
Vegetables



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SPRING QUARTER FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES ACREAGE UP 6 PERCENT

Prospective area for harvest of 7 fresh market vegetables in major producing States during the spring quarter (April, May and June of 1984), estimated at 167 thousand acres (67.6 thousand hectares), 7 percent more than harvested during spring quarter 1983. Projected production for first half of 1984 for these 7 crops, based on average yield for last three years, is 70.7 million cwt (3.21 million metric tons). The 7 crops included in this group are broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, lettuce, and tomatoes.

Honeydew melon area for harvest in spring quarter is estimated at 3900 acres (1580 hectares), 29 percent less than a year ago. Projected production during January-June, based on average yield for last three years, is 612 thousand cwt (27.8 thousand metric tons), 21 percent less than 1983.

Prospective area of strawberries for harvest in major producing States during spring quarter of 1984 is 31.8 thousand acres (12.9 thousand hectares), a 2 percent increase from last spring.

The Texas spring onion crop is forecast at 3.16 million cwt (143 thousand metric tons), down 17 percent from last year. Production forecasts for the other 2 spring onion States (California and Arizona) will be available June 8, 1984.

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PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, SPRING QUARTER 1/, UNITED STATES
(DOMESTIC UNITS)

CROP	AREA		
	1982	1983	FOR HARVEST 1984
	ACRES		
WINTER	134,300	145,300	149,400
SPRING			
BROCCOLI 2/	24,400	19,100	20,300
CARROTS 2/	9,600	10,000	10,300
CAULIFLOWER 2/	8,100	6,700	8,200
CELERY 2/	9,700	9,200	9,500
SWEET CORN	36,900	39,500	39,600
LETTUCE	43,300	40,900	46,500
TOMATOES	29,700	30,800	32,650
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	161,700	156,200	167,050
HONEYDEW MELONS	4,900	5,500	3,900
TOTAL SPRING CROP	166,600	161,700	170,950

1/ APR, MAY, AND JUN.

2/ INCLUDES TOTAL FOR FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING USES.

PROJECTED PRODUCTION, JANUARY-JUNE, UNITED STATES
(DOMESTIC UNITS)

CROP	PRODUCTION		
	1982	1983	PROJECTED 1984 1/
	1,000 CWT		
JANUARY-JUNE			
BROCCOLI 2/	4,180	3,501	4,084
CARROTS 2/	8,499	9,250	8,661
CAULIFLOWER 2/	1,311	1,450	1,638
CELERY 2/	9,367	9,106	8,839
SWEET CORN	4,418	4,581	4,705
LETTUCE	27,681	27,979	30,992
TOMATOES	11,344	11,475	11,797
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	66,800	67,342	70,716
HONEYDEW MELONS	784	770	612
TOTAL JAN-JUN	67,584	68,112	71,328

1/ BASED ON A THREE YEAR (1981-83) AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE.

2/ INCLUDES TOTAL FOR FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING USES.

PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, SPRING QUARTER, UNITED STATES
(METRIC UNITS)

CROP	AREA		
	1982	1983	FOR HARVEST 1984
	HECTARES		
WINTER	54 350	58 800	60 470
SPRING			
BROCCOLI	9 870	7 730	8 220
CARROTS	3 890	4 050	4 170
CAULIFLOWER	3 280	2 710	3 320
CELERY	3 930	3 720	3 840
SWEET CORN	14 930	15 990	16 030
LETTUCE	17 520	16 550	18 820
TOMATOES	12 020	12 460	13 210
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	65 440	63 210	67 610
HONEYDEW MELONS	1 980	2 230	1 580
TOTAL SPRING CROP	67 420	65 440	69 190

PROJECTED PRODUCTION, JANUARY-JUNE, UNITED STATES
(METRIC UNITS)

CROP	PRODUCTION		
	1982	1983	PROJECTED 1984
	METRIC TONS		
JANUARY-JUNE			
BROCCOLI	189 600	158 800	185 250
CARROTS	385 510	419 570	392 850
CAULIFLOWER	59 470	65 770	74 300
CELERY	424 880	413 040	400 930
SWEET CORN	200 400	207 790	213 410
LETTUCE	1 255 580	1 269 100	1 405 770
TOMATOES	514 550	520 490	535 100
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	3 029 990	3 054 560	3 207 610
HONEYDEW MELONS	35 560	34 930	27 760
TOTAL JAN-JUN	3 065 550	3 089 490	3 235 370

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET, PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST,
SPRING QUARTER

CROP AND STATE	AREA			1984 AREA HARVESTED AS PERCENT OF 1983
	1982	1983	FOR HARVEST 1984	
	ACRES			PERCENT
BROCCOLI: 1/ CALIF	24,400	19,100	20,300	106
CARROTS: 1/ CALIF - OTHER	6,000	6,000	6,200	103
TEX	3,600	4,000	4,100	103
GROUP TOTAL	9,600	10,000	10,300	103
CAULIFLOWER: 1/ CALIF	8,100	6,700	8,200	122
CELERY: 1/ CALIF - SOUTH COAST	4,800	4,400	4,500	102
- CENTRAL COAST	600	600	700	117
FLA	4,300	4,200	4,300	102
GROUP TOTAL	9,700	9,200	9,500	103
SWEET CORN: CALIF	6,300	6,000	5,900	98
FLA	30,600	33,500	33,700	101
GROUP TOTAL	36,900	39,500	39,600	100
HONEYDEWS: TEX	4,900	5,500	3,900	71
LETTUCE: ARIZ - YUMA	900	1,200	800	67
- OTHER	4,100	5,000	6,400	128
CALIF - SAN JOAQUIN 2/	10,000	10,300	12,400	120
- CENTRAL COAST 2/	19,900	15,200	16,600	109
- SOUTH COAST 2/	1,000	900	1,100	122
FLA	4,300	4,400	4,600	105
N J	1,600	1,600	1,600	100
N MEX	1,500	2,300	3,000	130
GROUP TOTAL	43,300	40,900	46,500	114
TOMATOES: ALA	600	600	650	108
ARK	1,600	600	1,200	200
CALIF - DESERT 2/	1,400	1,500	3,200	213
FLA	16,600	19,100	20,600	108
S C	6,900	6,500	4,500	69
TEX	2,600	2,500	2,500	100
GROUP TOTAL	29,700	30,800	32,650	106

SEE FOOTNOTE ON PAGE 5.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

CROP AND STATE	AREA			YIELD PER ACRE		
	HARVESTED		FOR	1982	1983	1984
	1982	1983	HARVEST			
	ACRES			CWT		
ONIONS: 3/ SPRING						
ARIZ 4/	1,700	1,600	1,800	515	410	
CALIF 4/	7,900	7,600	7,700	355	285	
TEX	19,400	19,000	18,600	180	200	170
GROUP TOTAL	29,000	28,200	28,100	247	235	
STRAWBERRIES: 1/ WINTER	5,000	5,400	5,200	195	190	160
SPRING						
CALIF	11,200	12,000	13,300	560	520	500
MICH	2,700	2,700	2,700	80	60	
N J	1,000	1,000	1,100	49	50	
OREG	5,800	6,900	6,500	100	115	
WASH	3,000	3,100	3,000	62	62	
GROUP TOTAL	23,700	25,700	26,600	308	289	
MAJOR STATES TOTAL	28,700	31,100	31,800	288	272	
	PRODUCTION					
	1982		1983		1984	
	1,000 CWT					
ONIONS: 3/ SPRING						
ARIZ 4/	876		656			
CALIF 4/	2,805		2,166			
TEX	3,492		3,800		3,162	
GROUP TOTAL	7,173		6,622			
STRAWBERRIES: 1/ WINTER	975		1,026		832	
SPRING						
CALIF	6,272		6,240		6,650	
MICH	216		162			
N J	49		50			
OREG	580		794			
WASH	186		192			
GROUP TOTAL	7,303		7,438			
MAJOR STATES TOTAL	8,278		8,464			

1/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING. 2/ THE ACTUAL HARVEST PERIOD BEGINS BEFORE AND/OR EXTENDS BEYOND THE QUARTER IN WHICH THE CROP IS SHOWN TO BE HARVESTED. 3/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET. 4/ FIRST FORECAST WILL BE PUBLISHED ON JUN 8TH.

BROCCOLI: Prospective spring quarter area for harvest estimated at 20.3 thousand acres (8220 hectares), up 6 percent from last year's spring quarter. January-June production, based on most recent three-year average yield, projected at 4.08 million cwt (185 thousand metric tons), an increase of 17 percent from year ago. Spring broccoli acreage, grown in California, is mostly in central and southern coastal counties where weather has been favorable. Harvest should proceed on schedule.

CARROTS: Prospective area for harvest during the spring quarter is estimated at 10.3 thousand acres (4170 hectares), 3 percent more than a year ago. Based on most recent three-year average yield, 1984 first half production is projected at 8.66 million cwt (393 thousand metric tons), a decrease of 6 percent from 1983.

California's spring carrot crop appears to be in good condition. Light harvest continues in the San Joaquin Valley but harvest will not be heavy until May. Most current shipments from the Kern district are grown in desert areas.

Planting was on schedule in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas thanks to open weather. Rain in the valley helped alleviate irrigation needs. Temperatures have been good which helped promote good stands. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area, conditions are good, however, windy weather has begun to dry soils and additional rain would help.

CAULIFLOWER: Prospective California spring quarter area for harvest estimated at 8200 acres (3320 hectares), up 22 percent from spring of 1983. Projected January-June production, based on most recent three-year average yield, placed at 1.64 million cwt (74.3 thousand metric tons), 13 percent more than last year. California spring acreage is in good condition. Planting has been on schedule and marketing should be orderly.

CELERY: Spring quarter prospective area for harvest estimated at 9500 acres (3840 hectares), a 3 percent increase from last year. Projected first half production, based on three-year average yield, at 8.84 million cwt (401 thousand metric tons), off 3 percent from last year.

In Florida, harvest continues active in the Everglades and central areas. Quality and size have been good. Warmer weather in recent weeks has promoted good growth. Heavy rains interrupted cuttings in the Everglades in late March. Transplanting continues active, but is expected to decline for the season in April.

California's celery acreage for spring harvest is up slightly from last year. Extremely dry weather has necessitated unusually heavy irrigation. A small acreage has been lost due to bolting.

SWEET CORN: Prospective area for harvest in Florida and California during spring quarter estimated at 39.6 thousand acres (16.0 thousand hectares), up slightly from last spring. Production for January-June, based on three-year average yield, projected at 4.71 million cwt (213 thousand metric tons), a 3 percent increase from 1983.

In Florida, harvest of the spring sweet corn crop has been delayed in the Everglades. Some older corn away from Lake Okeechobee received heavy damage from cold, windy weather in late February. Other areas near the lake received lighter damage. Replanting of the lost acreage is near completion. Peak production is expected in mid-May. Harvest is active along the East Coast and Dade County. Quality and yields are generally good. The spring crop in the Zellwood area is making excellent progress.

Harvest of California's early sweet corn crop should begin about the first of May in the Coachella Valley. Picking in South Coast Counties should begin about the first of June.

HONEYDEW MELONS: 1984 spring quarter area for harvest expected to total 3900 acres (1580 hectares), down 29 percent from the spring quarter a year ago. Production of spring crop projected at 612 thousand cwt (27.8 thousand metric tons) based on most recent three-year average yield.

Planting, in Texas, was completed on schedule. Stands in early planted fields are in good condition. Windy, dry weather has affected some stands across the State.

LETTUCE: Spring quarter prospective area for harvest is projected at 46.5 thousand acres (18.8 thousand hectares), a 14 percent increase from last spring. January-June production, based on three-year average yield, projected at 30.1 million cwt (1.41 million metric tons), up 11 percent from same period in 1983.

In Florida, harvest is active with head size and quality generally good. Good volume of iceberg and romaine are available from the Everglades and central areas. Heavy rains have produced slight declines in shipments in the west central area. Light to moderate volume of Boston, bibb and leaf are available but harvest is expected to increase in early April. Plantings are winding down seasonally.

Excessive soil moisture has delayed fieldwork in New Jersey. Some lettuce planting has begun on light soils in South Jersey between rains, however, warm sunny weather would be beneficial. Cool weather in New Mexico the early part of March created slowed growing conditions, however, with the recent warmer temperatures growth is picking up. At this time, the crop is generally good with harvest expected to begin the first week in May.

Arizona lettuce is in good condition, with good quality. Lack of rain inhibited size and quality of early planting in central Arizona. Harvest has been on schedule but slowing with the soft market.

In California, weather has been favorable for planting and growth. Cutting started in the San Joaquin Valley on March 12 and in the Santa Maria area about March 20.

ONIONS: Texas spring onion production is forecast at 3.16 million cwt (143 thousand metric tons), down 17 percent from last year.

Onions in the Rio Grande Valley are beginning to show some effects of freezing weather in late December. Seed stems, doubles, and splits are more common in fields. Weather conditions are ideal now, however, it probably is too late to help the spring onion crop. Harvest remains two to three weeks behind schedule.

Cool, damp, windy conditions slowed growth in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area. Thin stands are currently reported due to winter freeze damage and some fields were replanted. Harvest will be delayed three to four weeks.

At Laredo, onions will also be late. Currently, the crop looks good, but still too early to tell if they will make size.

STRAWBERRIES: Major spring producing States estimate acreage for harvest at 26.6 thousand acres (10.8 thousand hectares), up 4 percent from spring 1983.

In New Jersey, wet conditions have delayed fieldwork. However, those growers who are removing mulch coverage are finding minimal winter damage. Fields not covered by a mulch have extensive frost damage to the fruit bud and crown.

Michigan strawberries had a limited amount of snowcover this past winter. Temperatures were varied and ranged from extreme cold in January to alternate thawing and freezing during late February and March. Injury from the adverse winter weather has not been determined at this early stage. Plants remain dormant and have adequate soil moisture.

Strawberry harvest in California got off to a very good start with moderate weather aiding production during January. February and March shipments through April 1 are well above last year. Fresh market volume should increase through April and peak in mid-May.

It is still too early in the growing season to fully assess the extent of damage due to the colder than normal winter in Oregon. In the northern Willamette Valley, the damage is more the severe than further south. Many fields were adversely affected by the freezing weather of late December. Those fields which are in the best condition were snow covered during this period. In the southern Willamette Valley, losses are not severe with the exception of some late season frost damage and isolated infestations of crown borer. Good growing conditions in the next few weeks would improve crop prospects significantly.

The unusual cold spell during the latter part of December 1983, when temperatures west of the Cascades dropped as low as 0°F and below, caused widespread injury to Washington strawberry fields. Growers are predicting a decrease in yields from last year's crop. There is still some uncertainty regarding the severity of the damage.

TOMATOES: Acreage for harvest during the spring quarter in major States estimated at 32.7 thousand acres (13.2 thousand hectares), an increase of 6 percent from the same period a year ago. January-June production, based on three-year average yield, projected at 11.8 million cwt (535 thousand metric tons), 3 percent more than last year.

In Florida, tomato harvest is increasing. Most of the volume is coming from the Dade County, Pompano and southwest areas. Fruit quality is good and size is improving. In the Palmetto-Ruskin area, the crop continues to make improvement as the weather becomes more favorable. Plants are showing good growth and fruit is setting and sizing well. Light harvest is expected to start in late April. Transplanting is complete in Gadsen County and the crop is making fair to good progress.

Growing conditions are favorable in Alabama, with no problems reported as yet. South Carolina growers are on schedule with planting a reduce acreage.

Tomato seeding and transplanting was completed on schedule across most of Texas. The only exceptions was in East Texas where heavy rains delayed planting. Overall conditions have been favorable and stands are in good condition.

California's desert tomato crop is growing well and normal harvest dates are anticipated. Harvest should start about mid-April with heaviest production in early June.



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