



Vegetables

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Fresh Vegetable Harvested Acreage Down 6 Percent Spring Onion Planted Acreage Down 2 Percent Winter Strawberry Acreage Up 6 Percent

The prospective area for harvest of 12 selected fresh market vegetables during the winter quarter is forecast at 179,700 acres. This is 6 percent below 2001 and 8 percent below 2000. Acreage decreases in broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, head lettuce, spinach and tomatoes more than offset acreage increases in snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, and bell peppers. Eggplant acreage remains unchanged.

Area planted for spring onions, at 37,700 acres, is down 2 percent from 2001 and 9 percent below 2000. Arizona increased planted acreage while the remaining spring onion States decreased area planted for 2002.

Florida's winter strawberry acreage is forecast at 6,900 acres, an increase of 6 percent over 2001 and 10 percent above 2000.

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**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Season and
Crop, Major States, 2000-2001 and Forecasted Area 2002
(Domestic Units)**

Crop and Season	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2002
	2000	2001	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans	9,500	11,000	12,000
Broccoli ¹	33,000	31,000	22,000
Cabbage	10,800	8,900	11,000
Carrots	26,500	25,800	23,700
Cauliflower ¹	11,500	10,500	8,500
Celery ¹	7,500	7,700	7,900
Sweet Corn	7,400	7,400	8,000
Eggplant	600	500	500
Head Lettuce	67,300	67,800	66,000
Bell Pepper ¹	4,800	4,400	5,600
Spinach	2,600	2,100	2,000
Tomatoes	13,900	14,000	12,500
Total Winter Crop	195,400	191,100	179,700

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Season and
Crop, Major States, 2000-2001 and Forecasted Area 2002
(Metric Units)**

Crop and Season	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2002
	2000	2001	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Snap Beans	3,840	4,450	4,860
Broccoli ¹	13,350	12,550	8,900
Cabbage	4,370	3,600	4,450
Carrots	10,720	10,440	9,590
Cauliflower ¹	4,650	4,250	3,440
Celery ¹	3,040	3,120	3,200
Sweet Corn	2,990	2,990	3,240
Eggplant	240	200	200
Head Lettuce	27,240	27,440	26,710
Bell Pepper ¹	1,940	1,780	2,270
Spinach	1,050	850	810
Tomatoes	5,630	5,670	5,060
Total Winter Crop	79,080	77,340	72,720

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop, State, and
Total, Winter Season, 2000-2001 and Forecasted Area 2002**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area			2002 as Percent of 2001
		Harvested		For Harvest 2002	
		2000	2001		
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Snap Beans FL	Jan-Mar	9,500	11,000	12,000	109
Broccoli ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	33,000	31,000	22,000	71
Cabbage FL	Jan-Mar	3,000	2,000	2,500	125
TX	Dec-Mar	7,800	6,900	8,500	123
Total		10,800	8,900	11,000	124
Carrots CA	Jan-Mar	23,000	23,000	21,500	93
TX	Dec-Mar	3,500	2,800	2,200	79
Total		26,500	25,800	23,700	92
Cauliflower ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	11,500	10,500	8,500	81
Celery ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	7,500	7,700	7,900	103
Sweet Corn FL	Jan-Mar	7,400	7,400	8,000	108
Eggplant FL	Jan-Mar	600	500	500	100
Head Lettuce AZ - Western	Nov-Apr	50,300	51,800	50,000	97
CA	Jan-Mar	17,000	16,000	16,000	100
Total		67,300	67,800	66,000	97
Bell Pepper ¹ FL	Jan-Mar	4,800	4,400	5,600	127
Spinach TX	Dec-Mar	2,600	2,100	2,000	95
Tomatoes FL	Jan-Mar	13,900	14,000	12,500	89

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

**Onions and Strawberries for Fresh Market: Area Planted and Harvested
by Crop, Season, and Total, 2000-2001 and Forecasted Area 2002**

Crop, Season, and State	Planted Area			Harvested Area		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	For Harvest 2002
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Onions ¹						
Spring						
AZ ²	3,300	3,100	3,400	3,200	3,000	
CA ²	7,200	5,700	5,300	7,100	5,500	
GA	15,000	14,500	14,000	12,400	13,500	13,500
TX	15,900	15,200	15,000	13,500	14,200	14,500
Total ²	41,400	38,500	37,700	36,200	36,200	
Strawberries ³						
Winter						
FL	6,300	6,500	6,900	6,300	6,500	6,900

¹ Primarily fresh market.

² 2002 harvested acreage published April 5, 2002.

³ Includes fresh market and processing.

Snap Beans: Florida acreage for harvest is 12,000 acres, up 9 percent from last year and 26 percent above 2000. The snap bean crop is in good condition and harvesting is underway with good quality and volume.

Broccoli: California acreage is forecast at 22,000 acres, 29 percent below 2001 and 33 percent below 2000. Weather conditions have been favorable for the crop, and yields are likely to increase as growers planted fewer acres and allocated the most fertile fields to vegetables. No major pests or disease problems are being encountered.

Cabbage: Winter acreage for harvest is forecast at 11,000 acres, 24 percent above 2001 and 2 percent above 2000. Florida's harvest is active and the crop is in good condition. In Texas, the San Antonio-Winter Garden area showed good progress for cabbage harvest, although light showers have slowed harvest in some areas. East Texas continues to dry out from recent rains, so harvest has slowed. The High Plains continue to have favorable conditions for harvesting.

Carrots: Winter harvested acreage is forecast at 23,700 acres, 8 percent below last year and 11 percent below two years ago. The California crop is reported in good condition. High demand for baby carrots continues. In Texas, harvest was slow for carrots in the Rio Grande Valley. Harvest is mainly on hold due to recent rains in east Texas. The High Plains continue to have favorable conditions for harvesting.

Cauliflower: California acreage is forecast at 8,500 acres, down 19 percent from 2001 and 26 percent below 2000. Weather conditions have been favorable to winter cauliflower. No disease or pest problems have developed.

Celery: The winter celery crop for harvest in California is forecast at 7,900 acres, 3 percent above last year and 5 percent above 2000. The celery crop in the Oxnard area is in fair condition. Because of the white fly problem encountered last fall, the outer leaves have been cut away reducing yield and crop size.

Sweet Corn: Florida harvested acreage is forecast at 8,000 acres, 8 percent more than last year and the year before. Mostly mild conditions during November and December allowed planting around Homestead to progress normally. Planting was complete by mid-December. The Dade County and East Coast acreage escaped significant damage from colder weather that arrived in late December. Harvesting started in Dade County in late December.

Eggplant: Acreage for winter harvest in Florida, at 500 acres, is unchanged from 2001 but 17 percent below 2000. Harvest is active. Crop quality is good.

Head Lettuce: Acreage for harvest is forecast at 66,000, down 3 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Harvest of lettuce is underway in some areas. No major problems were reported, although some spraying for leafminers and worms was noted.

Onions: Growers intend to plant 37,700 acres of spring onions for 2002, down 2 percent from 2001 and 9 percent below 2000. In California, planting began in October under favorable conditions. Onion fields have shown robust growth in many areas in response to recent rains and good growing conditions. Georgia reports a very dry and warm fall which discouraged producers from transplanting onions. Rains and more seasonal temperatures returned by late December when planting was nearly complete. Texas harvest in the Rio Grande Valley is progressing slowly. The San Antonio/Winter Garden area showed good progress. Recent rains in east Texas slowed most cultural activities. The High Plains continue to have favorable conditions for planting and harvesting.

Bell Peppers: Winter acreage in Florida is forecast at 5,600 acres, 27 percent above last year and 17 percent above 2000. Mostly mild weather from October through December allowed planting to proceed at a normal pace in the growing areas around Immokalee, Jupiter, and Stuart. Strong winds from the Atlantic caused some bud and bloom drop in the East Coast region, however, no significant damage occurred.

Spinach: Harvested acres of winter spinach in Texas is forecast at 2,000 acres, a decrease of 5 percent from 2001 and 23 percent below the 2000 crop. Harvest was slow for spinach in the Rio Grande Valley. The San Antonio-Winter Garden area showed good progress for spinach harvest, although light showers have slowed harvest. Harvest in east Texas is delayed due to recent rains. Harvesting conditions continue to be favorable in the High Plains.

Strawberries: Florida winter acreage is forecast at 6,900 acres, up 6 percent from last year and 10 percent above two years ago. The warmer fall weather increased foliage growth and reduced fruit quantity. This warm weather caused the fruit to ripen two weeks earlier than normal.

Tomatoes: Florida winter tomato acreage is forecast at 12,500 acres, down 11 percent from 2001 and 10 percent below 2000. Warm temperatures and mostly clear conditions boosted plant growth and allowed planting and harvesting to proceed at a normal pace during October through most of December. Dade County and other southern Peninsula areas reported no significant damage when Hurricane Michelle passed through the Florida Straits in early November. Blowing sand powered by strong winds off the Atlantic Ocean caused some quality reductions during late November. However, milder weather during most of December yielded some very good quality fruit. Temperatures plunged to freezing levels in late December and early January in many northern and central localities. However, the crop escaped significant damage due to the short duration of the colder temperatures.

The next "Vegetables" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on April 5, 2002.

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