
Vegetables



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ACREAGE FOR HARVEST UP 9 PERCENT

Prospective acreage for harvest of 7 fresh market vegetables during the winter quarter (January, February, and March) is estimated at 165 thousand acres (66.9 thousand hectares). This is 9 percent above the 152 thousand acres (61.3 thousand hectares) harvested in the same period of 1984. Harvested acreage is expected to be above last year's freeze damaged crop for all 7 commodities.

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PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, WINTER QUARTER 1/, UNITED STATES
(DOMESTIC UNITS)

CROP	AREA		
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST 1985
	1983	1984	
ACRES			
BROCCOLI 2/	19,800	22,400	24,000
CARROTS 2/	24,900	23,700	25,800
CAULIFLOWER 2/	7,800	8,400	8,500
CELERY 2/	8,500	7,800	9,300
SWEET CORN	10,400	8,900	9,800
LETTUCE	58,600	64,000	70,900
TOMATOES	15,300	16,300	16,900
TOTAL WINTER	145,300	151,500	165,200

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

CROP	AREA		
	HARVESTED		FOR
	1983	1984	HARVEST 1985
	HECTARES		
BROCCOLI	8 010	9 070	9 710
CARROTS	10 080	9 590	10 440
CAULIFLOWER	3 160	3 400	3 440
CELERY	3 440	3 160	3 760
SWEET CORN	4 210	3 600	3 970
LETTUCE	23 710	25 900	28 690
TOMATOES	6 190	6 600	6 840
TOTAL WINTER	58 800	61 320	66 850

1/ JAN, FEB, AND MAR. 2/ INCLUDE FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

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

CROP AND STATE	AREA			1985 AREA HARVESTED AS PERCENT OF 1984
	HARVESTED		FOR	
	1983	1984	1985	
	ACRES			PERCENT
BROCCOLI: 1/ CALIF	19,800	22,400	24,000	107
CARROTS: 1/ CALIF - DESERT 2/ - OTHER	11,900 6,000	10,700 6,000	11,800 5,900	110 98
TEX	7,000	7,000	8,100	116
GROUP TOTAL	24,900	23,700	25,800	109
CAULIFLOWER: 1/ CALIF	7,800	8,400	8,500	101
CELERY: 1/ CALIF - SOUTH COAST FLA	4,700 3,800	4,200 3,600	5,600 3,700	133 103
GROUP TOTAL	8,500	7,800	9,300	119
SWEET CORN: FLA	10,400	8,900	9,800	110
LETTUCE: ARIZ - WESTERN 2/ - OTHER	18,800 700	20,300 1,800	26,000 1,800	128 100
CALIF - BLYTHE 2/ - IMPERIAL VALLEY 2/	4,400 26,100	4,400 30,100	4,500 29,400	102 98
FLA	6,000	5,900	7,000	119
TEX	2,600	1,500	2,200	147
GROUP TOTAL	58,600	64,000	70,900	111
TOMATOES: FLA	15,300	16,300	16,900	104

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

2/ THE ACTUAL HARVEST PERIOD BEGINS BEFORE AND/OR EXTENDS BEYOND THE QUARTER IN WHICH THE CROP IS SHOWN TO BE HARVESTED.

ONIONS AND STRAWBERRIES PLANTING INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST

CROP, SEASON, AND STATE	PLANTED AREA			HARVESTED AREA		
	1983	1984	1985	1983	1984	FOR HARVEST 1985
	ACRES					
ONIONS 1/ SPRING:						
ARIZ 2/	1,700	2,400	1,500	1,600	2,300	
CALIF 2/	7,600	7,700	7,800	7,600	7,700	
TEX	19,200	20,600	18,000	19,000	18,600	17,000
GROUP TOTAL:	28,500	30,700	27,300	28,200	28,600	
STRAWBERRIES 3/ WINTER:						
FLA	5,400	5,200	5,300	5,400	5,100	5,300

1/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET.

2/ 1985-PLANTING INTENTIONS - HARVEST ACREAGE PUBLISHED MAR 8.

3/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

ONIONS: Area planted to spring onions in 1985 is forecast at 27.3 thousand acres (11.0 thousand hectares), down 11 percent from last year and 4 percent below 1983. Texas acreage for harvest, estimated at 17.0 thousand acres is down 9 percent from last year.

In the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, onions are making good growth under mild temperatures. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area, wet ground hampered planting. Stands are late, but good growing conditions currently prevail. In the Laredo area, planting met with minor delays, and some growers will not plant because of prolonged wetness.

California intends to plant slightly more acreage for 1985 than last year. A few growers in San Joaquin County have not transplanted because of wet, heavy soils.

In Arizona, most planting was done in November and continued into December. Heavy rains in December slowed late plantings.

BROCCOLI: During the 1985 winter quarter, California expects to harvest 24.0 thousand acres (9710 hectares) of broccoli, 7 percent above acreage harvested during the same period a year ago. Precipitation has been above average in California's major vegetable districts causing some problems with planting schedules. Recent cool, damp weather has slowed maturity and growth.

CARROTS: Expected 1985 winter quarter carrot acres for harvest is expected to total 25.8 thousand acres (10.4 thousand hectares), 9 percent above the 1984 winter quarter harvested acres.

Texas carrots have made growth under mild temperatures. Heavy rains, earlier in the season, caused some wash out. Harvest is expected on schedule.

Harvest of California Desert carrots is still slow but increasing. Volume is expected to peak in March. Carrot harvest is nearing completion in the Salinas Valley. Harvest continues in the San Joaquin Valley with most volume coming from the Kern district.

CAULIFLOWER: The prospective acreage of cauliflower for harvest in California during the 1985 winter quarter is estimated at 8500 acres (3440 hectares), up 1 percent from the same period a year ago. Above normal precipitation and cool temperatures in the cauliflower growing areas has caused problems in meeting planting schedules and slowed growth and maturity.

CELERY: The 1985 winter quarter prospective area for harvest totals 9300 acres (3760 hectares), up 19 percent from a year ago.

In Florida, celery transplanting continues active in the Central and Everglades areas. Harvest is gaining seasonally and quality is good. Near ideal weather in recent weeks has provided good growth. Good volume and size is expected during the winter quarter.

Rainfall has been above normal in most of California's celery growing areas with temperatures near normal. Acreage available for harvest is above the past two years.

SWEET CORN: Acreage of sweet corn for harvest in Florida during the winter quarter is estimated at 9800 acres (3970 hectares), 10 percent above the 1984 winter quarter. Sweet corn supplies are declining seasonally in the Everglades and shifting to the East Coast and Dade County areas. Planting is at a peak level along the East and continues active in Dade County. Crop condition is very good. Harvest is expected to increase to a good volume in early January.

LETTUCE: Prospective acreage for harvest of winter quarter lettuce is estimated at 70.9 thousand acres (28.7 thousand hectares), up 11 percent from 1984 winter quarter.

In Florida, supplies of iceberg and specialty types are gaining seasonally in the Everglades. Harvest continues to increase in the Central area. The crop is in good condition and quality is good. Good volume is expected during the winter quarter. Plantings continue on schedule.

Texas lettuce has made good progress under unseasonably warm temperatures. Good rainfall has alleviated irrigation needs. Harvest began on schedule.

Harvest of western Arizona lettuce began in early November and will continue through April. Demand has been soft but steady. Heavy rains in December slowed late plantings but all acreage should be planted by January 10th. Lettuce planting continues in the Central Valley but was slowed by heavy rain in the latter half of December. Harvest should begin in March and continue through early June.

Harvest of the spring lettuce crop in the Blythe (Palo Verde Valley) district of California should start in mid-February and run through early April. No problems are apparent at this time. Harvest is underway in the Imperial Valley with yields lighter than normal on early fields. Later fields appear to be in good condition and yields should improve.

TOMATOES: Prospective tomato acreage for harvest during the 1985 winter quarter in Florida is estimated at 16.9 thousand acres (6840 hectares), 4 percent above the 1984 winter quarter. The tomato crop is in mostly good condition. Fruit quality and yield are good to excellent. Size is mostly large and medium. Harvest is complete in the Palmetto-Ruskin area but good volume continues from the Ft. Pierce-Pompano area and the Southwest. Volume for the winter quarter should peak in mid-January when Dade County reaches full production.

STRAWBERRIES: Winter strawberries in Florida are expected to be harvested from 5300 acres (2140 hectares), up 4 percent from the 1984 crop. Plants are showing very good growth in the Hillsborough-Manatee area. Blooms and fruit set are very abundant. Fruit quality, size and color are good. Light picking has started and volume is expected to increase. The crop is progressing favorably in Dade and Bradford Counties. Harvest is underway in Dade County and gaining in Bradford.



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