Vegetables



United States Department of Agriculture

Washington, D.C. 20250

January 9, 1986 3:00 P.M. ET RELEASED:

ACREAGE FOR HARVEST DOWN 4 PERCENT

The prospective area for harvest of 7 fresh market vegetables during the winter is estimated at 178 thousand acres (72.0 thousand hectares). This is 4 percent less than the 185 thousand acres (74.9 thousand hectares) harvested during the same period last year. The crop had escaped major freeze damage through January 1.

Vg 2-1 (1-86)

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PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, WINTER SEASON, UNITED STATES (DOMESTIC UNITS)

		AREA			
CROP)	HARVESTED			
	1984	: 1985	:	HARVEST 1986	
	:	ACRES			
BROCCOLI 1/ CARROTS 1/ CAULIFLOWER 1/ CELERY 1/ SWEET CORN LETTUCE TOMATOES	27,800 29,600 10,400 7,900 8,900 74,000	29,800 34,200 9,500 9,300 5,500 83,100 13,600		28,500 33,300 10,300 8,200 7,800 73,800 15,900	
TOTAL WINTER	: : 174,900	185,000		177,800	

PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, WINTER SEASON, UNITED STATES (METRIC UNITS)

	:			AREA		
CROP	:	HARVESTED			:	FOR
	;	1984	;	1985		HARVEST 1986
	:			HECTARES		
BROCCOLI CARROTS CAULIFLOWER CELERY SWEET CORN LETTUCE TOMATOES		11 250 11 980 4 210 3 200 3 600 29 950 6 600		12 060 13 840 3 840 3 760 2 230 33 630 5 500		11 530 13 480 4 170 3 320 3 160 29 870 6 430
TOTAL WINTER	: :	70 790		74 860		71 960

^{1/} INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET, PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, WINTER SEASON

WINTER SENSOR						
CROP	: ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	AREA			: -:1986 AREA	
AND	:HARVEST:	HAR	VESTED	: FOR	:HARVESTED	
STATE	:PERIOD :-	1984	: 1985	: 1986	:AS PERCENT : OF 1985	
	: ;		ACRES		PERCENT	
BROCCOLI: 1/	: :					
CALIF	:JAN-MAR:	27,800	29,800	28,500	96	
CARROTS: 1/	: :					
CALIF - DESERT	:DEC-MAY:	11,000		11,100		
- OTHER	:JAN-MAR:	6,000		6,000		
FLA	:NOV-MAR:	5,600		8,200	117	
TEX	:DEC-MAR:	7,000		8,000		
GROUP TOTAL	: :	29,600	34,200	33,300	97	
CAULIFLOWER: 1/						
CALIF	JAN-MAR:	10,400	9,500	10,300	108	
CELERY: 1/						
CALIF - SOUTH COAST	:JAN-APR:	4,300	5,600	4,700	84	
FLA	: JAN-MAR :	3,600		3,500		
GROUP TOTAL	: :	7,900		8,200		
	: :		• •	-,		
SWEET CORN:	: :				3.40	
FLA	:JAN-MAR:	8,900	5,500	7,800	142	
LETTUCE:						
ARIZ - WESTERN	:NOV-APR	30,100	36,600	31,700	87	
CALIF - BLYTHE	:FEB-APR:	4,400		3,200		
- IMPERIAL VALLEY	:DEC-MAR:	30,100		29,300		
FLA	:JAN-MAR:	5,900		7,300		
TEX	:DEC-MAR:	3,500		2,300		
GROUP TOTAL	: :	74,000		73,800		
TOMATORC.	: :					
TOMATOES:	100 000	16 000	10.600	15 000	117	
FLA	:JAN-MAR:	16,300	13,600	15,900	117	

^{1/} INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

ONIONS AND STRAWBERRIES PLANTING INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST

CDOD SEASON		PLANTED AF	REA	: h	HARVESTED /	AREA
CROP, SEASON, : AND STATE	1984	: : 1985	: : 1986	1984	: : 1985	:FOR HARVEST : 1986
			,	ACRES		
ONIONS 1/ SPRING: ARIZ 2/ CALIF 2/ TEX GROUP TOTAL	2,400 7,700 20,600 30,700	1,200 7,800 18,000 27,000	1,200 8,500 17,000 26,700	2,300 7,700 18,600 28,600	1,200 7,800 17,000 26,000	16,000
STRAWBERRIES 3/ : WINTER: FLA	5,400	5,300	5,000	5,400	5,300	5,000

^{1/} PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET.

ONIONS: Area planted to spring onions 1986 is estimated at 26.7 thousand acres (10.8 thousand hectares), down 1 percent from last year and 13 percent below 1984. Texas acreage for harvest is forecast at 16.0 thousand acres, down 6 percent from last year.

In Texas' Rio Grande Valley, planting met with minimal delays. Soil moisture is good and current stands look good. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area, planting is still underway. Early fields received some frost damage in December, but stands now look good. In Laredo, fields are doing well and there is adequate moisture for good development.

Planting in Arizona started in late October but was stopped by rain in early December. Weather since then has been ideal for good stands to be established. In California, onion growth was slowed by fog and cool temperatures. Some transplanting was not yet completed by the end of the year.

^{2/ 1986-}PLANTING INTENTIONS - HARVEST ACREAGE PUBLISHED MAR 7.

^{3/} INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

BROCCOLI: During the winter season, California expects to harvest 28.5 thousand acres (11.5 thousand hectares) of broccoli, 4 percent less than the same period a year ago. Cool, damp weather in December slowed growth in some areas. Harvest is underway in the desert and cutting continues on the south and central coast, and in the San Joaquin Valley.

CARROTS: Expected 1986 winter carrot acres for harvest is forecast at 33.3 thousand acres (13.5 thousand hectares), down 3 percent from a year ago.

In Florida, digging was slowed by the holidays and cold weather. Freezing temperatures invaded the carrot growing areas on December 26 and 27. Generally, light foliage burn occurred from the frost and freeze. Good supplies are expected during the winter period. Both regular varieties and mini-types are available. Growing weather, with the exception of the two-day freeze has been favorable. Plantings continue at an active pace.

Heavy rains in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas at planting time made some replanting necessary. Harvest was running behind normal because of the wet ground. Quality of carrots from early fields is variable.

Light harvest of California desert carrots started in Coachella Valley about December 1 and a few days later in Imperial Valley. Good volume was expected by early January with peak shipments in March and April. Harvest is nearing completion in the Salinas Valley. Moderate harvest continues in the San Joaquin Valley with the Kern district the major supplier.

CAULIFLOWER: The prospective acreage of cauliflower for harvest in California during the winter of 1986 is estimated at 10.3 thousand acres (4170 hectares), up 8 percent from the same period last year. Cool, overcast conditions have slowed growth and maturity of cauliflower in the San Joaquin Valley. Harvest is well along in the Santa Maria area and continues in the south bay area. Harvest is increasing in the desert.

CELERY: The 1986 winter celery prospective area for harvest totals 8200 acres (3320 hectares), 12 percent less than the same period a year ago.

In Florida, transplantings continue slightly below a year ago in the Everglades and Central areas. Plants survived the December freeze with minimal problems. Harvest is gaining momentum and good volume is expected during the remaining season. Quality and size are good.

Transplanting and harvesting continued in the south coast district of California. A few acres were reported abandoned in Ventura County. Harvesting was virtually completed in the central coast counties. Growing conditions were about normal.

SWEET CORN: Acreage of sweet corn for harvest in Florida during the winter of 1986 is estimated at 7800 acres (3160 hectares), 42 percent more than the freeze damaged winter crop of 1985. Seeding continues active in the Pompano and Dade County areas. Growth was slowed by recent cold weather but has now returned to normal. Harvest is gaining in the Pompano area where ear size and quality are good. Harvest is getting underway in Dade County and good volume is expected in January. Ear size is below normal but improvement is expected.

LETTUCE: The prospective acreage for harvest of winter lettuce is estimated at 73.8 thousand acres (29.9 thousand hectares), down 11 percent from the winter of 1985.

In Florida, seeding continues active in the Everglades and steady in the Central area. Harvest is gaining and good supplies are expected through the season. The December freeze caused only minor damage in the Central and Everglades areas. Weather conditions are now favorable for growth and development.

Planting in Texas met with some delays because of wet conditions. Stands are currently good. Harvest began slightly behind normal.

Harvest of Arizona's western lettuce crop began the first week in November and will continue through April. Heavy rainfall in early October disrupted planting schedules of some growers, and unseasonably cold weather in early December limited harvesting.

Harvest started in the Imperial Valley of California in mid-December. Yields appear to be fairly light from early fields but should improve as harvest becomes heavy. Harvest of the spring crop in Blythe (Palo Verde Valley) should begin in early February and run into April.

TOMATOES: The prospective acreage for harvest of winter tomatoes in Florida is estimated at 15.9 thousand acres (6430 hectares), 17 percent more than last year's winter crop. Seeding is complete in all winter areas. The December cold weather damaged some foliage in the Southwest and Fort Pierce areas. There was no significant fruit loss and volume from all areas is expected to be good through March. Dade County escaped the frost. Growth and fruit quality have been good. Size and yields remain variable.

STRAWBERRIES: Winter strawberries in Florida are expected to be harvested from 5000 acres (2020 hectares), down 6 percent from the 1985 crop. The crop survived the December freeze as growers used water sprinklers for protection. Only minor bloom loss is expected. Commercial volumes are coming from the Hillsborough-Manatee area. Fruit size is mostly medium to large. Good volumes are expected into early May with peak supplies expected in late March.



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