCAROLE/ENDIVE	2,600	3,300	3,300	3,200	325	429	429	400
LETTUCE	62,200	60,200	60,200	62,000	14,342	14,231	14,231	14,570
GREEN PEPPERS <u>3/</u>	5,500	5,200	5,200	5,500	633	702	702	561
SPINACH	3,500	4,300	4,300	5,600	305	309	309	459
TOMATOES	12,800	12,300	12,300	14,900	2,240	2,583	2,583	2,637
TOTAL WINTER	182,150	183,550	180,100	197,300	33,511	34,326	34,090	36,414

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

CROP	AREA				PRODUCTION			
	HARVESTED			FOR HARVEST MAJOR STATES 1980	1978 TOTAL	1979		MAJOR STATES 1980
	1978 TOTAL	1979				1979 TOTAL		
		TOTAL	MAJOR STATES				MAJOR STATES	
HECTARES				METRIC TONS				
SNAP BEANS	5 830	6 190	6 190	7 370	13 700	20 140	20 140	23 950
BROCCOLI	6 920	7 180	6 680	6 960	53 520	64 500	61 370	61 640
CABBAGE	8 300	7 040	7 040	9 750	213 230	187 150	187 150	258 000
CARROTS	7 200	7 280	7 280	7 810	184 110	161 120	161 120	182 980
CAULIFLOWER	2 350	3 320	2 430	2 350	18 550	30 710	23 130	20 280
CELERY	3 520	4 050	4 050	4 010	188 190	221 810	221 810	216 910
SWEET CORN	4 370	4 490	4 490	4 450	34 790	37 780	37 780	36 920
EGGPLANT	180	200	200	240	4 490	5 810	5 810	6 120
ESCAROLE/ENDIVE	1 050	1 340	1 340	1 300	14 740	19 460	19 460	18 140
LETTUCE	25 170	24 360	24 360	25 090	650 540	645 500	645 500	660 880
GEEEN PEPPERS	2 230	2 100	2 100	2 230	28 710	31 840	31 840	25 450
SPINACH	1 420	1 740	1 740	2 270	13 830	14 020	14 020	20 820
TOMATOES	5 180	4 980	4 980	6 030	101 600	117 160	117 160	119 610
TOTAL WINTER	73 720	74 270	72 880	79 860	1 520 000	1 557 000	1 546 290	1 651 700

1/ JAN, FEB, AND MAR.

2/ BASED ON AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE FOR YEARS 1977-79.

3/ INCLUDE FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING IN THIS RELEASE.

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

CROP AND STATE	AREA PLANTED AND TO BE PLANTED					WINTER AREA		
	PLANTING PERIOD	YEAR OF PLANTING		INTENDED 1980	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST 1980	
		1978	1979		1978	1979		

1/ PLANTED AND INTENDED PLANTINGS ARE FOR PREVIOUS YEAR'S FALL CROP AND CURRENT YEAR'S WINTER AND SPRING CROPS.

PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, WINTER QUARTER

CROP AND STATE	WINTER AREA			1980 AREA FOR HARVEST AS A PERCENT OF 1979
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST	
	1978	1979	1980	
	ACRES			PERCENT
SNAP BEANS <u>1/</u>				
FLA	14,400	15,300	18,200	119
BROCCOLI <u>1/</u>				
CALIF	15,000	16,500	17,200	104
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	2,100	1,250		
GRAND TOTAL	17,100	17,750		
CARROTS <u>1/</u>				
ARIZ	700	600	900	150
CALIF - DES	3,800	3,600	4,400	122
- OTH	4,100	4,800	5,500	115
TEX	9,200	9,000	8,500	94
GROUP TOTAL	17,800	18,000	19,300	107
CAULIFLOWER <u>1/</u>				
CALIF	4,300	6,000	5,800	97
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	1,500	2,200		
GRAND TOTAL	5,800	8,200		
SWEET CORN <u>1/</u>				
FLA	10,800	11,100	11,000	99
EGGPLANT <u>1/</u>				
FLA	450	500	600	120
LETTUCE <u>1/</u>				
ARIZ	15,500	14,100	13,100	93
CALIF - DES	39,600	36,500	38,000	104
FLA	4,100	6,000	6,800	113
TEX	3,000	3,600	4,100	114
GROUP TOTAL	62,200	60,200	62,000	103
GREEN PEPPERS <u>1/</u>				
FLA	5,500	5,200	5,500	106
SPINACH <u>1/</u>				
CALIF	800	900	1,000	111
TEX	2,700	3,400	4,600	135
GROUP TOTAL	3,500	4,300	5,600	130

1/ ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR SPECIFIED PERIODS ARE NOT ESTIMATED NATIONALLY.

2/ INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES WHICH ARE LIMITED TO END-OF-SEASON ESTIMATES ONLY: BROCCOLI - ARIZ AND TEX; CAULIFLOWER - ARIZ AND TEX.

PLANTING INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST

CROP, SEASON AND STATE	PLANTED AREA			HARVESTED AREA		
	1978	1979	1980	1978	1979	FOR HARVEST 1980
	ACRES					
ONIONS 1/ SPRING:						
ARIZ 2/	2,100	1,600	1,400	1,800	1,600	
CALIF 2/	5,400	5,600	5,800	5,300	5,600	
TEX	25,800	24,500	19,000	22,300	21,900	18,500
GROUP TOTAL	33,300	31,700	26,200	29,400	29,100	
STRAWBERRIES 3/ WINTER:						
FLA	2,000	2,400	2,400	2,000	2,400	2,400

1/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET. 2/ 1980-PLANTING INTENTIONS-FIRST ESTIMATE PUBLISHED MAR 6.

3/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

ONIONS: The planted area for spring crop onions is placed at 26.2 thousand acres (10.6 thousand hectares), 17 percent below 1979. In the Texas Rio Grande Valley, rainfall was very plentiful during August and September but turned dry during October and November. Moisture again returned during December. As a result, land preparation was delayed and some early seeded onions had poor stands. Conditions have been more favorable for later seeded onions and they are off to a good start. In general, onions are now making good growth with harvest expected to be well underway by April 1.

In the Winter Garden area and at Laredo, onions were being planted during October and November. Most transplanting was completed in December. Moisture has been short, requiring more than usual irrigation. Stands are good and the crop is making normal growth. Harvest is expected to get underway in April.

In California, growers intend to plant about 4 percent more acreage than last year. Planting is nearly finished and the crop is in good condition.

SNAP BEANS: The prospective area of snap beans for harvest in Florida during the 1980 winter quarter is estimated at 18.2 thousand acres (7370 hectares), up 19 percent from the area harvested in the 1979 winter quarter. Expected production, at 528 thousand cwt. (24.0 thousand metric tons), is also up 19 percent from the winter quarter of 1979 and nearly one and three-fourths times the 1978 production.

In Florida, the overall crop condition is good to very good. Planting is steady. Harvest is nearing completion in the West Central area but is active in the Dade County and Pompano areas. Quality is good and yields and packout are improving. Good supplies of both bush and pole beans are available.

BROCCOLI: During the 1980 winter quarter, the prospective area of broccoli for harvest in California is 17.2 thousand acres (6960 hectares), an increase of 4 percent from 1979. Production from this area is expected to total 1.36 million cwt. (61.6 thousand metric tons), virtually the same as the 1979 winter quarter output.

Broccoli harvest is active in the central coast area and supplies will increase in February and March. Supplies from the south coast and desert will peak in January and end by March. Crop progress has been normal and is a little ahead of schedule.

CABBAGE: At 24.1 thousand acres (9750 hectares), the 1980 winter quarter prospective area of cabbage for harvest is up 39 percent from last year. This area is expected to produce 5.69 million cwt. (258 thousand metric tons), 38 percent more than production during the 1979 winter quarter and 21 percent more than the winter quarter of 1978.

In Texas, mature fields are producing good yields. Rainfall received during the first half of December provided needed moisture. Some irrigation has resumed in early January. Because of cool weather insects have been less numerous.

California's cabbage crop for harvest in the winter quarter is progressing satisfactorily. There is some concern in south coast areas about lower yields due to lack of rainfall. Most of the winter quarter production will come from south coast areas.

In Florida, the crop is making good progress. Heads are sizing well. Transplantings continue in most areas. Harvest is increasing and good volume is expected by mid-January in all areas. Quality and packout is expected to be good to excellent. Good volume is expected from the Hastings, central and southeast areas.

CARROTS: The 1980 carrot winter quarter prospective area for harvest is 19.3 thousand acres (7810 hectares), an increase of 7 percent from the 1979 area harvested. Production is expected to reach 4.03 million cwt. (183 thousand metric tons), 14 percent above the 1979 winter production.

Planting in Texas was completed near the middle of December and most fields have good stands. Some digging began around the first of January with average yields. Watering has resumed following the early December rainfall.

In Arizona, carrot harvest began on a limited basis near mid-December. Harvest will be steady but limited until May and June when the bulk of the crop will be harvested. Conditions to date have been reasonably good. However, early fall temperatures were too warm for optimum growing conditions.

Carrot harvest is increasing in the desert area of California. Digging is limited to meet market demand. Digging is moderate in the Kern district of the San Joaquin Valley and in the Santa Maria area. Harvest in the Salinas Valley is nearly complete.

CAULIFLOWER: Prospective area of cauliflower for harvest during the 1980 winter quarter in California is estimated at 5800 acres (2350 hectares), down 3 percent from the winter quarter of 1979. Production is expected to be 447 thousand cwt. (20.3 thousand metric tons), 12 percent below the winter quarter production for 1979. Most of winter supplies will come from central and south coast areas. The crop is progressing normally and is a little ahead of schedule.

CELERY: During the 1980 winter quarter the prospective area of celery for harvest is 9900 acres (4010 hectares), 1 percent below last year. Expected production, at 4.78 million cwt. (217 thousand metric tons), is 2 percent below the 1979 winter quarter production.

In Florida, plantings continue active in the Zellwood and Everglades areas. Harvest is gaining but the season is later than normal. Yields and sizes are slightly below normal but are improving. Quality ranges from fair to very good. Volume is expected to increase during January.

Growing conditions have been generally favorable for California's south coast celery crop. The Oxnard area will supply most of the volume with some production coming from San Diego and Orange Counties.

SWEET CORN: The 1980 winter quarter prospective area of sweet corn for harvest in Florida at 11.0 thousand acres (4450 hectares) is 1 percent below the same quarter a year ago. Projected production is 814 thousand cwt. (36.9 thousand metric tons), down 2 percent from the 1979 winter quarter. Planting has been active along the Florida East Coast and Dade County. Harvest has shifted from the Everglades to the East Coast.

EGGPLANT: The prospective area for harvest in Florida during the 1980 winter quarter is 600 acres (240 hectares), up 20 percent from 1979. Production is projected at 135 thousand cwt. (6120 metric tons), 5 percent more than the winter quarter production last year.

Florida's eggplant crop is in mostly good condition. Recently set acreage is progressing favorably. Growth and fruit set are good. Quality and packout are very good. Most supplies are coming from the Ft. Pierce-Pompano area. Volume is holding steady but is expected to decline in several more weeks.

ESCAROLE/ENDIVE: At 3200 acres (1300 hectares), the prospective 1980 winter quarter harvested acres of escarole/endive in Florida is 3 percent less than for the same period last year. Production is projected at 400 thousand cwt. (18.1 thousand metric tons), 7 percent below the 1979 winter quarter. In Florida, harvest is steady and quality is good. Most volume is coming from the muckland of the Everglades and Zellwood areas. Plantings continue on schedule.

LETTUCE: The area of lettuce for harvest during the 1980 winter quarter is estimated at 62.0 thousand acres (25.1 thousand hectares), up 3 percent from the same period a year ago. The estimated production of 14.6 million cwt. (661 thousand metric tons) is 2 percent above the 1979 winter quarter.

In Florida, harvest is increasing and heavy volume is expected during the winter quarter. The crop is in good condition and head weight is good. The bulk of the supplies are coming from the Everglades and Zellwood areas. Plantings continue on schedule.

In Arizona, lettuce harvest began in late September in the Willcox area, October in the central area and November in the west. Fall weather was reasonably warm but not so severe as to cause any major problems. Planting for the later winter harvest is active and making good progress.

Harvest of California lettuce is active in the Imperial Valley with supplies plentiful. Selective farm worker strike activity continues.

GREEN PEPPERS: The area of green peppers for harvest during the 1980 winter quarter in Florida is estimated at 5500 acres (2230 hectares), up 6 percent from the same period a year ago. Estimated production at 561 thousand cwt. (25.5 thousand metric tons) is down 20 percent from 1979.

In Florida, the overall pepper crop condition is good to very good. Some young acreage is in excellent condition. Harvest is active in most areas. Quality and yields are fair to very good and size is mostly medium to large. Volume is expected to hold steady.

SPINACH: The 1980 winter quarter estimated area of spinach for harvest is 5600 acres (2270 hectares), 30 percent above the area harvested during the 1979 winter quarter. Projected production at 459 thousand cwt. (20.8 thousand metric tons) is 49 percent above the 1979 winter production.

In Texas, peak movement was underway by early January. Cool weather has been beneficial; however, irrigation has been necessary. There has been some incidence of white rust and blue mold.

The California winter quarter spinach crop is in fair condition. Some concern is being expressed about lack of rainfall in southern coastal areas where most of the available supplies will originate.

TOMATOES: The prospective area of tomatoes for harvest during the 1980 winter quarter in Florida at 14.9 thousand acres (6030 hectares) is up 21 percent from the 1979 winter quarter. Expected production at 2.64 million cwt. (120 thousand metric tons) is 2 percent more than last year.

In Florida, peak winter volume is expected to occur during mid-January as the Dade County crop reaches full production. The crop is progressing favorably and is in good to excellent condition. Growth and fruit set are very good. Harvest is about complete in the Palmetto-Ruskin area, but volume supplies continue to be shipped from the other major growing areas. Quality and yields are mostly good but size is small to medium for older plantings. Size for late plantings is mostly medium to large.

STRAWBERRIES: The winter quarter area of strawberries for harvest in Florida is estimated at 2400 acres (970 hectares), the same as a year ago.

Plant growth in Florida's Plant City-Ruskin area is very good. Fruit set and blooms are good. Light harvest is underway with good volume expected in early January. The plants are growing well and blooming in Dade and Bradford Counties.

