
Vegetables



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ALL ONIONS: Planted acreage of onions in the U.S. is expected to total 124 thousand acres (50.2 thousand hectares) in 1986, 2 percent fewer than last year and 7 percent below 1984. Spring acreage at 26.0 thousand acres planted is down 4 percent. Summer, non-storage area, at 11.4 thousand acres, should be up 6 percent; while the storage crop acreage (excluding California), at 60.0 thousand intended acres would be down 7 percent.

SPRING ONIONS: Growers in the spring onion areas of Arizona, California, and Texas expect to harvest 25.0 thousand acres (10.1 thousand hectares) in 1986, 4 percent below last year's level, and 13 percent below two years ago. In Arizona, harvest should begin in early May. Warm winter weather aided crop development. Heavy rains in California during February flooded out some fields in low lying areas. In the desert region, warm weather hastened crop growth.

Texas production is forecast at 38.4 million cwt (174 thousand metric tons), up 19 percent from last year and 15 percent above two years ago. All three growing areas are making good progress. Some irrigation was started in the Winter Garden area. In the Rio Grande area, mild temperatures during the winter aided quality and may help get harvest started two weeks early.

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SUMMER NON-STORAGE ONIONS: Planting intentions for summer non-storage onions totals 11.4 thousand acres (4610 hectares) in 1986, up 6 percent from last year, but 3 percent short of 1984 plantings. In New Mexico and Texas, onion sets are currently being transplanted. In the Texas High Plains, soil moisture is good, but drier soils in the Trans-Pecos area have required irrigation. Acreage in Washington at 1600 acres planted and to be planted is up 7 percent from last year.

SUMMER STORAGE ONIONS: Growers of summer storage onions (excluding California) intend to plant 60.0 thousand acres (24.3 thousand hectares) in 1986, down 7 percent from a year ago and two years ago. Low prices for the 1985 crop are blamed for the acreage cutback. Planting should start in mid-March in early fields and become more general in April.

California growers, where the onion crop is mostly processed, expect to plant 26.7 thousand acres this year. This is up 10 percent from last year but 1 percent short of 1984 plantings. February rains have delayed transplanting in most of California, but planting in desert areas is going forward without much delay.

ONIONS

SEASON AND STATE	AREA		:YIELD PER ACRE:				PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED		FOR	:	:	:	:	:	:
	HARVEST:		1984:	1985:	1986:	1984	1985	1986	
	1984	1985	1986	:	:	:	:	:	
	ACRES		CWT				1,000 CWT		
SPRING 1/									
ARIZ	2,300	1,200	1,200	350	470		805	564	
CALIF	7,700	7,800	7,800	355	450		2,734	3,510	
TEX	18,600	17,000	16,000	180	190	240	3,348	3,230	3,840
GROUP TOTAL:	28,600	26,000	25,000	241	281		6,887	7,304	
	AREA PLANTED						:	1986	
	1984	1985	1986	:	:	:	:	AS % OF	
	1984	1985	1986	:	:	:	:	1985	
	ACRES						PERCENT		
SPRING 1/	30,700	27,000				26,000		96	
SUMMER 1/									
NON-STORAGE									
N MEX	4,100	4,700				4,700		100	
TEX	6,300	4,600				5,100		111	
WASH	1,300	1,500				1,600		107	
GROUP TOTAL:	11,700	10,800				11,400		106	
STORAGE									
COLO	12,800	13,100				11,000		84	
IDAHO &									
MALHEUR	15,700	17,000				16,000		94	
MICH	8,600	8,400				8,200		98	
MINN	900	800				700		88	
N Y	14,400	13,500				13,400		99	
OHIO	530	500				500		100	
OREG, OTHER	3,300	3,500				3,100		89	
UTAH	2,300	1,700				1,400		82	
WASH	4,300	4,300				4,300		100	
WIS	1,700	1,500				1,400		93	
SUBTOTAL	64,530	64,300				60,000		93	
CALIF 2/	26,900	24,300				26,700		110	
TOTAL SUMMER									
CROP	103,130	99,400				98,100		99	
U S	133,830	126,400				124,100		98	

1/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET. 2/ PRIMARILY FOR PROCESSING.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

CROP AND STATE	:	AREA			:YIELD PER ACRE:			PRODUCTION			
	:	HARVESTED		:	FOR	:	:	:	:	:	
	:			:	HARVEST	:	1984	:	1985	:	1986
	:	1984	:	1985	:	1986	:	:	:	:	:

	:	ACRES			CWT			1,000 CWT			
ASPARAGUS 1/ SPRING CALIF	:										
	:										
	:										
	:	34,200	35,200	37,700	25	28		855	986		
STRAWBERRIES 1/ WINTER FLA	:										
	:										
	:	5,100	5,300	4,900	170	200	180	867	1,060	882	
SPRING CALIF	:										
	:	14,100	14,600	15,100	535	530		7,544	7,738		

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

ASPARAGUS: California's area of asparagus for harvest is forecast at 37.7 thousand acres, up 7 percent from 1985. Harvest began in mid-January in the desert area which had benefitted from warm weather and excellent demand. By early February, harvest had started in the other areas of the State. Rains and flooding have halted harvest in the Delta.

STRAWBERRIES: The area of strawberries for harvest in California during the 1986 spring season is expected to total a record 15.1 thousand acres, 3 percent above last year and 7 percent more than 1984. Harvest started early on the south coast but was disrupted by mid-February rain which caused high cullage. Good volumes are expected again by early March.

Production of winter strawberries in Florida is forecast at 882 thousand cwt, 17 percent less than last year's crop. The crop is in generally fair to good condition. Cold weather in December and January caused producers to use sprinklers for protection, in the Hillsborough-Manatee area. Plants were protected but there was bloom and fruit loss. The cold weather has slowed harvest and lowered production. Yield prospects have improved and fair to good volumes are expected for March and April. The Dade County "U-pic" was not damaged by the cold weather and production has been good. Harvest is expected to begin in Bradford County in March.