



Vegetables

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Fresh Vegetable Harvested Acreage Up 4 Percent Spring Onion Planted Acreage Down 12 Percent Winter Strawberry Acreage Up 3 Percent

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the winter quarter is forecast at 185,200 acres. This is 4 percent above 2002 but 2 percent below 2001 for comparable commodities. Acreage increases for snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, head lettuce, bell pepper, spinach, and tomatoes more than offset decreases for carrots and sweet corn. Celery acreage remained the same.

Area planted for spring onions, at 34,400 acres, is down 12 percent from both 2002 and 2001. Arizona increased planted acreage while the remaining spring onion States decreased area planted from 2002.

Florida's winter strawberry acreage is forecast at 7,100 acres, an increase of 3 percent over 2002 and 9 percent above 2001. Spring acreage in Michigan and Oregon is forecast at 4,500, unchanged from last season.

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**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Season and
Crop, Major States, 2001-2002 and Forecasted Area 2003
(Domestic Units)**

Crop and Season	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2003
	2001	2002	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans	11,000	12,000	12,500
Broccoli ¹	29,500	22,000	23,500
Cabbage	11,900	12,400	13,200
Carrots	25,000	23,600	23,500
Cauliflower ¹	9,500	8,000	9,000
Celery ¹	7,700	7,500	7,500
Sweet Corn	7,400	8,000	7,900
Eggplant ²	500		
Head Lettuce	66,800	64,500	67,000
Bell Pepper ¹	4,400	5,600	6,000
Spinach	2,500	2,200	2,500
Tomatoes	14,000	12,500	12,600
Total Winter Crop	190,200	178,300	185,200

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² Estimates discontinued in 2002.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Season and
Crop, Major States, 2001-2002 and Forecasted Area 2003
(Metric Units)**

Crop and Season	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2003
	2001	2002	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Snap Beans	4,450	4,860	5,060
Broccoli ¹	11,940	8,900	9,510
Cabbage	4,820	5,020	5,340
Carrots	10,120	9,550	9,510
Cauliflower ¹	3,840	3,240	3,640
Celery ¹	3,120	3,040	3,040
Sweet Corn	2,990	3,240	3,200
Eggplant ²	200		
Head Lettuce	27,030	26,100	27,110
Bell Pepper ¹	1,780	2,270	2,430
Spinach	1,010	890	1,010
Tomatoes	5,670	5,060	5,100
Total Winter Crop ³	76,970	72,160	74,950

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² Estimates discontinued in 2002.

³ Total may not add due to rounding.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop, State, and
Total, Winter Season, 2001-2002 and Forecasted Area 2003**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area		
		Harvested		For Harvest 2003
		2001	2002	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Snap Beans FL	Jan-Mar	11,000	12,000	12,500
Broccoli ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	29,500	22,000	23,500
Cabbage FL	Jan-Mar	5,000	5,500	5,500
TX	Dec-Mar	6,900	6,900	7,700
Total		11,900	12,400	13,200
Carrots CA	Jan-Mar	23,000	21,500	21,500
TX	Dec-Mar	2,000	2,100	2,000
Total		25,000	23,600	23,500
Cauliflower ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	9,500	8,000	9,000
Celery ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	7,700	7,500	7,500
Sweet Corn FL	Jan-Mar	7,400	8,000	7,900
Eggplant ² FL	Jan-Mar	500		
Head Lettuce AZ - Western	Nov-Apr	51,800	50,000	52,000
CA	Jan-Mar	15,000	14,500	15,000
Total		66,800	64,500	67,000
Bell Pepper ¹ FL	Jan-Mar	4,400	5,600	6,000
Spinach TX	Dec-Mar	2,500	2,200	2,500
Tomatoes FL	Jan-Mar	14,000	12,500	12,600

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² Estimate discontinued in 2002.

**Onions and Strawberries for Fresh Market: Area Planted and Harvested
by Crop, Season, and Total, 2001-2002 and Forecasted Area 2003**

Crop, Season, and State	Planted Area			Harvested Area		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	For Harvest 2003
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Onions ¹						
Spring						
AZ ²	3,100	1,600	1,700	3,000	1,500	
CA ²	6,400	6,400	6,200	6,200	6,200	
GA	14,500	14,700	14,000	13,500	11,500	13,500
TX	15,200	16,200	12,500	14,200	15,000	12,000
Total ²	39,200	38,900	34,400	36,900	34,200	
Strawberries ³						
Winter						
FL	6,500	6,900	7,100	6,500	6,900	7,100
Spring						
CA	26,400	28,500		26,400	28,500	
MI	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	900	900
NJ ⁴	500			400		
OR	3,800	3,500	3,500	3,100	3,000	3,000
WA ⁵	1,600	1,800		1,600	1,800	
Total	33,300	34,800		32,400	34,200	
Major States Total	39,800	41,700		38,900	41,100	

¹ Primarily fresh market.

² 2003 harvested acreage published April 4, 2003.

³ Includes fresh market and processing.

⁴ Estimate discontinued in 2002.

⁵ Seasonal estimate discontinued. Estimate to be published in January 2004 Annual.

Snap Beans: Florida acreage for harvest is 12,500 acres, up 4 percent from last year and 14 percent above 2001. Snap bean harvest is under way with good conditions reported.

Broccoli: California acreage is forecast at 23,500 acres, 7 percent above 2002 but 20 percent below 2001. Weather conditions have been favorable for the winter desert broccoli crop. High yields and good quality are reported. Mild fall and early winter weather has stimulated development causing the crop to be a week to ten days ahead of schedule.

Cabbage: Winter acreage for harvest is forecast at 13,200 acres, 6 percent above 2002 and up 11 percent from 2001. Florida's harvest is active and the crop is in good condition. In Texas, cabbage production continues to flourish and yield is expected to be good this season as a result of excellent weather conditions.

Carrots: Winter harvested acreage is forecast at 23,500 acres, virtually unchanged from last year but 6 percent below two years ago. The California crop is reported in good condition with no major problems. High demand for baby carrots continues. In Texas, growers are expecting better yields due to a new hybrid carrot planted this season.

Cauliflower: California acreage is forecast at 9,000 acres, up 13 percent from 2002 but 5 percent below 2001. Weather conditions have been favorable to winter cauliflower and good yields are expected as growers allocated the most fertile fields to vegetables. No disease or pest problems have developed.

Celery: The winter celery crop for harvest in California is forecast at 7,500 acres, unchanged from last year but 3 percent below 2001. The quality of this seasons celery crop is good with no pest or disease problems.

Sweet Corn: Florida harvested acreage is forecast at 7,900 acres, 1 percent less than last year but 7 percent more than 2001. Growth and ear development of this winter season crop were spurred by frequent rains during November and December.

Head Lettuce: Area for harvest is forecast at 67,000 acres, up 4 percent from last year but virtually unchanged from two years ago. Arizona growers are dealing with the typical pests and diseases in the crop. In some areas, warm weather has accelerated crop growth and caused marketing of the crop to begin too early creating depressed prices. California's harvest began early in some areas of the Imperial Valley. Harvest typically runs December 15 through March 15, but began the last week of November this year. The crop is reported in good condition but wet conditions did slow field activity in some areas the last two weeks of December.

Onions: Growers intend to plant 34,400 acres of spring onions for 2003, down 12 percent from both 2002 and 2001. Arizona weather has been dry but has not impacted the onion crop due to irrigation. In California, planting began in early November under adequate conditions. Onion fields have shown good growth in many areas in response to recent rains and good growing conditions. In Georgia, temperatures during the fall and early winter have been near normal. Above normal rainfall has delayed transplanting in some areas. Weather conditions in Texas have been ideal which could lead to an excellent crop with good yields.

Bell Peppers: Winter acreage in Florida is forecast at 6,000 acres, 7 percent above last year and 36 percent above 2001. Frequent rainfall during the last three months of the year interrupted some planting and harvesting activities and lowered yield expectations. Picking is active with volume down a little from last year.

Spinach: Harvested acres of winter spinach in Texas is forecast at 2,500 acres, an increase of 14 percent from 2002 but the same as the 2001 crop. Weather conditions in Texas are excellent and production is expected to increase in the San Antonio/Winter Garden area.

Strawberries: Florida winter acreage is forecast at 7,100 acres, up 3 percent from last year and 9 percent above 2001. Florida growers planted less acreage to the early maturing varieties and more to the late maturing reducing shipments at this time. Heavy rains destroyed some berries during the early maturing stage. Spring acreage in Michigan and Oregon is forecast at 4,500 acres, unchanged from 2002 but 6 percent below 2001. In Michigan, winter snowfall and temperatures have been average to date. The crop in Oregon is progressing well with no problems reported.

Tomatoes: Florida winter tomato acreage is forecast at 12,600 acres, up 1 percent from 2002 but 10 percent below 2001. Frequent storms delayed some planting and lowered expected yields during the last three months of the year. Most of the southern Peninsula growing areas (Immokalee, Homestead, Jupiter, and Stuart) escaped the freezing temperatures that were felt by many Panhandle and northern and central Peninsula areas during December. Picking was active the last few months of 2002 with volume down slightly due to reduced yields.

The next "Vegetables" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on April 4, 2003.

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