
Vegetables



United States
Department of
Agriculture
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ACREAGE FOR HARVEST UP 3 PERCENT

The prospective area for harvest of 7 fresh market vegetables during the winter is estimated at 194 thousand acres (78.4 thousand hectares). This is 3 percent more than the 189 thousand acres (76.4 thousand hectares) harvested during the same period last year.

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* The next issue of this report will be published March 8, 1988 *

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

CROP	AREA		
	HARVESTED		FOR
	1986	1987	HARVEST
			1988
	ACRES		
BROCCOLI 1/	32,500	31,000	28,800
CARROTS 1/	33,100	36,100	36,500
CAULIFLOWER 1/	12,000	11,000	12,300
CELERY 1/	8,000	7,500	7,900
SWEET CORN	6,000	7,300	8,100
LETTUCE	74,200	77,100	80,700
TOMATOES	15,900	18,700	19,300
TOTAL WINTER CROP	181,700	188,700	193,600

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

CROP	AREA		
	HARVESTED		FOR
	1986	1987	HARVEST
			1988
	HECTARES		
BROCCOLI 1/	13,150	12,550	11,660
CARROTS 1/	13,400	14,610	14,770
CAULIFLOWER 1/	4,860	4,450	4,980
CELERY 1/	3,240	3,040	3,200
SWEET CORN	2,430	2,950	3,280
LETTUCE	30,030	31,200	32,660
TOMATOES	6,430	7,570	7,810
TOTAL WINTER CROP	73,540	76,370	78,360

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET, PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST
WINTER QUARTER

CROP AND STATE	USUAL HARVEST PERIOD	AREA			1988 AREA FOR HARVEST AS PERCENT OF 1987
		HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST 1988	
		1986	1987		
		ACRES			PERCENT
BROCCOLI: 1/ CALIF	JAN-MAY	32,500	31,000	28,800	93
CARROTS: 1/ CALIF - DESERT	DEC-JUN	11,100	14,000	15,500	111
- OTHER	JAN-MAR	6,000	5,800	6,500	112
FLA	NOV-MAR	8,000	8,300	8,000	96
TEX	DEC-MAR	8,000	8,000	6,500	81
GROUP TOTAL		33,100	36,100	36,500	101
CAULIFLOWER: CALIF	JAN-MAR	12,000	11,000	12,300	112
CELERY: CALIF - SOUTH COAST	JAN-MAR	4,700	4,100	4,500	110
FLA	JAN-MAR	3,300	3,400	3,400	100
GROUP TOTAL		8,000	7,500	7,900	105
SWEET CORN: FLA	JAN-MAR	6,000	7,300	8,100	111
LETTUCE: ARIZ - WESTERN	NOV-APR	32,100	35,200	40,000	114
CALIF - BLYTHE	FEB-APR	3,200	6,400	4,800	75
- IMPERIAL					
VALLEY	DEC-APR	29,300	26,900	28,000	104
FLA	JAN-MAR	7,300	6,600	6,300	95
TEX	NOV-APR	2,300	2,000	1,600	80
GROUP TOTAL		74,200	77,100	80,700	105
TOMATOES: FLA	JAN-MAR	15,900	18,700	19,300	103

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

ONIONS AND STRAWBERRIES PLANTING INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE AREA
FOR HARVEST

CROP, SEASON, AND STATE	PLANTED AREA			HARVESTED AREA		
	1986	1987	1988	1986	1987	FOR HARVEST 1988
	ACRES					
ONIONS 1/ SPRING:						
ARIZ 2/	1,200	1,300	1,000	1,200	1,300	
CALIF 2/	7,800	8,200	8,500	7,800	8,200	
TEX	15,000	13,800	14,500	12,000	12,500	14,000
GROUP TOTAL:	24,000	23,300	24,000	21,000	22,000	
STRAWBERRIES 3/ WINTER:						
FLA	5,000	4,900	5,000	4,900	4,900	5,000

1/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET.

2/ 1988- PLANTING INTENTIONS - HARVESTED ACREAGE PUBLISHED MAR 8.

3/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

ONIONS: Area planted to spring onions in 1988 is estimated at 24.0 thousand acres (9710 hectares), up 3 percent from last year and the same as two years ago. Texas acreage for harvest is forecast at 14.0 thousand acres, up 12 percent from last year.

In Arizona, seeding of spring onions was complete prior to January with minimal transplanting of later acreage expected. Harvest should begin in early May and continue through June. In California, planting and growing conditions are normal. Cool temperatures were offset by transplanting earlier than normal.

In the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, planting was completed without major delays. Growing conditions are good. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area, planting was completed on schedule with minor delays due to wet conditions. In the Laredo area, progress is good.

BROCCOLI: During the winter season, California expects to harvest 28.8 thousand acres (11.7 thousand hectares) of broccoli, 7 percent less than the same period a year ago. High winds and rain during December in California caused the loss of some winter broccoli acreage. Harvest was delayed by the wet condition and some fall acreage was harvested after January 1.

CARROTS: Expected 1988 winter carrot acres for harvest is forecast at 36.5 thousand acres (14.8 thousand hectares), up 1 percent from a year ago.

In Florida, the crop was in good condition. Plantings are steady after interruptions by earlier rains. Harvest was moving into full swing in the Zellwood area. Good supplies of mini-types are available from all production areas.

Planting was completed without major delays and harvest has begun in the Winter-Garden district of Texas. The Rio Grande Valley should begin harvest soon. Early quality has been good.

Harvest of the California Desert crop began in November. Rainy weather caused delays during December. Harvest momentum will increase in January.

CAULIFLOWER: Prospective acreage of cauliflower for harvest in California during the winter of 1988 is estimated at 12.3 thousand acres (4980 hectares), up 12 percent from the same period last year. Hot weather in October and cold November temperatures played havoc with much of California's winter crop. Harvest has been delayed in some areas because of the weather. High winds and rain in December damaged some of the new plantings.

CELERY: Winter celery prospective area for harvest totals 7900 acres (3200 hectares), 5 percent more than the same period a year ago.

In Florida, transplantings continue at about the same level as last year. Harvest, slowed by the holidays, is expected to regain momentum after the first of the year. Yields have increased in recent weeks and quality has been good.

Transplanting and harvesting continued active in the South Coast of California. Some acreage has been abandoned because of frost damage.

SWEET CORN: Acreage of sweet corn for harvest in Florida during the winter of 1988 is estimated at 8100 acres (3280 hectares), 11 percent more than the winter crop of 1987. Seedings continued active in the East Coast and Dade County areas. These crops are generally in good condition with harvest expected to begin in early January, slightly later than normal. Harvest is winding down in the Everglades.

LETTUCE: The prospective acreage of winter lettuce for harvest is estimated at 80.7 thousand acres (32.7 thousand hectares), up 5 percent from the winter of 1987.

In Florida, seeding continues steady in both the Everglades and central areas. Harvest of iceberg in the Everglades is increasing after some early season delays. A steady supply of specialty types is available from all production areas.

Harvest in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas has started with good quality and excellent prices. Plantings were completed on schedule.

Arizona's Western area harvest began in early November and will continue through April. Rain and mud delayed field work early in the season. Harvest was active in December, however, cool early morning temperatures slowed harvest as producers waited for warmer temperatures later in the day. White fly infestations and poor conditions at planting have hurt yield and quality.

California's Desert lettuce harvest has been interrupted by rains. The white fly borne virus infestation has been greater than normal causing lower early yields.

TOMATOES: Prospective acreage of winter tomatoes for harvest in Florida is estimated at 19.3 thousand acres (7810 hectares), 3 percent more than last year's crop. The crop is in good condition in all producing areas. Active spray programs have kept disease under control. Recent warm weather has promoted good growth, offsetting earlier rain related damage. Fruit quality has been good with sizes being mostly large to extra large.

STRAWBERRIES: Winter strawberries in Florida are expected to be harvested from 5000 acres (2020 hectares), up 2 percent from the 1987 crop. Transplantings began the first full week in October. Abundant rain from tropical depressions aided growth in mid-October and early November. Cooler, drier weather in late November and early December allowed picking to start in the south central area with virtually no fruit damage. U-pic harvest began in Dade County and the south east area in late December. Fruit sizes have been medium to large.



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