

Vegetables



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Spring Onion production is forecast at 7.58 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year but 3 percent above 1989. Area for harvest, at 28,200 acres, is up 2 percent. Lower yields in three of the four producing States are responsible for the downturn in production.

Heavy rains in Georgia caused considerable damage to onions and led to the loss of 300 acres. Harvest is nearly finished, but the frequent showers delayed harvest often during May. Texas harvest neared completion by the end of May in the Rio Grande Valley and in Laredo. Digging in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area increased with good yields reported. Growers in Arizona enjoyed strong market conditions with harvest mostly completed. California spring onion harvest is a week to ten days late because of cool weather.

Strawberry production in the seven major States in the winter and spring seasons totaled 12.2 million cwt, up only fractionally from 1990. Adverse weather in the major spring producing States offset Florida's winter season large jump in output. Rains in April and May reduced production in Louisiana. Harvest is active in New Jersey after starting in mid-May. Yields and quality have been good. The crop matured rapidly because of the hot weather. The fast maturity also increased the need for pickers.

Fluctuating weather patterns disrupted the Michigan crop. Frost in mid-March and early April caused some crop damage. Early season temperatures were above normal advancing crop development. Rain in mid-April and early May slowed new plantings but slowed older plantings to the normal development rate. Recent hot weather caused early maturity and picking began a week ahead of normal. Berries are small causing lower yields. The early maturity also disrupted the normal marketing of the crop. Plus, there is a shortage of pickers.

Harvest is late in Oregon because of cool, cloudy weather in April and May. Sunshine and warm weather are needed to ripen the fruit. Harvest should begin about June 19.

Winter freeze damage and flooding got the Washington crop off to a poor start. Cool, wet weather continued to cause problems. A few growers reported weevil damage to their crops.

For additional information call Arvin Budge (202) 447-4285. Office hours are 8:00 to 4:30. ET.

Onions and Strawberries for Fresh Market, Major States, 1989-91

Crop and State	Area			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested		For	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
	: Harvest :		: Harvest :						
	1989	1990	1991						
	----- Acres -----			----- Cwt -----			--- 1,000 Cwt ---		
Onions:									
Spring									
AZ	1,100	1,000	900	405	475	420	446	475	378
CA	7,700	8,500	8,000	400	420	410	3,080	3,570	3,280
GA	4,700	5,600	6,500	135	195	130	635	1,092	845
TX	15,000	12,600	12,800	215	200	240	3,225	2,520	3,072
Group Total:	28,500	27,700	28,200	259	276	269	7,386	7,657	7,575
Straw-									
berries: 1/									
Winter									
FL	5,300	5,300	5,500	260	220	270	1,378	1,166	1,485
Spring									
CA	20,400	20,000	20,500	425	495	475	8,670	9,900	9,738
LA	650	750	850	62	78	65	40	59	55
MI	2,200	2,200	2,100	53	65	60	117	143	126
NJ	600	500	500	30	42	44	18	21	22
OR	6,200	5,700	5,600	105	115	115	651	656	644
WA	1,900	1,800	1,600	60	70	55	114	126	88
Group Total:	31,950	30,950	31,150	301	352	343	9,610	10,905	10,673
Major Sts									
Total	37,250	36,250	36,650	295	333	332	10,988	12,071	12,158

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

The next **VEGETABLES** report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on June 24, 1991.

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