

Vegetables

Released January 8, 2009, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Vegetables* call Debbie Flippin at (202) 720-2157, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Fresh Vegetable Harvested Area Down 5 Percent From Last Year Spring Onion Planted Acreage Down 3 Percent Strawberry Planted Acreage Up 6 Percent

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the winter quarter is forecast at 150,900 acres, down 5 percent from last year. Acreage declined for snap beans, broccoli, carrots, celery, sweet corn, and head lettuce. Acreage increased for bell peppers, cabbage, cauliflower, and tomatoes. Area harvested for spinach remains unchanged.

Area planted for spring onions, at 30,300 acres, is down 3 percent from 2008. Arizona, Georgia, and Texas reduced planted acreage from 2008, while California increased planted acreage.

Strawberry area planted for the major States (California, Florida, and Oregon) in 2009 is forecast at 48,500 acres, up 6 percent from 2008.

Contents

Page

Fresh Market Vegetables

Beans, Snap	4
Broccoli	4
Cabbage	4
Carrots	4
Cauliflower	4
Celery	4
Corn, Sweet	4
Lettuce, Head	4
Onions, Spring	5
Peppers, Bell	4
Spinach	4
Strawberries	5
Tomatoes	4

Fresh Market Crop Comments	6
---	----------

Selected Fresh Market Vegetables	3
---	----------

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop, Winter Season,
Major States, 2007-2008 and Forecasted Area 2009
(Domestic Units)**

Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2009
	2007	2008	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans	14,800	13,500	11,600
Broccoli ¹	28,000	26,000	24,000
Cabbage	11,380	11,330	12,300
Carrots	18,400	16,400	16,200
Cauliflower ¹	8,200	8,000	8,500
Celery ¹	7,600	7,300	7,200
Sweet Corn	8,600	9,200	8,400
Head Lettuce	58,900	50,700	45,500
Bell Pepper ¹	6,600	6,400	6,800
Spinach	800	1,100	1,100
Tomatoes	10,000	9,100	9,300
Total Winter Crop	173,280	159,030	150,900

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop, Winter Season,
Major States, 2007-2008 and Forecasted Area 2009
(Metric Units)**

Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2009
	2007	2008	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Snap Beans	5,990	5,460	4,690
Broccoli ¹	11,330	10,520	9,710
Cabbage	4,610	4,590	4,980
Carrots	7,450	6,640	6,560
Cauliflower ¹	3,320	3,240	3,440
Celery ¹	3,080	2,950	2,910
Sweet Corn	3,480	3,720	3,400
Head Lettuce	23,840	20,520	18,410
Bell Pepper ¹	2,670	2,590	2,750
Spinach	320	450	450
Tomatoes	4,050	3,680	3,760
Total Winter Crop ²	70,120	64,360	61,070

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² Total may not add due to rounding.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop, State, and
Total, Winter Season, 2007-2008 and Forecasted Area 2009**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area		
		Harvested		For Harvest 2009
		2007	2008	
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans FL	Jan-Mar	14,800	13,500	11,600
Broccoli ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	28,000	26,000	24,000
Cabbage FL	Jan-Mar	6,080	5,000	4,900
TX	Dec-Mar	5,300	6,330	7,400
Total		11,380	11,330	12,300
Carrots CA	Jan-Mar	17,500	15,600	15,400
TX	Oct-Dec	900	800	800
Total		18,400	16,400	16,200
Cauliflower ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	8,200	8,000	8,500
Celery ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	7,600	7,300	7,200
Sweet Corn FL	Jan-Mar	8,600	9,200	8,400
Head Lettuce AZ - Western	Nov-Apr	39,900	32,700	29,500
CA	Jan-Mar	19,000	18,000	16,000
Total		58,900	50,700	45,500
Bell Pepper ¹ FL	Jan-Mar	6,600	6,400	6,800
Spinach TX	Dec-Mar	800	1,100	1,100
Tomatoes FL	Jan-Mar	10,000	9,100	9,300

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

**Onions and Strawberries for Fresh Market: Area Planted and Harvested
by Crop, Season, and Total, 2007-2008 and Forecasted Area 2009**

Crop, Season, and State	Planted Area			Harvested Area		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	For Harvest 2009
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Onions ¹						
Spring						
AZ ²	1,100	1,500	1,400	1,100	1,500	
CA ²	6,900	6,700	8,400	6,700	6,500	
GA	12,500	12,000	11,500	12,000	11,500	11,000
TX	12,500	11,000	9,000	10,400	8,900	7,700
Total ²	33,000	31,200	30,300	30,200	28,400	
Strawberries ³						
CA	35,500	36,700	39,000	35,500	36,700	39,000
FL	6,600	6,900	7,300	6,600	6,900	7,200
OR	2,200	2,100	2,200	1,900	1,800	1,800
Major States Total	44,300	45,700	48,500	44,000	45,400	48,000

¹ Primarily fresh market.

² 2009 harvested acreage published April 3, 2009.

³ Includes fresh market and processing.

Snap Beans: Florida area for harvest is forecast at 11,600 acres, down 14 percent from last year. Dry weather from October through December allowed planting to proceed on schedule. However, hard freezes in November caused growers in Union and Columbia Counties to lose significant acreage. Cold temperatures in early December put some fields behind schedule.

Broccoli: California harvested area is forecast at 24,000 acres, down 8 percent from 2008. Cool and dry weather boosted crop growth and development. However, preparatory irrigation was required in many areas due to lack of rain.

Cabbage: Winter area for harvest is forecast at 12,300 acres, 9 percent above 2008. In Florida, field preparation and planting were behind schedule due to Tropical Storm Fay. However, most plantings were finished by the end of the year. In Texas, clear, mild days combined with cool nighttime temperatures provided favorable growing conditions for the cabbage crop.

Carrots: Winter harvested area is forecast at 16,200 acres, down 1 percent from last year. In California, cool and dry weather aided plant growth. No major pest or disease problems were reported. In Texas, planting is on the decline for fresh market carrots due to dry weather and mild temperatures.

Cauliflower: California harvested area is forecast at 8,500 acres, up 6 percent from last year. Preparatory irrigation was required in many areas due to lack of rain. However, cool and dry weather benefitted plant growth.

Celery: The winter celery crop for harvest in California is forecast at 7,200 acres, down 1 percent from last year. Harvest of the celery crop began a week ahead of schedule. However, rainfall and cool weather conditions at the end of the season slowed maturation.

Sweet Corn: Florida harvested area is forecast at 8,400 acres, 9 percent below last year. Favorable conditions from October through December allowed planting to proceed on schedule. Light volumes of sweet corn were harvested by mid-November. However, planting was delayed in some fields in early December due to cold temperatures.

Head Lettuce: Area for harvest is forecast at 45,500 acres, down 10 percent from last year. In Arizona, warmer than average temperatures boosted crop growth. However, by mid-December precipitation and unseasonably cold weather delayed harvest. California's iceberg lettuce crop is growing well.

Onions: Growers intend to plant 30,300 acres of spring onions for 2009, down 3 percent from 2008. California onion growers began planting in October and continued through mid-December. Onion fields have shown good growth in many areas following recent rains. In Georgia, weather conditions have been good for transplanting. Precipitation during the winter months was near normal to slightly below normal. No disease problems have been reported and plants are in good condition. In Texas, onion acreage is down due to weak market prices.

Bell Peppers: Winter area for harvest in Florida is forecast at 6,800 acres, up 6 percent from last year. Favorable weather conditions from October through December allowed planting to proceed on schedule.

Spinach: Harvested area of winter spinach in Texas is forecast at 1,100 acres, unchanged from 2008. Clear, mild days and cool nighttime temperatures improved the quality of the spinach crop.

Strawberries: Planted area for the major States (California, Florida, and Oregon) is forecast at 48,500 acres, up 6 percent from 2008. California's strawberry season started slowly this year due to unusually low temperatures. In Florida, producers began planting by October and continued into early November. Growers irrigated sets due to dry weather conditions. Marketing of the berry crop began in early December. Bradford County growers reported that strawberries looked good this season.

Tomatoes: Florida winter tomato harvested area is forecast at 9,300 acres, up 2 percent from 2008. Growers were able to keep planting on schedule due to favorable weather conditions.

ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: **www.nass.usda.gov**.

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS Home Page at **www.nass.usda.gov**, under the right navigation, *Receive reports by Email*, click on **National** or **State**. Follow the instructions on the screen.

PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)
Other areas, please call 703-605-6220 FAX: 703-605-6900
(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)

ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: **nass@nass.usda.gov**.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.