
Vegetables



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SPRING QUARTER FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES ACREAGE UP 2 PERCENT

Prospective area for harvest of 7 fresh market vegetables in major producing States during the spring quarter (April, May and June of 1985), is estimated at 162 thousand acres (65.6 thousand hectares), 2 percent more than harvested during spring quarter 1984. Projected production for first half of 1985 for these 7 crops, based on average yield for the last three years, is 74.4 million cwt (3.38 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 5000 acres (2020 hectares), the same as a year ago. Projected production during January-June, based on average yield for last three years, is 825 thousand cwt (37.4 thousand metric tons), 13 percent less than 1984.

Prospective area of strawberries for harvest in major producing States during spring quarter of 1985 is 27.9 thousand acres (11.3 thousand hectares), a 5 percent increase from last spring. The prospective area for harvest of asparagus (excluding Illinois) in the major States is 85.4 thousand acres (34.6 thousand hectares), down 1 percent from 1984.

The Texas spring onion crop is forecast at 3.74 million cwt (170 thousand metric tons), up 12 percent from last year but 2 percent below 1983. Production forecasts for the other 2 spring onion States (California and Arizona) will be published June 7, 1985.

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

CROP	AREA		
	1983	1984	FOR HARVEST 1985
	ACRES		
WINTER	145,300	151,500	165,200
SPRING			
BROCCOLI 2/	19,100	21,400	21,000
CARROTS 2/	10,000	11,500	10,700
CAULIFLOWER 2/	7,700	9,300	10,200
CELERY 2/	9,100	9,100	8,800
SWEET CORN	39,500	39,500	40,200
LETTUCE	40,900	38,500	40,000
TOMATOES	29,100	28,900	31,050
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	155,400	158,200	161,950
HONEYDEW MELONS	5,500	5,000	5,000
TOTAL SPRING CROP	160,900	163,200	166,950

1/ APR, MAY, AND JUN.

2/ INCLUDES TOTAL FOR FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING USES.

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

CROP	PRODUCTION		
	1983	1984	PROJECTED 1985 1/
	1,000 CWT		
JANUARY-JUNE			
BROCCOLI 2/	3,501	5,475	4,725
CARROTS 2/	9,250	9,086	9,636
CAULIFLOWER 2/	1,457	2,301	1,964
CELERY 2/	9,106	8,362	9,412
SWEET CORN	4,581	4,306	4,650
LETTUCE	27,935	28,719	31,052
TOMATOES	11,143	11,223	12,179
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	66,973	70,072	73,618
HONEYDEW MELONS	770	950	825
TOTAL JAN-JUN	67,743	71,022	74,443

1/ BASED ON A THREE YEAR (1982-84) 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		
	1983	1984	FOR HARVEST 1985
	HECTARES		
WINTER	58 800	61 320	66 850
SPRING			
BROCCOLI	7 730	8 660	8 500
CARROTS	4 050	4 650	4 330
CAULIFLOWER	3 120	3 760	4 130
CELERY	3 680	3 680	3 560
SWEET CORN	15 990	15 990	16 270
LETTUCE	16 550	15 580	16 190
TOMATOES	11 780	11 700	12 570
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	62 900	64 020	65 550
HONEYDEW MELONS	2 230	2 020	2 020
TOTAL SPRING CROP	65 130	66 040	67 570

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

CROP	PRODUCTION		
	1983	1984	PROJECTED 1985
	METRIC TONS		
JANUARY-JUNE			
BROCCOLI	158 800	248 340	214 320
CARROTS	419 570	412 130	437 080
CAULIFLOWER	66 090	104 370	89 090
CELERY	413 040	406 510	426 920
SWEET CORN	207 790	195 320	210 920
LETTUCE	1 267 100	1 302 670	1 408 490
TOMATOES	505 440	509 060	552 430
TOTAL 7 VEGETABLES	3 037 830	3 178 400	3 339 250
HONEYDEW MELONS	34 930	43 090	37 420
TOTAL JAN-JUN	3 072 760	3 221 490	3 376 670

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

CROP AND STATE	AREA			1985 AREA HARVESTED AS PERCENT OF 1984
	1983	1984	FOR HARVEST 1985	
	ACRES			PERCENT
BROCCOLI: 1/ CALIF	19,100	21,400	21,000	98
CARROTS: 1/ CALIF - OTHER	6,000	7,400	7,300	99
TEX	4,000	4,100	3,400	83
GROUP TOTAL	10,000	11,500	10,700	93
CAULIFLOWER: 1/ CALIF	7,700	9,300	10,200	110
CELERY: 1/ CALIF - SOUTH COAST	4,400	4,500	4,600	102
- CENTRAL COAST	500	700	600	86
FLA	4,200	3,900	3,600	92
GROUP TOTAL	9,100	9,100	8,800	97
SWEET CORN: CALIF	6,000	6,000	5,500	92
FLA	33,500	33,500	34,700	104
GROUP TOTAL	39,500	39,500	40,200	102
HONEYDEWS: TEX	5,500	5,000	5,000	100
LETTUCE: ARIZ - WESTERN	1,200	700	500	71
- OTHER	5,000	1,900	3,600	189
CALIF - SAN JOAQUIN 2/	10,300	11,200	10,700	96
- CENTRAL COAST 2/	15,200	15,600	16,600	106
- SOUTH COAST 2/	900	1,100	900	82
FLA	4,400	4,600	4,600	100
N J	1,600	1,500	1,400	93
N MEX	2,300	1,900	1,700	89
GROUP TOTAL	40,900	38,500	40,000	104
TOMATOES: ALA	600	600	550	92
ARK	600	800	900	113
CALIF - DESERT 2/	1,500	1,800	1,400	78
FLA	19,100	18,500	21,500	116
S C	4,800	4,700	4,300	91
TEX	2,500	2,500	2,400	96
GROUP TOTAL	29,100	28,900	31,050	107

SEE FOOTNOTE ON PAGE 5.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

CROP AND STATE	AREA			YIELD PER ACRE		
	HARVESTED		FOR	1983	1984	1985
	1983	1984	HARVEST			
	ACRES			CWT		
ASPARAGUS: 1/ 2/						
CALIF	34,200		35,200		25	
ILL 3/	1,400				10	
MICH	19,200		19,200		12	
N J	2,000		2,000		15	
WASH	31,000		29,000		23	
GROUP TOTAL	87,800		85,400		21	
ONIONS: 4/						
SPRING						
ARIZ 5/	1,600	2,300	1,300	410	350	
CALIF 5/	7,600	7,700	7,800	285	355	
TEX	19,000	18,600	17,000	200	180	220
GROUP TOTAL	28,200	28,600	26,100	235	241	
STRAWBERRIES: 1/						
WINTER						
FLA	5,400	5,100	5,300	190	170	200
SPRING						
CALIF	12,000	13,300	14,600	520	565	540
MICH	2,700	2,700	2,500	60	70	
N J	1,000	1,000	1,100	50	50	
OREG	6,900	6,600	6,600	115	92	
WASH	3,100	3,000	3,100	62	70	
GROUP TOTAL	25,700	26,600	27,900	289	322	
MAJOR STATES TOTAL	31,100	31,700	33,200	272	298	
	PRODUCTION					
	1983		1984		1985	
	1,000 CWT					
ASPARAGUS: 1/ 2/						
CALIF				855		
ILL				14		
MICH				230		
N J				30		
WASH				713		
GROUP TOTAL				1,842		
ONIONS: 4/						
SPRING						
ARIZ 5/	656		805			
CALIF 5/	2,166		2,734			
TEX	3,800		3,348		3,740	
GROUP TOTAL	6,622		6,887			
STRAWBERRIES: 1/						
WINTER						
FLA	1,026		867		1,060	
SPRING						
CALIF	6,240		7,515		7,884	
MICH	162		189			
N J	50		50			
OREG	794		607			
WASH	192		210			
GROUP TOTAL	7,438		8,571			
MAJOR STATES TOTAL	8,464		9,438			

1/ INCLUDES FRESH AND PROCESSING. 2/ ESTIMATES REINSTATED WITH 1984 CROP.
3/ ILLINOIS NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.
4/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET. 5/ FIRST FORECAST WILL BE PUBLISHED ON JUN 8TH.

ASPARAGUS: Preliminary acreage for harvest in the major States (excluding Illinois) is estimated at 85.4 thousand acres (34.6 thousand hectares), 1 percent less than 1984.

In New Jersey, light harvest is expected to get underway during mid-April. Harvest is expected to be general through May, with late harvest ending during late June.

Older acreage is showing signs of significant root rot in Michigan. This disease causes sparse plant population and significant yield reductions. The 1984 dry summer effected crown development in some areas of Michigan and could effect the 1985 yield. Some acreage was lost due to the exceptionally wet spring. Old asparagus fields are continually being worked up, while new fields have been put in to replace them.

Washington growers feel the market is fairly stable and are not making any big changes, just replacing older fields with new. Growers expect 1985 yields to be 2-3% better due to more crop maturity.

BROCCOLI: Prospective spring quarter area for harvest is estimated at 21.0 thousand acres (8500 hectares), down 2 percent from last year's spring quarter. January-June production, based on most recent three-year average yield, projected at 4.73 million cwt (214 thousand metric tons), a decrease of 14 percent from a year ago. Spring broccoli acreage in California is mainly in central and southern coastal counties. Weather has been somewhat cooler than normal and development was held back. Supplies as of April 1 were short with demand exceeding supply.

CARROTS: Prospective area for harvest during the spring quarter is estimated at 10.7 thousand acres (4330 hectares), 7 percent less than a year ago. Based on most recent three-year average yield, 1985 first half production is projected at 9.64 million cwt (437 thousand metric tons), an increase of 6 percent from 1984.

Spring harvest in Texas, is expected to move smoothly after a slow start due to wet conditions. The crop currently looks good.

California's spring carrot crop is in good condition. Harvest is very light in the San Joaquin Valley but will be increasing through April. Most current shipments from the Kern district are grown in desert areas.

CAULIFLOWER: Prospective California spring quarter area for harvest is estimated at 10.2 thousand acres (4130 hectares), up 10 percent from spring of 1984. Projected January-June production, based on most recent three-year average yield, placed at 1.96 million cwt (89.1 thousand metric tons), 15 percent less than last year. California spring cauliflower acreage is in good condition although development was held back by earlier cool weather.

CELERY: Spring quarter prospective area for harvest is estimated at 8800 acres (3560 hectares), a 3 percent decrease from last year. Projected first half production, based on three-year average yield, at 9.41 million cwt (427 thousand metric tons), up 5 percent from last year.

In Florida, harvest is active in all areas. Quality and size are generally good. Transplantings are winding down for the season in the Everglades, but should continue in the central area into mid-April. Yield prospects for the spring crop are good.

Growing conditions are generally favorable in California. Harvest is active in the South Coast and planting continues in the Central Coast.

SWEET CORN: Prospective area for harvest in Florida and California during the spring quarter is estimated at 40.2 thousand acres (16.3 thousand hectares), up 2 percent from last spring. Production for January-June, based on three-year average yield, projected at 4.65 million cwt (211 thousand metric tons), an 8 percent increase from 1984.

In Florida, harvest continues light in the Pompano and Dade County areas. Quality, ear size and yields are good. The spring crop in the Everglades is making good growth and light harvest is expected in early April. Planting continues active in the Zellwood area. Early plantings received some frost damage during late March. Replanting will be necessary in some fields.

Some replanting of California's spring sweet corn crop was necessary in the Coachella Valley. Harvest should begin in early May in the desert.

HONEYDEW MELONS: The 1985 spring quarter area for harvest is expected to total 5000 acres (2020 hectares), unchanged from the spring quarter a year ago. Production of the spring crop is projected at 825 thousand cwt (37.4 thousand metric tons) based on most recent three-year average yield.

Texas producers were late planting because of wet fields. Melons are making good progress. Harvest should be slightly later than normal.

LETTUCE: Spring quarter prospective area for harvest is projected at 40.0 thousand acres (16.2 thousand hectares), a 4 percent increase from last spring. January-June production, based on three-year average yield, projected at 31.1 million cwt (1.41 million metric tons), up 8 percent from same period in 1984.

In Florida, harvest continues quite active in the Everglades. Romaine and Iceberg supplies are steady. Quality and head size is good. Heavy supplies are expected in April. Harvest in the central area was delayed a week to 10 days by frost damage. Plantings continue but are winding down seasonally.

New Jersey's spring has been drier this year than in the past two years. Transplanting and direct seeding is expected to become general by mid-April. Soil preparation for planting active. Rain and snow during December and January reduced acreage and delayed planting. However, recent warm weather has allowed late plantings to catch up. Condition of the crop is good as thinning activities continue.

Weather, in Arizona, has been favorable this season. Heads have been heavy and of good quality.

Weather has been mostly favorable for development of California's spring lettuce crop. Very light cutting started in the Kern and Huron districts of the San Joaquin Valley the last week of March. Early fields are about two weeks later than last year.

ONIONS: Texas spring onion production is forecast at 3.74 million cwt (170 thousand metric tons), a gain of 12 percent over last year but 2 percent short of 1983 production.

In the Rio Grande Valley, harvest began late due to wet ground. Some early onions that suffered from cold temperatures are showing blight, doubles, and seedstems. Later varieties are in good condition.

In the San Antonio - Winter Garden area, harvest will begin later than normal. Some damage from freezing temperatures during February is expected. Onions are making good progress.

In the Laredo area, harvest is expected to be late due to cold temperatures in February and wet ground at planting. Onions are currently making good progress.

STRAWBERRIES: Major spring producing States estimate acreage for harvest at 27.9 thousand acres (11.3 thousand hectares), up 5 percent from spring 1984.

The New Jersey strawberry crop weathered the winter without significant damage. Growers are hoping that drier weather will prevail during the harvest period than last year.

Michigan strawberry producers are reducing acreage due to last years low prices. Some Michigan strawberry processing plants refused to take all available berries last year and thus some growers lost part of their crop.

Strawberry harvest in California got off to a normal start. Shipments through March were well below last year but the early 1984 harvest was very heavy. Fresh market volume should peak in late May.

Most Oregon fields are in good condition, although plant progress is somewhat behind normal due to a cool, dry spring. Generally, the Benton and Totem varieties are in better condition than are the Hoods. Very little winter kill has been noted, but older fields still show damage from the severe freeze of late December 1983. A few growers report root rot, crown moth or leaf fungus. Overall prospects are for a normal crop; acreage will be about the same as last year but yields should be higher. Conditions at bloom will aid in evaluating the 1985 crop.

Strawberry fields in Washington are reported to be in mostly above average condition at this time. The winter was much drier than normal decreasing the incidence of rot problems. Rains during late March improved soil moisture levels.

TOMATOES: Acreage for harvest during the spring quarter in major States is estimated at 31.1 thousand acres (12.6 thousand hectares), an increase of 7 percent from the same period a year ago. January-June production, based on three-year average yield, projected at 12.2 million cwt (552 thousand metric tons), 9 percent more than last year.

In Florida, tomato harvest is increasing as new fields come into production. The volume leader is Dade County followed by the Ft. Pierce-Pompano area. First harvest is expected early April in the southwest area. Fruit quality, size and yields are variable, but mostly good. The spring crop in the Palmetto-Ruskin area continues to make good progress. The crop is making very good growth as the weather improves. Fruit is setting and sizing well. Transplanting is complete in Gadsden County.

Transplanting of South Carolina's 1985 tomato crop was two-third's complete by April 1 - about on schedule. The crop was in fair to good condition, although some plants were damaged due to frost the latter part of March. A good general rain would greatly benefit the crop as the month of March was extremely dry and soil moisture was short to very short. Planting in Alabama is on schedule.

Wet ground has hampered planting in the East Texas region. In the Valley, the crop is two to three weeks late due to wet ground and cool temperatures in January and February.

California's desert tomato crop is developing normally. Harvest is expected to start somewhat later than last year.



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