

TC-54: 1102

Commercial Vegetables

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
CROP REPORTING BOARD



Release: 3:00 P.M. (EST)
November 10, 1954

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET ACREAGE AND INDICATED PRODUCTION 1955 SEASON

BEETS: The 1955 winter beet crop in Texas, forecast at 770,000 bushels, is 5 percent under last year but 6 percent over average. Acreage is lighter but yield prospects are above those of a year ago and average. The higher yield indicated is attributed to the fact that most of this year's acreage is in the irrigated sections. The acreage for early harvest in the lower Rio Grande Valley is lighter than usual because frequent showers around mid-September and heavy rains in early October interfered with field work. Better drained soils in the west end of the Valley will furnish production for late November harvest but most of the acreage in this area is for mid-season and late harvest. A smaller than usual acreage in the Winter Garden is in good condition. Harvest will start there around mid-November.

KALE: Production of kale from winter acreage in Virginia, forecast at 878,000 bushels, is 16 percent under last year's crop and 25 percent below average. Acreage and yields are both below last year and average. Insufficient moisture early in the season retarded growth of kale. However, rains which began in late October are expected to improve fields for late season harvest. A small quantity was marketed in October but demand has been light. Supplies are expected to be ample throughout the winter.

LETTUCE: The preliminary estimate of winter lettuce at 60,800 acres is equal to the 1954 acreage but about 1 percent above average. Increases reported for California and Florida offset declines indicated for Arizona and Texas. In the Yuma section of Arizona, earliest fields should be ready by November 15. However, harvest in volume is not expected until December. In the Imperial Valley of California, where about five-sixths of the State's estimated winter acreage is located, stands are good except in some of the earliest fields damaged by high temperatures during germination. At Blythe, considerable early acreage was lost and replanted because of hot weather and rains. Later plantings are in good condition. Earliest supplies of lettuce are expected soon after mid-November from Blythe and about December 1 in the Imperial Valley. In Texas, some decrease in winter lettuce acreage occurred in the Lower Valley but increased plantings in the Winter Garden section will partly offset this reduction. The acreage for harvest at Eagle Pass and Laredo is close to that harvested last year. Growing conditions

LETTUCE (Cont'd): were reported as favorable during October in all areas of the State. Earliest lettuce from both the Valley and the Winter Garden section is expected about November 15. Planting for late season harvest in the Valley was active in late October. Harvest is not expected until late November at Eagle Pass and not until mid-December in the Laredo section. In Florida, early plantings of Boston, romaine, and iceberg lettuce are making fair to good progress. First shipments of romaine are expected from the Zellwood section the week of November 8, and light supplies of iceberg lettuce should be available at Webster in late November. However, harvest will not reach an active stage in Florida until mid-December.

SPINACH: The production forecast of winter spinach, at 3,933,000 bushels, is 15 percent over last year but 6 percent below average. Yield prospects are above last year for Texas and California, unchanged for South Carolina and slightly lower for Mississippi. In Texas, the irrigated sections account for the increase and a larger than usual early acreage was planted. A few fields in the Winter Garden will mature around mid-November and a light harvest is expected to start late that month at Eagle Pass. Solid carlot movement could be fairly active from these areas in December if markets justify loading. Most of the acreage at Raymondville and the Coastal Bend will be seeded to provide continuous supplies for mixed car and truck loadings. Very little of the Mississippi acreage is planted to date but present plans indicate that most of the acreage will be utilized by processors. The South Carolina crop is in good to excellent condition in Beaufort County but only fair in Charleston. Harvest is expected to start about mid-December.

Acres and Indicated Production Reported to Date, 1955 with Comparisons

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	5-YEAR AVERAGE	Rev, 1954	Ind. 1955	5-YR. AV.	Rev, 1954	Ind. 1955	5-YEAR AVERAGE	Rev. 1954	Ind. 1955
	1/	2/		1/	2/		1/	2/	
	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES Prelim.	- Boxes -			- 1,000 boxes -		
ARTICHOKEES 3/:									
<u>Winter:</u>									
California.....	7,580	9,000	8,300	97	100		732	900	Dec. 10
			Prospect-						
			ive	- Crates -			- 1,000 crates -		
ASPARAGUS 3/4/:	131,100	142,330	149,130	81	72		10,539	10,356	
			Prelim.	- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
BEETS:									
<u>Winter:</u>									
Texas.....	5,540	6,000	5,500	132	135	110	727	810	770
CABBAGE:			Prospect-	- Tons -			- Tons -		
			ive						
<u>Winter 3/ 4/:</u>	47,380	46,000	42,100	7.42	7.25		346,500	333,400	Dec. 10
KALE:			Prelim.	- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
<u>Winter:</u>									
Virginia.....	2,920	3,000	2,700	401	350	325	1,172	1,050	878
LETTUCE:				- Crates 4-6 doz			- 1,000 crates -		
<u>Winter:</u>									
Arizona, Yuma..	15,300	12,800	11,000	181	175		2,744	2,240	
California.....	32,900	32,500	34,500	184	205		6,032	6,662	
Texas.....	9,520	12,600	12,000	117	160		1,044	2,016	Dec. 10
Florida.....	2,320	2,900	3,300	144	130		338	377	
Group total..	60,040	60,800	60,800	171	186		10,159	11,295	
			Prospect-	- 50 lb. sacks -			- 1,000 sacks -		
			ive						
ONIONS 3/:									
<u>Early Spring:</u>	34,740	39,500	40,600	123	105		3,688	4,148	
POTATOES, EARLY COMMERCIAL	10-year average 1944-53			10-yr. av, 44-53			10-year average 1944-53		
				- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
<u>Winter 3/:</u>	11,540	12,100	11,300	200	288		2,300	3,483	Dec. 10
SHALLOTS:	5-year average 1949-53			5-yr. av, 49-53			5-year average 1949-53		
			Prelim.	- Barrels -			- 1,000 barrels -		
<u>Winter 3/:</u>	3,100	2,800	3,900	27	27	29	85	76	113

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See footnotes on next page.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

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CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	5- YEAR AVERAGE	Rev. 1954	Ind. 1955	5-YR. AV.	Rev. 1954	Ind. 1955	5- YEAR AVERAGE	Rev. 1954	Ind. 1955
	1/	2/		1/	2/		1/	2/	
SPINACH:	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES Prelim.	- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
California	2,720	2,300	2,300	596	520	550	1,625	1,196	1,268
Louisiana	360	-	-	52	-	-	24	-	-
Texas	20,120	16,500	17,500	117	125	140	2,305	2,062	2,450
South Carolina	690	500	500	165	150	150	123	75	75
Mississippi	1,150	700	1,300	109	125	110	126	88	112
Group total	25,040	20,000	21,600	171	171	182	4,203	3,421	3,933
			Prospective	24	qt. Crates		- 1,000 crates -		
STRAWBERRIES: 3/4/	125,760	109,350	108,800	89	106		11,086	11,625	

1/ Group averages (including Annual Total) are simple averages of annual data for group.

2/ Some revisions in this report are not included in TC-54: 1101.

3/ From previous releases.

4/ "Includes Processing"