

# VEGETABLES

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## FALL QUARTER FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE AREA UP 5 PERCENT

The prospective area of 14 fall fresh market vegetables for harvest during October, November and December 1977 is placed at 240,280 acres, 5 percent more than the 227,790 acres harvested during the fall quarter of 1976. Production for these 14 crops based on average yields per acre for recent years is projected at 46.3 million cwt. This is 6 percent more than last year's fall production of 43.6 million cwt.

Production is expected to be higher for snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, green peppers and tomatoes. Decreases are indicated for celery, sweet corn, escarole and spinach.

Melon area for harvest during the fall quarter of 1977 is estimated at 4,220 acres, 24 percent less than last year's total of 5,550 acres. Based on average yields for recent years, potential production is indicated at 548,000 cwt., 23 percent less than the 1976 fall quarter.

The final storage type onion production estimate for summer producing States is placed at 16.8 million cwt., 3 percent below last year and 1 percent below the September forecast of 17.0 million cwt.

Onion growers in Texas intend to plant 19,800 acres for harvest during the spring quarter of 1978, 16 percent more than in 1977.

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

CROP	AREA				PRODUCTION			
	HARVESTED			FOR HARVEST MAJOR STATES 1977	1975 TOTAL	1976		MAJOR STATES 1977 2/
	1975 TOTAL	1976						
		TOTAL	MAJOR STATES	TOTAL	MAJOR STATES			
		ACRES			1,000 CWT			
WINTER	172,580	183,200	181,500	151,150	33,715	34,257	34,149	29,680
SPRING	336,270	375,470	367,490	391,190	53,324	59,638	58,903	60,734
SUMMER	569,170	556,550	496,820	483,780	74,892	71,245	64,341	64,606
FALL								
SNAP BEANS	16,900	16,380	16,380	17,670	664	658	658	671
BROCCOLI 3/	14,150	16,600	15,900	16,400	987	1,228	1,193	1,230
CABBAGE 3/	28,440	28,870	27,780	28,500	7,699	7,727	7,316	7,581
CARROTS 3/	23,180	21,820	19,660	22,700	7,070	7,002	6,136	7,264
CAULIFLOWER 3/	15,600	14,150	13,000	12,400	1,614	1,317	1,252	1,265
CELERY 3/	8,000	9,780	9,530	9,210	4,093	5,104	4,984	4,844
SWEET CORN	15,300	15,900	15,900	16,000	959	1,281	1,281	1,168
CUCUMBERS	14,400	14,200	14,200	15,400	1,327	1,150	1,150	1,401
EGGPLANT	850	800	800	900	174	180	180	187
ESCAROLE	1,700	1,750	1,750	1,650	191	243	243	206
LETTUCE	55,400	57,000	57,000	59,400	12,700	12,845	12,845	13,306
GREEN PEPPERS 3/	12,300	12,400	12,400	14,000	1,498	1,454	1,454	1,834
SPINACH	2,750	2,290	2,290	1,950	139	136	136	107
TOMATOES	22,800	21,200	21,200	24,100	4,912	4,791	4,791	5,254
TOTAL 14 VEGETABLES	231,770	233,140	227,790	240,280	44,027	45,116	43,619	46,318
CANTALOUPS	2,900	4,400	4,400	3,350	317	508	508	379
HONEYDEW MELONS	920	1,150	1,150	870	204	200	200	169
TOTAL MELONS	3,820	5,550	5,550	4,220	521	708	708	548
TOTAL FALL	235,590	238,690	233,340	244,500	44,548	45,824	44,327	46,866

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

CROP	AREA				PRODUCTION			
	HARVESTED			FOR HARVEST MAJOR STATES 1977	1975 TOTAL	1976		MAJOR STATES 1977 2/
	1975 TOTAL	1976				TOTAL	MAJOR STATES	
		TOTAL	MAJOR STATES					
WINTER	69,840	74,130	73,450	61,160	1,529,280	1,553,870	1,548,970	1,346,260
SPRING	136,070	151,940	148,700	158,310	2,418,720	2,705,110	2,671,760	2,754,830
SUMMER	230,340	225,220	201,050	195,770	3,397,030	3,231,600	2,918,430	2,930,460
FALL								
SNAP BEANS	6,840	6,630	6,630	7,150	30,120	29,850	29,850	30,440
BROCCOLI	5,730	6,720	6,430	6,640	44,770	55,700	54,110	55,790
CABBAGE	11,510	11,680	11,240	11,530	349,220	350,490	331,850	343,870
CARROTS	9,380	8,830	7,960	9,190	320,690	317,600	278,320	329,490
CAULIFLOWER	6,310	5,730	5,260	5,020	73,210	59,740	56,790	57,380
CELERY	3,240	3,960	3,860	3,730	185,650	231,510	226,070	219,720
SWEET CORN	6,190	6,430	6,430	6,480	43,500	58,100	58,100	52,980
CUCUMBERS	5,830	5,750	5,750	6,230	60,190	52,160	52,160	63,550
EGGPLANT	340	320	320	360	7,890	8,160	8,160	8,480
ESCAROLE	690	710	710	670	8,660	11,020	11,020	9,340
LETTUCE	22,420	23,070	23,070	24,040	576,060	582,640	582,640	603,550
GREEN PEPPERS	4,980	5,020	5,020	5,670	67,950	65,950	65,950	83,190
SPINACH	1,110	930	930	790	6,300	6,170	6,170	4,850
TOMATOES	9,230	8,580	8,580	9,750	222,800	217,310	217,310	238,320
TOTAL 14 VEGETABLES	93,800	94,360	92,190	97,250	1,997,010	2,046,400	1,978,500	2,100,950
CANTALOUPS	1,170	1,780	1,780	1,360	14,380	23,040	23,040	17,190
HONEYDEW MELONS	370	470	470	350	9,250	9,070	9,070	7,670
TOTAL MELONS	1,540	2,250	2,250	1,710	23,630	32,110	32,110	24,860
TOTAL FALL	95,340	96,610	94,440	98,960	2,020,640	2,078,510	2,010,610	2,125,810

1/ OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. 2/ BASED ON AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE, 1974-75. 3/ FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT.

AREA INTENTIONS BY SPECIFIED PLANTING PERIODS AND PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST,  
FALL QUARTER, BY STATES

CROP AND STATE	AREA PLANTED AND TO BE PLANTED				FALL AREA		FOR HARVEST 1977
	PLANTING PERIOD	YEAR OF PLANTING		INTENDED 1977	HARVESTED		
		1975	1976		1975	1976	
				ACRES			
CABBAGE:							
CALIF	JUN-AUG	1,700	1,600	2,400	1,700	1,600	2,400
COLO	APR-JUN	2,500	2,600	2,800	500	500	200
FLA	SEP-MAR	18,200	17,100	17,100	1,800	1,700	1,800
IND	MAR-JUN	1,600	1,700	1,500	200	200	100
MICH	APR-JUL	5,000	4,400	4,200	1,600	1,700	1,500
N J	MAR-AUG	5,000	5,300	5,600	1,500	1,400	1,600
N Y	APR-JUL	10,900	11,300	12,000	7,100	7,600	7,800
N C	JUL-AUG	2,600	2,400	2,400	2,200	2,200	2,200
OHIO	JUN-AUG	1,400	1,600	1,700	1,300	1,400	1,600
PA	APR-AUG	2,800	2,700	2,800	1,000	1,000	1,000
TEX	APR-JAN	20,200	15,700	14,000	5,400	5,500	5,000
VA	FEB-AUG	1,800	1,480	1,500	350	380	400
WIS	APR-JUN	5,800	5,600	5,300	2,100	2,600	2,900
SUBTOTAL		79,500	73,480	73,300	26,750	27,780	28,500
MINOR STATES <u>1/</u>		1,460	1,140		1,360	1,090	
DISCONTINUED STATES <u>2/</u>		1,420			330		
GRAND TOTAL		82,380	74,620		28,440	28,870	
CANTALOUPS:							
ARIZ	JUN-AUG	800	1,700	850	800	1,700	850
CALIF	JUL-AUG	2,100	2,700	2,500	2,100	2,700	2,500
GROUP TOTAL		2,900	4,400	3,350	2,900	4,400	3,350
CELERY:							
CALIF-S CST	JUL-APR	10,400	11,000	11,100	1,600	2,000	2,000
-C CST	JAN-SEP	8,150	9,250	9,000	4,300	4,900	4,700
FLA	AUG-APR	10,400	10,700	10,500	1,500	2,000	1,900
MICH	APR-JUL	2,400	2,500	2,500	200	500	500
N Y	APR-JUL	830	940	590	150	130	110
SUBTOTAL		32,180	34,390	33,690	7,750	9,530	9,210
MINOR STATES <u>1/</u>		250	250		250	250	
GRAND TOTAL		32,430	34,640		8,000	9,780	
ESCAROLE:							
FLA	AUG-MAR	6,700	6,900	6,500	1,600	1,700	1,600
OHIO	APR-AUG	1,150	900	700	100	50	50
GROUP TOTAL		7,850	7,800	7,200	1,700	1,750	1,650
HONEYDEW MELONS:							
ARIZ	JUN-AUG	120	400	170	120	400	170
CALIF	JUL-AUG	800	750	700	800	750	700
GROUP TOTAL		920	1,150	870	920	1,150	870
TOMATOES:							
ALA	MAR-JUL	8,000	8,500	8,400	400	500	300
CALIF	FEB-JUL	28,800	27,500	25,900	11,800	10,400	10,700
FLA	JUL-APR	38,700	43,200	42,100	9,700	10,300	12,700
TEX	JUL-SEP	900	600	500	900		400
GROUP TOTAL		76,400	79,800	76,900	22,800	21,200	24,100

1/ INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES WHICH ARE LIMITED TO END-OF-SEASON ESTIMATES ONLY: CABBAGE-IDAHO, OREG; CELERY-WASH. 2/ INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES TERMINATED WITH PROGRAM CHANGES EFFECTIVE IN 1976: CABBAGE-ARIZ, MO.

PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, FALL QUARTER, BY STATES

CROP AND STATE	FALL AREA			1977 AREA FOR
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST	HARVEST AS
	1975	1976	1977	PERCENT OF
	ACRES			1976
				PERCENT
SNAP BEANS <u>1/</u>				
CALIF	1,100	1,100	1,000	91
FLA	10,400	10,500	11,300	108
GA	800	700	1,700	243
MD	300	280	300	107
N J	700	700	400	57
N C	300	300	270	90
S C	1,200	1,000	1,000	100
VA	2,100	1,800	1,700	94
GROUP TOTAL	16,900	16,380	17,670	108
BROCCOLI <u>1/</u>				
CALIF	13,800	15,900	16,400	103
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	350	700		
GRAND TOTAL	14,150	16,600		
CARROTS <u>1/</u>				
CALIF - DES	700	700	700	100
- OTH	6,700	6,200	7,000	113
MICH	1,900	2,700	2,800	104
N Y	1,700	1,800	1,900	106
OREG	1,100	960	1,100	115
TEX	4,200	2,300	3,600	157
WASH	2,000	3,400	3,800	112
WIS	2,000	1,600	1,800	113
SUB-TOTAL	20,300	19,660	22,700	115
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	2,620	2,160		
DISCONTINUED				
STATE <u>3/</u>	260			
GROUP TOTAL	23,180	21,820		
CAULIFLOWER <u>1/</u>				
CALIF	10,600	9,400	8,500	90
N Y	2,200	1,700	2,000	118
OREG	1,700	1,900	1,900	100
SUB-TOTAL	14,500	13,000	12,400	95
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	1,100	1,150		
GRAND TOTAL	15,600	14,150		

SEE FOOTNOTES ON PAGE 5.

PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, FALL QUARTER, BY STATES

CROP AND STATE	FALL AREA			1977 AREA FOR
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST	HARVEST AS
	1975	1976	1977	PERCENT OF
	ACRES			1976
				PERCENT
SWEET CORN 1/				
CALIF	1,700	1,900	1,500	79
FLA	13,600	14,000	14,500	104
GROUP TOTAL	15,300	15,900	16,000	101
CUCUMBERS 1/				
CALIF	700	600	700	117
FLA	7,600	7,000	7,700	110
S C	1,300	1,400	1,200	86
TEX	2,700	3,000	3,900	130
VA	2,100	2,200	1,900	86
GROUP TOTAL	14,400	14,200	15,400	108
EGGPLANT 1/				
FLA	850	800	900	113
LETTUCE 1/				
ARIZ	16,200	16,000	16,500	103
CALIF	31,200	33,000	33,000	100
FLA	1,900	2,400	2,200	92
N J	900	1,200	1,200	100
N MEX	3,500	3,200	4,500	141
TEX	1,700	1,200	2,000	167
GROUP TOTAL	55,400	57,000	59,400	104
GREEN PEPPERS 1/				
CALIF	4,500	4,000	3,700	93
FLA	3,400	4,200	5,100	121
N J	1,000	900	900	100
TEX	3,400	3,300	4,300	130
GROUP TOTAL	12,300	12,400	14,000	113
SPINACH 1/				
CALIF	450	450	600	133
N J	300	340	350	103
TEX	2,000	1,500	1,000	67
GROUP TOTAL	2,750	2,290	1,950	85

1/ ACREAGE 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; CARROTS-MINN, N J, OHIO; CAULIFLOWER-ARIZ, MICH, TEX.

3/ INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATE TERMINATED WITH PROGRAM CHANGES EFFECTIVE IN 1976:  
CARROTS-MASS.

ONIONS: AREA AND PRODUCTION REPORTED TO DATE

SEASON AND STATE	AREA			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED		FOR						
	1975	1976	HARVEST	1975	1976	IND 1977	1975	1976	IND 1977
	ACRES			CWT.			1,000 CWT.		
SPRING 1/	23,000	31,700	24,000	228	226	223	5,248	7,172	5,343
SUMMER 1/									
NON-STORAGE TOTAL	9,450	11,850	10,750	286	300	255	2,704	3,553	2,745
STORAGE									
COLO	5,300	5,900	6,800	310	370	290	1,643	2,183	1,972
IDAHO & E OREG	10,000	11,300	11,900	450	550	495	4,500	6,215	5,891
MICH	6,800	7,100	7,000	260	305	290	1,768	2,166	2,030
MINN	750	800	750	220	215	290	165	172	218
N Y	13,500	13,700	13,300	255	265	295	3,443	3,631	3,924
OHIO	580	470	560	375	370	380	218	174	213
OREG, W	2,100	2,200	2,000	520	515	420	1,092	1,133	840
UTAH	1,300	1,500	1,400	290	300	320	377	450	448
WASH	1,500	1,800	2,400	400	400	395	600	720	948
WIS	1,200	1,400	1,300	260	295	215	312	413	280
SUBTOTAL	43,030	46,170	47,410	328	374	354	14,118	17,257	16,764
CALIF 2/	27,000	19,500	28,000	340	370	320	9,180	7,215	8,960
DISCONTINUED STATE 3/	400			280			112		
TOTAL SUMMER	79,880	77,520	86,160	327	362	330	26,114	28,025	28,469
U S TOTAL	102,880	109,220	110,160	305	322	307	31,362	35,197	33,812

ONIONS: AREA INTENTIONS

SEASON AND STATE	PLANTED AREA			1978 AS PERCENT OF	
	1976	1977	INTENDED 1978	1976	1977
	ACRES			PERCENT	
SPRING TEX	25,000	17,100	19,800	79	116

1/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET.

2/ PRIMARILY PROCESSING.

3/ INDIANA.

SNAP BEANS: The 1977 fall quarter area for harvest in major producing States is estimated at 17,670 acres, 8 percent more than the 16,380 acres harvested during the same quarter in 1976. Based on a projection of historic average yields, production from this acreage is expected to be 671,000 cwt. This would be 2 percent more than the 1976 crop.

In New Jersey, rainfall has been adequate in most areas. Supplies are available in moderate but declining volume. Some late plantings continue to grow. Marketings are expected to extend through late October or until a killing frost. Virginia's harvest is underway. Yields are somewhat low and will continue to decrease if rain is not received. Insects are also presenting problems. Georgia's fall snap beans are progressing normally. Damage from worms in southeastern fields has been reported. In Florida, the crop is in fair to good condition. Early plantings are showing blooms and pin beans. Plantings continue active and are expected to remain steady until mid-October in some areas. Gadsden County pole bean harvest is increasing. Fruit quality is excellent. Bush and pole beans should be available from the southeast area by the end of October.

Supplies of California snap beans will be available from October through mid-November from the south coast, central coast, and lower San Joaquin Valley. Harvest should taper off after mid-November and end in mid-December.

BROCCOLI: The 1977 prospective area for harvest in California during the fall quarter is placed at 16,400 acres, 3 percent above 1976. Production is expected to total 1.2 million cwt. based on historic average yields. This would be 3 percent more than the same period in 1976.

Good supplies of California broccoli are being harvested in the Salinas Valley. Moderate volume is coming from the Santa Maria district.

CABBAGE: Area for harvest during the 1977 fall quarter is forecast at 28,500 acres, up 3 percent from a year ago. Based on historic average yields this acreage is expected to provide 7.6 million cwt., an increase of 4 percent from a year earlier.

Maturity is ahead of normal in New York. Recent rains have increased head size, which has caused some splitting. Harvest during the last half of September was slowed by excess moisture. In New Jersey, harvest is general with good volume moving to market. Rainfall in most areas has been adequate and recent cooling temperatures have been favorable. Marketings are expected to decline after mid-October. Supplies will extend through mid-November from the late acreage. Heavy rainfall in Ohio during July delayed setting of cabbage plants, but growing conditions have been good. Early maturity pushed harvest ahead of normal in Michigan, but rains have now slowed harvest. Some rotting has occurred because of standing water.

Harvest of the fall crop is just getting underway in southwest Virginia. In Florida, transplanting and seeding was underway by mid-September. In the Hastings area, soil moisture was below normal and many fields were irrigated prior to planting. Planting was increasing in practically all areas by the end of September. Plants are in generally good condition. First harvest is expected by late November.

The greatest majority of the cabbage in Colorado has been harvested. California's fall cabbage supplies are expected to be larger than normal. Most of the shipments will come from the south coast area from October through December. Additional cabbage will come from the central coast during the same period. Desert cabbage will be available in December.

CANTALOUPS: The 1977 fall quarter estimate of 3,350 acres for harvest is 24 percent less than a year earlier. Production from this acreage, based on average yields for the past three years, is projected at 379,000 cwt., 25 percent less than the same period in 1976.

In Arizona, harvest of fall cantaloups began in mid-September on a limited basis in the central area. Early planting and ideal growing conditions have enabled the crop to progress about two weeks ahead of normal. Both size and quality have been good from early picked cantaloups. Harvest is expected to last through early November. California's Imperial Valley fall cantaloup harvest will begin in early October and will continue strong through October. Picking is expected to taper off into November and be completed by early December.

CROP REPORTING BOARD, SRS, USDA

CARROTS: Prospective area for harvest during the 1977 fall quarter is estimated at 22,700 acres, 15 percent above 1976. Based on historic average yields, production is forecast at 7.3 million cwt., 18 percent above the same quarter in 1976.

Hot, dry weather early in the growing season advanced Michigan maturity, but a wet spell in late August and September has slowed harvesting activities.

Fall carrot yields in western Washington are expected to be normal. September weather has been excellent for growth. Columbia Basin growers expect a slightly shorter than normal production due to the wide spread rot problems. Oregon's carrot crop is developing satisfactorily with an average crop expected. Carrot harvest is currently light in the Salinas Valley of California. Peak harvest will occur during November and December. Digging in the San Joaquin Valley and south coast area will be moderate during the fall months.

CAULIFLOWER: Prospective area for harvest in the fall quarter is estimated at 12,400 acres, a decrease of 5 percent from 1976. Based on historic average yields, fall crop production is expected to be 1.2 million cwt., 1 percent above the 1976 fall output.

Cauliflower harvest is underway in New York, but has been slowed by persistent rains statewide during the last half of September.

The cauliflower crop in Oregon is progressing well after suffering extreme heat stress in August. Good weather through most of the major fall cauliflower growing areas in California has aided in producing good supplies. Most production is coming from Monterey County. Later in the season increased supplies will be coming from the southern areas.

CELERY: Fall quarter 1977 celery acreage for harvest is placed at 9,210 acres, 3 percent less than the 1976 area harvested. Production for the fall crop is projected at 4.8 million cwt. based on average yields in recent years. This would be under last year's crop by 3 percent.

The quality of the New York crop is good although some acreage was lost to flooding. Michigan's celery crop is maturing ahead of normal due to rain and moderate temperatures. Harvest has been slowed because of excess moisture. However, the crop is showing no quality problems.

In Florida, the crop is making fair to good progress. Excessive rains recently interrupted transplantings. Growers are slightly behind last year's schedule. Transplanting continues in the Everglades and has resumed in the Zellwood area.

Celery cutting is at peak levels in the central coast area of California and is expected to continue strong into November. Harvest will be completed by the end of December. Cutting of the south coast celery crop will begin in early November. The Oxnard area will provide most of the fall volume.

SWEET CORN: Prospective area for harvest during the 1977 fall quarter is estimated at 16,000 acres, 1 percent above the area harvested in the 1976 fall period. Production of 1.2 million cwt., is anticipated based on average yields in recent years.

In Florida, plantings began in the Everglades in late July and continued into late September. Growth has been fair to good. First harvest began on September 12 and gained momentum as the season progressed. Ear size was small early in the season but has improved. Quality is mostly good. Plantings are underway in the Southeast area. The crop in the Zellwood area is making good progress. Light harvest is underway.

Harvest of California's fall sweet corn is expected to be heavy through mid-November, with lesser amounts available until early December. Most of the supplies will come from the south coast area.

CUCUMBERS: Area for harvest is estimated at 15,400 acres, 8 percent more than the 1976 fall acreage. Projected production is up 22 percent to 1.4 million cwt.

The Florida crop is in good to excellent condition. Light plantings continue. Early plantings are running. First harvest should get underway by mid-October with peak volume expected in November as harvest in the important southern areas becomes extensive.

The Imperial Valley will supply most of California's fall cucumbers during October and November. Additional supplies will be available from the south coast area during October, November and December.

EGGPLANT: Florida's projected production is 187,000 cwt., 4 percent above a year earlier. Area for harvest at 900 acres is 13 percent above 1976 which accounts for the increased production. The crop is in very good condition and making excellent progress. Growing conditions have been generally favorable in all areas. Open bloom and fruit set is abundant on early plantings. Transplanting continues active in some areas. Light harvest is expected to begin in the Pompano area the first week of October. Volume should increase through October to peak movement in November.

ESCAROLE: Area for harvest during the 1977 fall quarter is estimated at 1,650 acres, 6 percent below 1976. Projected production based on average yields is expected to total 206,000 cwt., 15 percent below the 1976 fall production. In Florida, planting continues in the Everglades and Zellwood areas. Rains delayed plantings in the Everglades. Early plantings are making good progress. Some low areas in fields were drowned out. First harvest is expected in late October.

HONEYDEWS: Area for harvest is expected to decrease by 24 percent from a year earlier during the 1977 fall quarter. The projected area of 870 acres would produce a crop of 169,000 cwt. with average yields, 15 percent below a year earlier.

In Arizona, harvest of the fall honeydew crop is expected to begin around mid-October and continue through November. The crop has progressed well under ideal growing conditions.

Harvest of California's fall honeydews will begin in early October in the Imperial Valley, continue strong through October and taper off to the finish in late November.

LETTUCE: The 1977 fall quarter lettuce area for harvest is estimated at 59,400 acres, up 4 percent from a year ago. Projected production based on historic average yields is 13.3 million cwt., 4 percent above the 1976 fall production.

Rainfall has been short in some areas of New Jersey and growers have been irrigating. Cool temperatures have been favorable for crop development. Harvest is increasing and moderate to heavy volume is expected to extend from early October to mid-November. Quality is good.

In Florida, plantings are well underway in the Zellwood and Everglades areas. Thinning and weeding of early plantings is active. Harvest should start in late October.

New Mexico's crop is in fair condition. In Arizona, harvest of the fall lettuce crop began on a limited basis during mid-September in the Willcox area. The lettuce crop has progressed well under ideal growing conditions in the central and Willcox areas. Size and quality have been good on the early picked fields. Planting of the fall crop is nearly complete in the western area and good stands are reported in most fields. However, a recent heavy rain saturated fields in the Yuma area resulting in some fields being replanted. Planting was delayed about two weeks in other fields. Spraying has been very active this fall for insects and worms, but no serious problems are expected.

California fall lettuce harvest is active in the Salinas Valley. Volume will be heavier through October as more than normal late acreage was planted this year. Harvest will soon be underway in the Brentwood area and the San Joaquin Valley. In the desert, harvest will begin in late December.

ONIONS: The final production estimate for storage type onions is placed at 16.8 million cwt., 1 percent below the September 1 estimate and 3 percent below 1976. Total production of non-storage and storage type onions in summer producing States is estimated at 28.5 million cwt., 2 percent above the past year. Area for harvest is estimated at 86,160 acres, 11 percent more than 1976.

Harvest has been delayed in Upstate areas of New York due to heavy and persistent rains. Yields may be off from earlier estimates as a result of rot and other problems associated with wet harvest conditions. Late varieties in Orange County have yielded below earlier expectations.

Harvest in Ohio is slightly more than one-half complete as of October 1. Weather conditions permitting, producers expect to complete harvest by mid-October as the crop is now fully mature. Rains have delayed final harvesting activities throughout Michigan. Excessive moisture caused some deterioration of quality in late fields.

Minnesota yields are high as a result of larger than average size onions this year.

Harvest is in the wind-up stages in Idaho. However, completion of harvest is being delayed by recent rains. Harvest is underway in all areas of Colorado. Irrigation water was adequate but not abundant.

The overall quality of this year's crop in Utah is good, although size is generally smaller. In some areas, late rains before harvest increased the moisture content of the onions and may lead to increased spoilage during storage. In Washington, harvest of storage onions is well underway. Some growers were able to complete harvest before the rains. Quality is good, but size is smaller than normal. Heavy rainfall during late September affected crop prospects in Oregon. Cool, wet weather interrupted harvest and sour skin and rot is evident in many fields.

California's summer onion crop yields are expected to be down slightly from last year. Cool weather in May and June set the crop back. Rain in mid-September caused minor delays in harvest. Digging is presently active in the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast areas.

SPRING ONIONS: Weather conditions in South Texas have generally been favorable for seedbed preparations. Direct seeding began in the Lower Rio Grande Valley around mid-September and is expected to continue into November with most acreage seeded during October. Some fields in the Valley will be transplanted around November 1. In the Winter Garden and Laredo areas, planting was underway by October 1 and should continue until mid-November. Recent hot, dry weather has slowed growth on some early transplanted fields.

GREEN PEPPERS: Fall quarter area for harvest is estimated at 14,000 acres, 13 percent above 1976. Based on historic average yields, this acreage is expected to provide a crop of 1.8 million cwt., 26 percent above the 1976 fall crop.

In New Jersey, recent rainfall has been adequate in most areas. Harvest is moderate with steady supply of all types available. Marketings from late acreage are expected to extend into late October and end with the first killing frost.

In Florida, transplanting and seeding is active in most areas. Condition of the growing crop is generally good. Light to moderate supplies should be available by the end of October.

California's green pepper harvest is active in all growing areas. Good volume will be available through early November with harvest ending in mid-December.

SPINACH: Area to be harvested for the 1977 fall spinach crop is estimated at 1,950 acres, down 15 percent from a year earlier. This acreage, based on average yields is expected to produce a crop of 107 cwt., 21 percent below 1976.

Supplies of fall spinach in California will be available from October through December. Most of the production will come from the south coast area.

In New Jersey, rainfall is adequate in most producing areas. Cool temperatures have been favorable for production. Supplies are expected to be light to moderate through mid-November with final harvest during late November.

TOMATOES: The 1977 prospective area for harvest during the fall quarter is placed at 24,100 acres, compared with 21,200 acres harvested in 1976. Based on historic average yields, production is expected to total 5.3 million cwt., 10 percent above the 1976 crop.

In Florida, the crop is generally fair to excellent. Bloom buds and open blooms are abundant, with fruit set increasing. Plantings continue active in most areas. Light harvest is expected by the first week in October in the heavy producing Palmetto-Ruskin area. Volume should increase in November as harvest becomes active in the Southwest and Ft. Pierce-Pompano areas. Harvest should begin in Dade County in December.

Dry weather during July in Alabama reduced plantings, but regular rains during August and September improved prospects. Harvest is expected to continue until the first killing frost. Early tomatoes are small but the late crop is expected to be near normal size. In California, tomato picking is very active in the central coast and San Joaquin Valley areas. Most of the late season volume will originate from the south coast area.

