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# Vegetables



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## SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE IS UP 8 PERCENT

The prospective acreage for harvest of 7 fresh market vegetables in major producing States during the spring is estimated at 171 thousand acres (69.1 thousand hectares), up 8 percent from 1986. Increased acreage of broccoli, cauliflower, sweet corn, honeydews, and lettuce offset declines in carrots, celery, and tomatoes.

Texas spring honeydew melon acreage for harvest is estimated at 8,000 acres (3240 hectares), an increase of 14 percent from a year ago.

The major producing States expect to harvest 93.5 thousand acres (37.8 thousand hectares) of asparagus in 1987. This is 4 percent more than 1986.

The prospective area for harvest of strawberries in the major spring producing States is estimated at 29.5 thousand acres (11.9 thousand hectares), up 2 percent from last year.

Spring onions in Texas are forecast at 3.38 million cwt (153 thousand metric tons), down 6 percent from last year, but 4 percent above 1985.

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\* The next issue of this report will be published May 8, 1987 \*  
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PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, SPRING SEASON, UNITED STATES  
(DOMESTIC UNITS)

CROP	AREA		
	HARVESTED		FOR
	1985	1986	HARVEST 1987
ACRES			
WINTER	184,500	176,000	193,400
SPRING			
BROCCOLI 1/	24,900	21,700	30,500
CARROTS 1/	15,200	13,700	12,400
CAULIFLOWER 1/	12,200	13,300	14,000
CELERY 1/	8,300	8,600	8,400
SWEET CORN	39,500	37,600	41,400
LETTUCE	38,100	34,400	37,600
TOMATOES	31,950	29,550	26,550
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	170,150	158,850	170,850
HONEYDEW MELONS	5,000	7,000	8,000
TOTAL SPRING CROP	175,150	165,850	178,850

1/ INCLUDES TOTAL FOR FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING USES.

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

CROP	AREA		
	HARVESTED		FOR
	1985	1986	HARVEST 1987
HECTARES			
WINTER	74,670	71,230	78,270
SPRING			
BROCCOLI	10,080	8,780	12,340
CARROTS	6,150	5,540	5,020
CAULIFLOWER	4,940	5,380	5,670
CELERY	3,360	3,480	3,400
SWEET CORN	15,990	15,220	16,750
LETTUCE	15,420	13,920	15,220
TOMATOES	12,930	11,960	10,740
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	68,870	64,280	69,140
HONEYDEW MELONS	2,020	2,830	3,240
TOTAL SPRING CROP	70,890	67,110	72,380

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET, PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST  
SPRING SEASON

CROP AND STATE	USUAL HARVEST PERIOD	AREA			1987 AREA FOR HARVEST AS PERCENT OF 1986
		HARVESTED		FOR	
		1985	1986	1987	
		ACRES			PERCENT
BROCCOLI: 1/ CALIF	APR-JUN	24,900	21,700	30,500	141
CARROTS: 1/ CALIF - OTHER	APR-JUN	7,300	7,100	6,600	93
FLA	APR-JUL	4,500	4,300	3,800	88
TEX	APR-JUN	3,400	2,300	2,000	87
GROUP TOTAL		15,200	13,700	12,400	91
CAULIFLOWER: CALIF	APR-JUN	12,200	13,300	14,000	105
CELERY: CALIF - SOUTH COAST	APR-JUN	4,400	4,500	4,300	96
- CENTRAL COAST	APR-JUN	700	600	600	100
FLA	APR-JUN	3,200	3,500	3,500	100
GROUP TOTAL		8,300	8,600	8,400	98
SWEET CORN: CALIF	MAY-JUN	6,100	5,500	6,900	125
FLA	APR-JUN	33,400	32,100	34,500	107
GROUP TOTAL		39,500	37,600	41,400	110
HONEYDEWS: TEX	APR-JUN	5,000	7,000	8,000	114
LETTUCE: ARIZ - OTHER	MAR-JUN	4,900	3,500	3,100	89
CALIF - SAN JOAQUIN	MAR-MAY	9,500	9,000	10,200	113
- CENTRAL COAST	APR-MAY	16,400	14,700	16,800	114
FLA	APR-JUN	4,300	4,400	4,300	98
N J	MAY-JUL	1,400	1,300	1,400	108
N MEX	APR-JUN	1,600	1,500	1,800	120
GROUP TOTAL		38,100	34,400	37,600	109
TOMATOES: ALA	JUN-JUL	550	350	350	100
ARK	JUN-SEP	900	900	500	56
CALIF - DESERT	MAY-JUL	1,500	1,400	1,100	79
FLA	APR-JUN	21,500	20,300	18,500	91
S C	MAY-JUL	4,200	4,000	3,900	98
TEX	APR-JUN	3,300	2,600	2,200	85
GROUP TOTAL		31,950	29,550	26,550	90

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

CROP AND STATE	AREA		YIELD PER ACRE			
	HARVESTED		FOR			
	1985	1986	1987	1985	1986	1987
	ACRES			CWT		
ASPARAGUS: 1/						
CALIF	35,200	37,800	39,700	28	29	
MICH	19,200	20,500	21,000	12	12	
N J	1,900	1,900	1,800	19	19	
WASH	29,000	30,000	31,000	28	26	
GROUP TOTAL	85,300	90,200	93,500	24	24	
ONIONS: 2/						
SPRING						
ARIZ 3/	1,200	1,200	1,200	470	550	
CALIF 3/	7,800	7,800	8,200	450	370	
TEX	17,000	12,000	12,500	190	300	270
GROUP TOTAL	26,000	21,000	21,900	281	340	
STRAWBERRIES: 1/						
WINTER						
FLA	5,300	4,900	4,900	200	185	235
SPRING						
CALIF	14,600	15,600	16,100	530	505	525
MICH	2,500	2,400	2,300	65	60	
N J	1,100	900	800	55	42	
OREG	6,800	7,300	7,500	74	87	
WASH	3,000	2,800	2,800	71	50	
GROUP TOTAL	28,000	29,000	29,500	336	330	
MAJOR STATES TOTAL	33,300	33,900	34,400	292	287	
	PRODUCTION					
	1985	1986	1987			
	1,000 CWT					
ASPARAGUS: 1/						
CALIF	986	1,096				
MICH	230	246				
N J	36	36				
WASH	812	780				
GROUP TOTAL	2,064	2,158				
ONIONS: 2/						
SPRING						
ARIZ 3/	564	660				
CALIF 3/	3,510	2,886				
TEX	3,230	3,600				3,375
GROUP TOTAL	7,304	7,146				
STRAWBERRIES: 1/						
WINTER						
FLA	1,060	907				1,152
SPRING						
CALIF	7,738	7,878				8,453
MICH	163					
N J	61					
OREG	503					
WASH	213					
GROUP TOTAL	8,678					
MAJOR STATES TOTAL	9,738					

1/ INCLUDES FRESH AND PROCESSING. 2/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET. 3/ FIRST FORECAST WILL BE PUBLISHED ON JUN 10.

ASPARAGUS: Preliminary acreage for harvest in the major States is estimated at 93.5 thousand acres (37.8 thousand hectares), 4 percent more than 1986.

Asparagus harvest in Michigan should begin during late April. Spring fertilizing and herbicide application have begun.

Asparagus harvest is just underway in Washington. Favorable weather has led to earlier than normal cuttings. The crop is in good condition.

BROCCOLI: Prospective spring season area for harvest is estimated at 30.5 thousand acres (12.3 thousand hectares), up 41 percent from 1986. Spring broccoli acreage in California is mainly in central and southern coastal counties. The crop has experienced slow growth and development due to cool nights and frost. In some areas, plants have been damaged by frost with some acreage loss.

CARROTS: Spring season acreage for harvest is estimated at 12.4 thousand acres (5020 hectares), a decrease of 9 percent from a year ago.

California's spring carrot crop is in good condition with an increase in supplies expected shortly from the Kern district.

In Florida, harvest is increasing seasonally. A good volume of regulars and mini's is being supplied from the Zellwood area. However, heavy rains in the Zellwood area at month's end slowed harvest and reduced the condition on some acreage. Digging of mini's is active in the Everglades. A good supply is available.

In the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, development has been slow because of cool and wet weather. Harvest is currently underway. Harvest is also underway in the San Antonio-Winter Garden.

CAULIFLOWER: Prospective area for the California spring season is estimated at 14.0 thousand acres (5670 hectares), an increase of 5 percent from 1986. Spring cauliflower in California has experienced slow development due to cool night temperatures. In some areas, there were reports of damage due to frost.

CELERY: The spring season prospective area for harvest is estimated at 8400 acres (3400 hectares), a decrease of 2 percent from last year.

Celery in California has been growing under near ideal conditions. Abandonment of acres has been minimal. Harvest in the south coast counties has been steady. Transplanting in the central coast area is active.

Planting for the spring crop is complete in the Florida Everglades area and is expected to end by mid-April in the central areas. Harvest is active in both areas with good yields. Quality and size are mostly good.

SWEET CORN: Sweet corn acreage for harvest during the spring is forecast at 41.4 thousand acres (16.8 thousand hectares), an increase of 10 percent from 1986.

California's early sweet corn crop is looking good in spite of being somewhat behind due to cool nights. Harvest should begin about the first of May in the Coachella Valley and along the south coast about the first of June.

In Florida, the spring sweet corn crop has made good progress, thanks to the absence of adverse weather. Planting is complete in all areas except Zellwood. Harvest is underway in Dade County, Pompano and the Everglades area. Volume should increase substantially when the main Everglades crop comes into production by mid-April. The first corn is expected from Zellwood by late May.

HONEYDEW MELONS: The spring area for harvest is expected to total 8000 acres (3240 hectares), an increase of 14 percent from last year.

Texas melon development was slowed in the Rio Grande Valley because of cool, wet weather during March. A late frost did cause some loss in low lying areas. Harvest will begin slightly later than normal.

LETTUCE: Spring lettuce acreage for harvest is forecast at 37.6 thousand acres (15.2 thousand hectares), up 9 percent from a year ago. High winds could affect the quality of the New Mexico spring lettuce crop.

Lettuce harvest in central Arizona began the first week of March, with the completion of the deal expected by mid-April. The crop was in good condition. Lettuce harvest in eastern Arizona is expected by mid-May with packing through early June.

Weather was generally favorable for growth of California's spring lettuce crop. Cold weather, including snow and hail in one storm, hit the San Joaquin Valley about the time harvest started and slowed cutting. Little damage is expected and volume should increase rapidly in early April.

In Florida, the cutting of iceberg, romaine and specialty types is active. In central areas, specialty types are being harvested in increasing volume. Supplies of all types should continue to show some increase through April. Quality and size have been generally good.

ONIONS: Texas spring onion production is forecast at 3.38 million cwt. (153 thousand metric tons), down 6 percent from last year, but 4 percent above 1985. Area for harvest is forecast at 12.5 thousand acres (5060 hectares), up 4 percent; while yield should average 270 cwt per acre, a drop of 10 percent.

In the Rio Grande Valley, growth and development was slowed by excessive rain and cool temperatures. Harvest is underway on early varieties; however, the over-all crop is behind schedule. In the San Antonio Winter Garden area cool weather has also slowed maturing, but quality looks good. Laredo area onions look very good. Harvest will begin in early to mid-April, pretty much on time.

STRAWBERRY: Acreage for harvest in the major spring producing states is estimated at 29.5 thousand acres (11.9 thousand hectares), up 2 percent from last spring.

In California, strawberry harvest started early on the South Coast but was virtually halted by a freeze in mid-January. Cool weather following the frost delayed blooming and held off production through February. By late March, daily shipments were increasing, but were still running far short of the previous year.

Michigan strawberry harvest is expected to begin during late May. Spring fertilization and herbicide application have begun.

Strawberry fields are in excellent condition in western Oregon due to a mild winter and early spring. Since very few hard freezes occurred this winter, the crop experienced almost no damage. Fertilizing started early this spring. New plantings also got started early. If no frost damage occurs during the next 6 weeks, the crop should produce very well.

TOMATOES: The estimate of spring acreage for harvest is down 10 percent from 1986 to 26.6 thousand acres (10.7 thousand hectares).

Favorable conditions during most of March in Alabama allowed spring planting of tomatoes to progress at a normal pace. Freezing temperatures during the first week of April, however, will probably damage some of the young plants and result in growers having to replant. The extent of damage is unknown at this time.

California's desert tomato crop appears to be in good condition. Cool weather in January slowed development and harvest may be a little later than last year.

In Florida, harvest of spring acreage is underway in the Ft. Pierce-Pompano and southwest areas. Dade County supplies are decreasing seasonally. Quality and size have been mostly good. Planting in the Palmetto-Ruskin area is complete and the crop is in generally good condition. Harvest is expected to get underway by mid-April on early planted fields.

Development has been slow in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas due to cooler than normal temperatures and wet, cloudy weather. A late March frost may have hurt some plants. Harvest will begin soon, but is behind schedule by about two weeks.

