

# VEGETABLES

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## WINTER QUARTER AREA FOR HARVEST UP 21 PERCENT

Prospective area for harvest in major producing States during the winter quarter of 1978 (January, February, March) for 13 fresh market vegetable crops (snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, escarole, lettuce, green peppers, tomatoes, and spinach) is placed at 181,550 acres, 21 percent more than the 150,450 acres harvested during the winter quarter of 1977.

Potential production of these 13 fresh market crops is placed at 34.6 million cwt., 19 percent more than the 29.1 million cwt. harvested during the winter quarter of 1977.

Production forecasts in this report are based on average yields of the last three years.

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

CROP	AREA				FOR HARVEST MAJOR STATES 1978	PRODUCTION			MAJOR STATES 1978 2/
	HARVESTED			1976 TOTAL		1977			
	1976 TOTAL	1977				TOTAL	MAJOR STATES		
	TOTAL	MAJOR STATES	MAJOR STATES						
	ACRES					1,000 CWT			
SNAP BEANS	14,900	5,500	5,500	14,400	477	198	198	490	
BROCCOLI 3/	13,800	14,050	12,900	15,400	1,153	1,168	1,097	1,371	
CABBAGE 3/	22,400	17,400	17,400	20,700	4,804	4,188	4,188	4,699	
CARROTS 3/	20,300	16,700	16,700	18,100	4,210	3,351	3,351	3,692	
CAULIFLOWER 3/	6,900	7,110	5,900	4,800	570	528	443	384	
CELERY 3/	8,100	8,200	8,200	9,700	4,214	3,957	3,957	4,850	
SWEET CORN	11,300	3,800	3,800	11,100	1,130	285	285	1,010	
EGGPLANT	550	250	250	350	118	50	50	78	
ESCAROLE	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,600	378	324	324	364	
LETTUCE	61,500	62,000	62,000	61,200	13,588	13,590	13,590	13,464	
GREEN PEPPERS 3/	5,200	4,800	4,800	5,500	572	264	264	556	
SPINACH	2,450	3,000	3,000	3,200	226	260	260	278	
TOMATOES	13,100	7,300	7,300	14,500	2,817	1,059	1,059	3,335	
TOTAL WINTER	183,200	152,810	150,450	181,550	34,257	29,222	29,066	34,571	

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

CROP	AREA				PRODUCTION			
	HARVESTED			FOR HARVEST MAJOR STATES 1978	1976 TOTAL	1977		MAJOR STATES 1978 2/
	1976 TOTAL	1977				TOTAL	MAJOR STATES	
		TOTAL	MAJOR STATES					
	HECTARES			METRIC TONS				
SNAP BEANS	6 030	2 230	2 230	5 830	21 640	8 980	8 980	22 230
BROCCOLI 3/	5 580	5 690	5 220	6 230	52 300	52 980	49 760	62 190
CABBAGE 3/	9 070	7 040	7 040	8 380	217 900	189 960	189 960	213 140
CARROTS 3/	8 220	6 760	6 760	7 320	190 960	152 000	152 000	167 470
CAULIFLOWER 3/	2 790	2 880	2 390	1 940	25 850	23 950	20 090	17 420
CELERY 3/	3 280	3 320	3 320	3 930	191 140	179 490	179 490	219 990
SWEET CORN	4 570	1 540	1 540	4 490	51 260	12 930	12 930	45 810
EGGPLANT	220	100	100	140	5 350	2 270	2 270	3 540
ESCAROLE	1 090	1 090	1 090	1 050	17 150	14 700	14 700	16 510
LETTUCE	24 890	25 090	25 090	24 770	616 340	616 430	616 430	610 710
GREEN PEPPERS 3/	2 100	1 940	1 940	2 230	25 950	11 970	11 970	25 220
SPINACH	990	1 210	1 210	1 300	10 250	11 790	11 790	12 610
TOMATOES	5 300	2 950	2 950	5 870	127 780	48 040	48 040	151 270
TOTAL WINTER	74 130	61 840	60 880	73 480	1 553 870	1 325 490	1 318 410	1 568 110

1/ JAN, FEB AND MAR.

2/ BASED ON AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE FOR YEARS 1975-77.

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 PERIODS	YEAR OF PLANTING		INTENDED 1978	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST 1978
		1976	1977		1976	1977	
				ACRES			
CABBAGE							
CALIF	SEP-OCT	2,400	2,200	2,100	2,400	2,200	2,100
FLA	SEP-MAR	18,200	17,100	17,100	10,000	9,000	9,400
TEX	JUL-JAN	20,200	15,800	17,900	10,000	6,200	9,200
TOTAL		40,800	35,100	37,100	22,400	17,400	20,700
CELERY							
CALIF-S CST	JUL-APR	10,400	11,000	11,100	3,800	4,100	5,000
FLA	AUG-APR	10,400	10,700	10,700	4,300	4,100	4,700
GROUP TOTAL		20,800	21,700	21,800	8,100	8,200	9,700
ESCAROLE							
FLA	AUG-MAR	6,700	6,900	6,500	2,700	2,700	2,600
TOMATOES							
FLA	JUL-APR	38,700	43,200	42,100	13,100	7,300	14,500

PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, WINTER QUARTER

CROP AND STATE	WINTER AREA			1978 AREAS FOR HARVEST AS A PERCENT OF 1977
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST 1978	
	1976	1977		
	ACRES			PERCENT
SNAP BEANS <u>1/</u>				
FLA	14,900	5,500	14,400	262
BROCCOLI <u>1/</u>				
CALIF	13,000	12,900	15,400	119
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	800	1,150		
GRAND TOTAL	13,800	14,050		
CARROTS <u>1/</u>				
ARIZ	500	600	600	100
CALIF-DES	4,400	4,000	4,200	105
-OTH	4,900	4,100	4,100	100
TEX	10,500	8,000	9,200	115
GROUP TOTAL	20,300	16,700	18,100	108
CAULIFLOWER <u>1/</u>				
CALIF	6,000	5,900	4,800	81
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	900	1,210		
GRAND TOTAL	6,900	7,110		
SWEET CORN <u>1/</u>				
FLA	11,300	3,800	11,100	292
EGGPLANT <u>1/</u>				
FLA	550	250	350	140
LETTUCE <u>1/</u>				
ARIZ	13,900	14,000	14,500	104
CALIF-DES	41,500	40,900	39,600	97
FLA	3,600	4,300	4,200	98
TEX	2,500	2,800	2,900	104
GROUP TOTAL	61,500	62,000	61,200	99
GREEN PEPPERS <u>1/</u>				
FLA	5,200	4,800	5,500	115
SPINACH <u>1/</u>				
CALIF	650	800	800	100
TEX	1,800	2,200	2,400	109
GROUP TOTAL	2,450	3,000	3,200	107

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

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

# AREA INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST

CROP, SEASON AND STATE	AREA PLANTED			AREA HARVESTED		
	1976	1977	1978	1976	1977	FOR HARVEST 1978
ONIONS 1/ SPRING:						
ARIZ 2/	1,800	1,400	1,000	1,800	1,400	
CALIF 2/	6,400	5,700	5,700	5,900	5,700	
TEX	25,000	17,800	25,800	24,000	16,900	24,500
GROUP TOTAL	33,200	24,900	32,500	31,700	24,000	
STRAWBERRIES 3/ WINTER						
FLA	1,400	1,500	2,000	1,400	1,500	2,000

1/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET. 2/ 1978 - PLANTING INTENTIONS - FIRST ESTIMATE PUBLISHED MAR 7.

3/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

**ONIONS:** Planted area of spring crop onions is placed at 32,500 acres, 31 percent above 1977. In Texas, direct seeding began in the Lower Rio Grande Valley during early September. Some replanting of early fields was necessary after heavy rains in mid-September. Growing conditions throughout the fall have been favorable. The light freeze just prior to Christmas did not cause top damage and is not expected to create appreciable seed stem activity. Initial harvest is expected to begin in late February with supplies remaining light until some time after March 1. In the Winter-Garden area, seeding will continue throughout January with transplanting active until the first of March. Harvest is expected to get underway around the middle of April. At Laredo, seeding was complete by mid-December. Growing conditions have been very good, although weeds have been a problem in a few fields. Harvest is expected to begin around mid-April.

Arizona's dry onion crop has made excellent progress under ideal growing conditions thus far. Planting began in early December and is nearly complete. Harvest is expected to begin in early May.

In California, spring onion harvest will start in the Desert areas in April. Early transplanted acreage is making good growth in the Desert, Fresno, and Stockton areas. The early crop suffered some damage in the Bakersfield area from strong winds on December 21.

**SNAP BEANS:** The 1978 winter quarter prospective area for harvest in Florida is estimated at 14,400 acres, more than double the area harvested during the winter quarter of 1977. This acreage is expected to produce 490,000 cwt. of snap beans, also more than double the winter quarter of production of 1977. The small production last year was the result of a damaging freeze during January.

Florida's overall plant condition is good. Heavy rains during mid-December leached fertilizer and washed beds. Planting is back on schedule. Harvest was slowed by rains earlier but cooler and drier weather recently has brought about an improvement. Harvest is active in the Pompano and Dade County areas. Bean quality and packout have improved.

**BROCCOLI:** The 1978 prospective area for harvest in California during the winter quarter is placed at 15,400 acres, 19 percent more than last year. Production is expected to total 1,371,000 cwt., 25 percent above the 1977 winter quarter.

California's broccoli is in light supply from the central coast area. Production is expected to increase into February and March. Supplies from the south coast area and southern California are expected to reach major production volume in January and taper off by the end of the winter quarter.

**CABBAGE:** Prospective area for harvest during the 1978 winter quarter at 20,700 acres is 19 percent more than last year. This acreage is expected to provide 4.7 million cwt., an increase of 12 percent from 1977.

California's cabbage crop has progressed satisfactorily. Supplies will be available throughout the winter quarter from the south coast and Desert areas.

In Florida, cabbage harvest was underway in practically all areas during December. Quality has been good but some problems from disease are beginning to show up. Supplies should increase as the season progresses. Transplanting is active in all areas and most growers are on schedule.

CARROTS: The 1978 prospective area for harvest for the winter quarter is estimated at 18,100 acres, 8 percent more than the area harvested in 1977. Production is projected at 3.7 million cwt., 10 percent more than the 1977 winter crop.

In Arizona, harvest of the winter carrot crop began on a limited basis in mid-December. Good quality and normal yields are being reported on early harvested fields. Ideal growing conditions this fall have aided growth and development. However, insects and a warm spell hindered early growth in some fields. Supplies are expected to last through May.

Digging of California carrots in the Desert area is increasing. Peak harvest will be in March. Digging in the Kern district of the San Joaquin Valley of California is at peak levels and will continue through January with harvest expected to taper off during February and March.

CAULIFLOWER: Prospective area for harvest in California for the winter quarter is estimated at 4,800 acres, 19 percent less than the same period in 1977. Production is expected to total 384,000 cwt., 13 percent less than last year's production.

Cauliflower from southern California and the San Joaquin Valley is in moderate supply and will be decreasing through February. Central Coast harvest will become active in February and remain strong into March.

CELERY: Area for harvest during the 1978 winter quarter is placed at 9,700 acres, 18 percent more than 1977. Production from the winter acreage is projected at 4.9 million cwt.

Harvest of Florida's celery continues steady. Yields are below normal and heavy stripping is necessary in some fields because of leaf miners. Size and quality are expected to improve as the season progresses.

Celery harvest is active in the south coast area of California. Cutting will be complete in the Chula Vista area in February.

SWEET CORN: Prospective area for harvest in Florida during the 1978 winter quarter is estimated at 11,100 acres, a whopping 292 percent increase from the 3,800 acres harvested during 1977. Production is projected at 1.0 million cwt. compared with only 285,000 cwt. in 1977. Florida's 1977 winter sweet corn crop was reduced drastically by a hard freeze during January.

Harvest of sweet corn in Florida continues at a steady pace. Most of the volume is coming from the Ft. Pierce-Pompano and Dade County areas. Wet fields and poor market conditions earlier have delayed harvest. Some acreage has been passed because of the poor market conditions. Quality is generally good. Plantings continue at an active pace in both areas.

EGGPLANT: The 1978 prospective area for harvest in Florida during the winter quarter is placed at 350 acres, 40 percent above last year. Projected production for the winter quarter is 78,000 cwt., 56 percent more than the 1977 winter crop.

Florida's eggplants are in good to very good condition. Older plantings are being plowed under due to poor market conditions. Planting of the new crop is below normal. Fruit quality is very good. Pack-out was reduced by wind scars. Most volume is coming from the Ft. Pierce-Pompano area. Harvest should hold steady into early January and then decline seasonally.

ESCAROLE: Prospective area for harvest in Florida during the 1978 winter quarter is estimated at 2,600 acres, 4 percent less than the same period in 1977. Production of 364,000 cwt. compares with 324,000 cwt. harvested during the same period in 1977.

Harvest continues active in the Everglades and Zellwood areas. Rains earlier caused some damage to plants. Quality should improve in early December as cooler, drier weather prevails. Planting of the new crop is generally on schedule.

LETTUCE: The 1978 winter quarter area for harvest is estimated at 61,200 acres, 1 percent below the 1977 crop. Projected production is placed at 13.5 million cwt., also 1 percent below the 1977 winter crop.

In Florida, harvest during December was active until rains at mid-month interrupted activities. Most of the volume is coming from the Everglades and Zellwood areas. Growth was reduced by cloudy weather and rains. Most types are available. However, Iceberg and Romaine supplies are dominant. Rains caused some rib damage to plants. Quality is expected to improve in early January. Volume should show gains in early to mid-January.

In Arizona, harvest of the lettuce crop in the western area began in early November and is in full swing. Quality and yields have been good in most fields. Insects have been a problem Statewide. Spraying has been active. Warm fall weather has aided growth and development of the crop. The lettuce crop is maturing ahead of normal.

Lettuce harvest in the Imperial Valley of California is gaining momentum and will continue through the winter quarter. Harvest in the south coast area will begin in early March.

GREEN PEPPERS: Winter quarter area for harvest in Florida is estimated at 5,500 acres, 15 percent above last year. Production is placed at 556,000 cwt., compared with 264,000 cwt. in the 1977 winter quarter.

Abundant supplies were available from Florida in December. Poor market conditions have delayed harvest somewhat. Heavy volume is coming from the southwest and southeast areas. Size, color and quality are good. Some older fields have been abandoned. Light frost in late December caused minor top foliage burn to tender plants. Good volume should continue into January.

SPINACH: The winter quarter estimate of 3,200 acres for harvest is 7 percent more than the 3,000 acres harvested in 1977. Production is projected at 278,000 cwt. also 7 percent more than the 1977 winter crop.

California's spinach crop is making satisfactory progress. Normal supplies are expected, with most of the volume coming from the south coast area.

TOMATOES: The 1978 prospective area for harvest during the winter quarter in Florida is placed at 14,500 acres, compared with 7,300 acres harvested during the winter quarter last year. Production is expected to total 3.3 million cwt., compared with 1.1 million cwt. from the 1977 winter crop. The 1977 winter crop in Florida suffered severe freeze damage during January 1977.

Florida's tomato harvest increased during December. The important Palmetto-Ruskin area has finished harvest for the season. Heavy volume is now coming from the Immokalee, Ft. Pierce-Pompano and Dade County areas. Size on crown set is good but on the small side for second pickings. Some fruit cracking has occurred but generally quality is good. Older vines are declining seasonally. Fall harvest reached the peak level at mid-December. Good supplies are expected through January.

STRAWBERRIES: Winter area for harvest in Florida is placed at 2,000 acres, 33 percent above 1977.

Florida's strawberry crop is in good condition and growth has been good. Bloom and small berries are evident in most fields. In the Plant City area, light harvest for local use is underway. Good volume is expected by mid-January and will continue through the winter months. Harvest in the Dade County area is underway with most of the volume going for U-Pic and roadside stands. Quality is fair to good.

