
Vegetables



National
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Statistics
Service

United States
Department of
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Agricultural
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Board

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HIGHLIGHTS

FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE acreage for harvest during the spring season for 7 selected crops is down 7 percent to 176 thousand acres.

HONEYDEW MELON acreage for harvest at 4,100 acres is off 18 percent.

ASPARAGUS acres for harvest in the major producing States, at 86.9 thousand acres, is down 4 percent.

STRAWBERRY area for harvest during the spring is up fractionally from last year.

SPRING ONIONS will be harvested from 28.6 thousand acres, up 3 percent from a year ago and slightly above two years ago. The Georgia crop is forecast at 1.24 million cwt, up 14 percent, while Texas onions are forecast at 3.07 million cwt, a gain of 22 percent.

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* May 8, 1991. *
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SELECTED FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES AND MELONS,
PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, SPRING SEASON, UNITED STATES
(DOMESTIC UNITS)

CROP	AREA		
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST 1991
	1989	1990	
	ACRES		
WINTER	205,800	184,900	177,000
SPRING			
BROCCOLI 1/	29,100	32,700	31,000
CARROTS 1/	15,800	16,000	15,300
CAULIFLOWER 1/	11,500	11,400	11,000
CELERY 1/	8,000	9,100	8,300
SWEET CORN	41,000	45,500	40,600
HEAD LETTUCE	44,500	42,700	41,700
TOMATOES	35,000	33,300	28,500
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	184,900	190,700	176,400
HONEYDEW MELONS	6,500	5,000	4,100
TOTAL SPRING CROP	191,400	195,700	180,500

SELECTED FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES AND MELONS,
PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, SPRING SEASON, UNITED STATES
(METRIC UNITS)

CROP	AREA		
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST 1991
	1989	1990	
HECTARES			
WINTER	83,290	74,830	71,630
SPRING			
BROCCOLI 1/	11,780	13,230	12,550
CARROTS 1/	6,390	6,480	6,190
CAULIFLOWER 1/	4,650	4,610	4,450
CELERY 1/	3,240	3,680	3,360
SWEET CORN	16,590	18,410	16,430
HEAD LETTUCE	18,010	17,280	16,880
TOMATOES	14,160	13,480	11,530
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	74,820	77,170	71,390
HONEYDEW MELONS	2,630	2,020	1,660
TOTAL SPRING CROP	77,450	79,190	73,050

1/ INCLUDES TOTALS FOR FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING USE.

**SELECTED FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES AND MELONS, PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST
SPRING SEASON**

CROP AND STATE	USUAL HARVEST PERIOD	AREA			1991 AREA FOR HARVEST AS PERCENT OF 1990
		HARVESTED		FOR	
		1989	1990	HARVEST 1991	
		ACRES			PERCENT
BROCCOLI: 1/					
CA	APR-JUN	29,100	32,700	31,000	95
CARROTS: 1/					
CA - OTHER	APR-JUN	10,700	11,200	10,500	94
FL	APR-JUN	3,100	2,800	3,000	107
TX	APR-JUN	2,000	2,000	1,800	90
GROUP TOTAL		15,800	16,000	15,300	96
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
CA	APR-JUN	11,500	11,400	11,000	96
CELERY: 1/					
CA - SOUTH CST	APR-JUN	4,300	5,000	4,500	90
- CENTRAL CST	APR-JUN	700	700	600	86
FL	APR-JUL	3,000	3,400	3,200	94
GROUP TOTAL		8,000	9,100	8,300	91
SWEET CORN:					
CA	MAY-JUN	8,300	7,400	7,400	100
FL	APR-JUN	32,700	38,100	33,200	87
GROUP TOTAL		41,000	45,500	40,600	89
HONEYDEWS:					
TX	APR-JUN	6,500	5,000	4,100	82
HEAD LETTUCE:					
AZ - OTHER	MAR-JUN	2,500	1,900	1,700	89
CA - SAN JOAQUIN	APR-JUN	12,900	12,900	13,500	105
- CENTRAL CST	APR-MAY	25,000	24,300	23,000	95
FL	APR-JUN	1,900	1,400	1,400	100
NJ	MAY-JUL	1,300	1,400	1,400	100
NM	APR-JUN	900	800	700	88
GROUP TOTAL		44,500	42,700	41,700	98
TOMATOES:					
AL	JUN-JUL	500	500	500	100
AR	JUN-JUL	500	600	400	67
CA - DESERT	MAY-JUL	2,000	1,900	1,900	100
FL	APR-JUN	25,900	24,100	19,000	79
SC	MAY-JUL	3,600	3,700	3,700	100
TX	APR-JUN	2,500	2,500	3,000	120
GROUP TOTAL		35,000	33,300	28,500	86

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

CROP AND STATE	AREA			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED		FOR	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
	1989	1990	HARVEST						
	ACRES			CWT			1,000 CWT		
ASPARAGUS: 1/									
CA	37,500	35,900	33,500	29	29		1,088	1,041	
MI	23,000	23,500	23,000	11	11		253	259	
NJ	1,500	1,400	1,400	25	23		38	32	
WA	32,000	30,000	29,000	32	34		1,024	1,020	
GROUP TOTAL	94,000	90,800	86,900	26	26		2,403	2,352	
ONIONS: 2/									
SPRING									
AZ 3/	1,100	1,100	900	405	430		446	473	
CA 3/	7,700	8,500	8,000	400	420		3,080	3,570	
GA	4,700	5,600	6,900	135	195	180	635	1,092	1,242
TX	15,000	12,600	12,800	215	200	240	3,225	2,520	3,072
GROUP TOTAL	28,500	27,800	28,600	259	275		7,386	7,655	
STRAW- BERRIES: 1/									
WINTER									
FL	5,300	5,300	5,500	260	220	270	1,378	1,166	1,485
SPRING									
CA	20,400	20,000	20,500	425	495	475	8,670	9,900	9,738
MI	2,200	2,200	2,100	53	65		117	143	
NJ	600	500	500	30	42		18	21	
OR	6,200	5,700	5,600	105	62		651	353	
WA	1,900	1,800	1,600	60	70		114	126	
GROUP TOTAL	31,300	30,200	30,300	306	349		9,570	10,543	
MAJOR STATES TOTAL	36,600	35,500	35,800	299	330		10,948	11,709	

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING. 2/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET.
 3/ FIRST FORECAST WILL BE PUBLISHED JUN 7.

ASPARAGUS: Preliminary acreage for harvest in the major states is estimated at 86.9 thousand acres, 4 percent less than 1990. Wind and blowing sand along with disease problems have reduced prospects in Michigan. Labor, agricultural chemicals, and imports are a major concern of Washington growers.

BROCCOLI: Prospective spring acreage for harvest is estimated at 31.0 thousand acres, down 5 percent from 1990. Development of California's spring broccoli crop was delayed somewhat by cool, wet weather the last half of March. Above normal March rain allowed less irrigation than normal in most areas.

CARROTS: Spring season acreage for harvest is estimated at 15.3 thousand acres, down 4 percent from a year ago.

California's spring carrot crop development was slowed by cool, wet weather during the last half of March. March rains reduced the need for irrigation in most areas.

Heavy rains during March delayed some Florida carrot planting and harvesting, but caused no significant damage. Nearly ideal weather for the season boosted growth and development.

Harvest has started in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Quality has been good.

CAULIFLOWER: The prospective area for California spring season harvest is estimated at 11.0 thousand acres, down 4 percent from 1990. Transplanting was on time in most areas. Maturity was delayed somewhat by cool, wet weather the last half of March. Above normal rainfall the last half of March resulted in fewer irrigations in most areas.

CELERY: The spring season prospective area for harvest is estimated at 8,300 acres, a decrease of 9 percent from last year.

Harvest in California's South District was slowed by the March rains and cool temperatures. A few acres were abandoned. In the Central District transplanting was delayed by the much needed rain.

In Florida, the crop is in generally good condition after suffering some adverse weather during March. Planting is complete in the Everglades and is expected to be completed in the Central area by mid-April. Harvest is active in both areas. Yields continue to show improvement.

SWEET CORN: Acreage for harvest during the spring is forecast at 40.6 thousand acres, a decline of 11 percent from last spring.

Rains, in March, were beneficial to sweet corn growth in California.

Some Florida sweet corn seedlings in the Southeast and Lake Okeechobee areas were lost and replanted due to heavy rain in late January. Zellwood seedlings began in mid-February. Strong winds, occurring in February and March, knocked down some young plantings in southern areas. However, warm, mild weather for most of the period aided plant recovery. Light picking began in the Everglades during late March, as harvest wound down in the Southeast and Dade County.

HONEYDEW MELONS: Harvested acreage is expected to total 4,100 acres this spring, down 18 percent from last year. The Texas crop is in good condition with little insect or disease problems. Harvest is expected to begin in late April.

HEAD LETTUCE: Spring acreage for harvest is forecast at 41.7 thousand acres, down 2 percent from the same period a year ago.

Transplanting, in California, was on schedule in most areas. Cool, wet weather the last half of March delayed growth and maturity somewhat.

In Florida, the crop is in fair to good condition as it continues to recover from recent adverse weather. Harvest is active in the Everglades and gaining momentum in the Central area. A good supply is expected into early May.

The New Mexico crop experienced some worm damage the last week of March. The crop condition is generally good as thinning continues.

SPRING ONIONS: Georgia onion production is forecast at 1.24 million cwt, up 14 percent from last year and nearly double two years ago. Harvest is projected from 6,900 acres, up 23 percent from last year while the average yield is expected to hit 180 cwt per acre, down 8 percent. Georgia onions are in poorer condition than last year mainly because of cold, rainy weather. Early harvest is underway and should be active by mid-April.

Production in Texas is forecast at 3.07 million cwt, up 22 percent from last year but 5 percent short of 1989. Area for harvest is estimated at 12.8 thousand acres, up 2 percent while the average yield is forecast at 240 cwt per acre, up 20 percent. Harvest in the Rio Grande Valley is increasing, with good quality but smaller sizes than last year. The 1015's will be moving shortly. Onions in other Texas areas are making excellent progress.

STRAWBERRIES: Acreage for harvest in the major spring producing States is estimated at 30.3 thousand acres, up fractionally from 1990.

Rain and cool temperatures throughout March slowed the California harvest. Quality was variable.

Limited winter damage was reported in Michigan and Oregon.

TOMATOES: The estimated spring acreage for harvest is down 14 percent from 1990 to 28.5 thousand acres.

Wet weather in February delayed planting 1 to 2 weeks in some areas. Mild March and April weather has the crop in good condition.

March rains, in the desert, were beneficial to California's spring crop.

Mostly mild weather helped Florida growers keep to planting schedules during January, February, and early March, with all southern acreage transplanted by mid-March. Transplanting began in northern areas around mid-March, with rain delaying some plantings at the end of the month. Heavy rains accompanied by gusty winds during a few days in January, February, and March reduced crop condition in southern localities.

Wet fields slowed early planting in South Carolina. However, planting was very active by the end of March.

Early plantings, in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, are in good condition but later plantings are not doing as well. Wet conditions slowed planting in East Texas.