
Vegetables



Agricultural
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ALL ONIONS: Planted area of onions in the U.S. is expected to total 122 thousand acres (49.4 thousand hectares) in 1987, 1 percent below last year and 4 percent below 1985. Spring acreage at 23.2 thousand acres planted is down 3 percent from last year. Summer non-storage area, at 11.5 thousand acres estimated is down 7 percent. The storage crop is planned for 61.9 thousand acres (excluding California), a gain of 2 percent; while California acreage of 25.5 thousand acres should be down 5 percent.

SPRING ONIONS: Growers of spring onions in Arizona, California and Texas expect to harvest 21.9 thousand acres (8860 hectares) in 1987, 4 percent above last year but 16 percent below 1985. Arizona's spring onion crop is in good condition and developing normally. Planting was completed in December and stands were established by February 1st. Harvest is not expected to get underway until May. Spring onion fields in California are in average condition, with normal growing conditions. Irrigating has been necessary due to light rainfall.

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Production of spring onions in Texas is forecast at 3.38 million cwt (153 thousand metric tons), down 6 percent from last year, but 4 percent above two years ago. In the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, condition of onions is good. Harvest could be delayed a couple of weeks by excessive moisture in the fields. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area, most of the onions are emerging and stands look good. In the Laredo area, excellent growing conditions exist. Progress is normal.

SUMMER NON-STORAGE ONIONS: Planted area in the earlier non-storage States (New Mexico, Texas, and Washington) is expected to total 11.5 thousand acres (4650 hectares) in 1987, down 7 percent from last year, but 6 percent above 1985. New Mexico acreage will be at about the same level as last year. Washington growers plan to increase 6 percent. In the Texas High Plains, land preparations for planting have been slow due to wet weather. The crop will probably be later than normal. In the Trans-Pecos area, cool weather slowed germination, and the crop may be a little later than normal.

SUMMER STORAGE ONIONS: Growers of summer storage onions (excluding California) intend to plant 61.9 thousand acres (25.0 thousand hectares), up 2 percent from last year, but 4 percent short of 1985 plantings. Planting has not started yet but moisture conditions and weather are favorable in most of the States. Field work should begin in mid to late March.

California acreage is forecast at 25.5 thousand acres, down 5 percent from last year, but 2 percent above 1985. Planting has progressed in spite of light rains. Early stands are being irrigated.

ONIONS

SEASON AND STATE	AREA			YIELD PER ACRE:			PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED			FOR					
	1985			1986			1987		
	1985	1986	1987	1985	1986	1987	1985	1986	1987
	ACRES			CWT			1,000 CWT		
SPRING 1/									
ARIZ	1,200	1,200	1,200	470	550		564	660	
CALIF	7,800	7,800	8,200	450	370		3,510	2,886	
TEX	17,000	12,000	12,500	190	300	270	3,230	3,600	3,375
GROUP TOTAL	26,000	21,000	21,900	281	340		7,304	7,146	
	AREA PLANTED						1987		
	1985			1986			AS % OF		
	1985			1986			1986		
	ACRES						PERCENT		
SPRING 1/	27,000		24,000			23,200		97	
SUMMER 1/									
NON-STORAGE									
N MEX	4,700		4,800			4,800		100	
TEX	4,600		5,900			5,000		85	
WASH	1,500		1,600			1,700		106	
GROUP TOTAL	10,800		12,300			11,500		93	
STORAGE									
COLO	13,100		11,800			12,400		105	
IDAHO &									
MALHEUR	17,000		15,700			17,000		108	
MICH	8,400		8,000			8,000		100	
MINN	800		700			770		110	
N Y	13,500		13,300			12,500		94	
OHIO	500		500			490		98	
OREG, OTHER	3,500		3,300			3,200		97	
UTAH	1,700		1,500			1,500		100	
WASH	4,300		4,400			4,600		105	
WIS	1,500		1,400			1,400		100	
SUBTOTAL	64,300		60,600			61,860		102	
CALIF 2/	25,000		26,900			25,500		95	
TOTAL SUMMER									
CROP	100,100		99,800			98,860		99	
U S	127,100		123,800			122,060		99	

1/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET. 2/ PRIMARILY PROCESSING.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

CROP AND STATE	:	AREA			:YIELD PER ACRE:			PRODUCTION		
	:	HARVESTED		:	FOR	:	:	:	:	:
	:	HARVEST		:	1985	:	1986	:	1987	:
	:	1985	:	1986	:	1987	:	:	:	:
:	:	1985	:	1986	:	1987	:	:	:	:
:	:	ACRES			CWT			1,000 CWT		
ASPARAGUS 1/ SPRING CALIF	:	35,200	:	37,800	:	39,700	:	28	:	29
	:		:		:		:	986	:	1,096
STRAWBERRIES 1/ WINTER FLA	:	5,300	:	4,900	:	4,900	:	200	:	185
	:		:		:		:	235	:	
	:		:		:		:	1,060	:	907
SPRING CALIF	:	14,600	:	15,600	:	16,100	:	530	:	505
	:		:		:		:	7,738	:	7,878

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

ASPARAGUS: California's area of asparagus is forecast at 39.7 thousand acres, up 5 percent from 1986. Harvest began in the desert area about two weeks ahead of schedule. Volume has increased with warmer temperatures, but quality has varied. By mid-February harvest had started in the other areas of the State. So far the weather has been ideal for harvest.

STRAWBERRIES: The area of strawberries for harvest in California during the 1987 spring season is expected to total 16.1 thousand acres, 3 percent above last year and 10 percent more than 1985. Harvest got off to an early start on the South Coast but was virtually halted by frost in mid-January. The frost, followed by cool weather, delayed blooming and production of strawberries through February. Cold weather in late February again hit the southern California production areas where daily production was still about 85 percent below last year.

Production of winter strawberries in Florida is forecast at 1.15 million cwt, 27 percent more than last year's crop. Florida's winter strawberry crop is in excellent condition. There has been no freezing weather and the crop is disease free. Harvest of the main crop, in the Hillsborough-Manatee area is just getting underway. A good supply is expected within 2 weeks and should be available through April. Harvest of the relatively small Bradford County crop is expected to peak in 3-4 weeks. In Dade County, U-Pic and roadside stand operations are active.