

# VEGETABLES



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ALL ONIONS: Acreage planted and to be planted to onions (spring and summer) in the United States is estimated at 128 thousand acres (51.9 thousand hectares), up 13 percent from last year and 10 percent more than 1980.

SUMMER STORAGE ONIONS: Planting intentions for summer storage onions (excluding California) are estimated at 56.7 thousand acres (22.9 thousand hectares), up 5 percent from last year and 8 percent above 1980. California's acreage for processing and fresh market is forecast at 29.6 thousand acres (12.0 thousand hectares), 31 percent above a year earlier and 18 percent more than two years ago. In New York, the second leading State in acreage, growers intend to plant 14.6 thousand acres, unchanged from last year.

In Colorado, water supplies are expected to be ample this year, while labor may be a problem in some areas of the State. Favorable onion prices the last two years along with the generally depressed price outlook for other crops have intensified growers interest in onions. Much of the increased acreage will come from new growers. Plantings in Utah will begin about March 19 and should finish on March 26. Idaho and Malheur County Oregon growers are reacting to two years of good onion prices by planning to plant 12.0 thousand acres. If realized this will be the third largest acreage on record. This is a 7 percent increase or 800 more acres to be planted than in 1981.

The planting of storage-type onions is just getting underway in Washington. Growers are anticipating more acreage in 1982, as a result of good prices throughout 1981. The weather was favorable for planting in Southern California. Weather in later areas has been cool and sometimes wet slowing crop progress. Overall the crop is progressing satisfactorily.

SUMMER NON-STORAGE ONIONS: Planting intentions for the 1982 summer non-storage onion crop are estimated at 13.3 thousand acres (5380 hectares), 14 percent above last year but 2 percent below 1980.

In New Jersey, growers are expected to begin preparing fields for planting during mid-March with planting becoming active during late March. It appears that soil moisture will be adequate for these activities.

On the High Plains of Texas, land preparation and fertilizer applications have been slowed by dry weather. Because of the delays, planting may be behind schedule. Moisture is becoming critical and rains are needed to replenish soil moisture. In the Trans Pecos region conditions are also dry. However, land preparation was completed on schedule despite the dry weather delays and transplanting is underway.

Although New Mexico's onion crop is in good condition, unseasonably warm temperatures to date could cause some fields to go to seed. Transplanting of onions in the Mesilla Valley is progressing normally.

In Washington, fall seeded onions are in good condition and planting of spring seeded onions should get underway in early March. Some growers have not finalized their planting decisions but most feel acreage will be higher than 1981.

SPRING ONIONS: Area for harvest of spring onions in Arizona, California and Texas is expected to total 28.4 thousand acres (11.5 thousand hectares), 13 percent above 1981 and 15 percent more than 1980. Planting intentions in January, 1982 were estimated at 27.8 thousand acres. Production of the spring crop in Texas is forecast at 3.49 million cwt (158 thousand metric tons), 29 percent above 1981 but 2 percent less than 1980.

California's spring onion crop is in good condition. However, crop progress has been slow due to cool weather and rains. Harvest is expected to begin in late April or early May and continue through July.

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*In the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, spring onions are rapidly reaching maturity and some harvest activity was underway in late February. Warm temperatures have promoted rapid growth throughout the area. Late February rains were helpful in alleviating dry conditions, but caused flooding in some areas. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area the onion crop is progressing well, under good conditions. Because of the warm temperatures, harvest may begin earlier than in previous years. Disease problems have been minimal. At Laredo, the spring onion crop continues to develop well and conditions remain good. Rains in late February were helpful in restoring soil moisture.*

Planting of late spring onions is virtually complete in Arizona. Only one small area remains to be planted in Cochise County. Earlier plantings are up to good stands and have responded well to the recent warmer temperatures. Harvest of early fields will begin near May 1 and continue well into July. The major portion of the crop will be harvested in June.

STRAWBERRIES: Area of strawberries for harvest during the spring season in California is expected to total 11.2 thousand acres, 3 percent more than last year and 2 percent greater than 1980. Harvest of the Southern California strawberry crop got underway in late January. Volume is still light but will be increasing steadily through March if weather is favorable.

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Production of winter strawberries in Florida is forecast at 1.08 million cwt compared with 672 thousand cwt last year. Harvest of Florida strawberries is very active. In the Plant City-Manatee area, plants are in very good condition. Fruit set is very good and yields are up from last year. Good volume should continue through March. Bloom and fruit set are good in Bradford County. U-Pic harvest continues in Dade County.

ASPARAGUS: The 1982 area of asparagus for harvest in California is estimated at 29.6 thousand acres, 8 percent above 1981 and 6 percent above 1980. California's asparagus crop is progressing slowly in the Delta area due to cold weather. Limited harvest began the week of February 15 and production volume will increase with warmer days. Desert harvest is underway on a limited basis. Volume is also expected to increase with warmer weather.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

CROP AND STATE	AREA			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED		FOR						
	1980	1981	HARVEST	1980	1981	1982	1980	1981	1982
	ACRES			CWT			1,000 CWT		
ASPARAGUS <u>1/</u> CALIF	27,900	27,300	29,600	28	30		781	819	
ONIONS									
SPRING <u>2/</u>									
ARIZ	1,400	1,100	1,700	445	465		623	512	
CALIF	5,100	6,000	7,300	330	360		1,683	2,160	
TEX	18,300	18,000	19,400	195	150	180	3,569	2,700	3,492
GROUP TOTAL	24,800	25,100	28,400	237	214		5,875	5,372	
STRAWBERRIES <u>1/</u>									
WINTER									
FLA	2,500	3,200	4,900	190	210	220	475	672	1,078
SPRING									
CALIF	11,000	10,900	11,200	470	495		5,170	5,396	

ONIONS

STATE AND SEASON	AREA PLANTED			1982 AS PERCENT OF 1981
	ACRES			
	1980	1981	1982	
SPRING <u>2/</u>	25,500	25,600	28,800	113
SUMMER <u>2/</u> NON-STORAGE				
N J	750	700	700	100
N MEX	4,000	3,600	4,000	111
TEX	8,000	6,500	7,600	117
WASH	850	850	1,000	118
GROUP TOTAL	13,600	11,650	13,300	114
STORAGE				
COLO	8,700	9,200	10,000	109
IDAHO & MALHEUR CO OREG	11,000	11,200	12,000	107
MICH	7,500	7,500	7,600	101
MINN	900	850	900	106
N Y	14,600	14,600	14,600	100
OHIO	550	560	560	100
OREG, OTHER	2,500	2,600	2,800	108
UTAH	2,000	2,200	2,100	95
WASH	3,400	4,000	4,500	113
WIS	1,400	1,500	1,600	107
SUBTOTAL	52,550	54,210	56,660	105
CALIF <u>3/</u>	25,000	22,600	29,600	131
TOTAL SUMMER CROP	91,150	88,460	99,560	113
U S	116,650	114,060	128,360	113

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

2/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET.

3/ PRIMARILY FOR PROCESSING.

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