



Vegetables

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Fresh Vegetable Acreage Up 2 Percent Spring Onion Acreage Up Slightly Winter Strawberry Acreage Up 2 Percent

The prospective area for harvest of 13 selected fresh market vegetables during the winter quarter is forecast at 193,000 acres. This is 2 percent above 1999 and 1998. Acreage increases in snap beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, and spinach more than offset declines in celery, eggplant, and tomatoes. Spinach, cauliflower, and sweet corn had the largest acreage increases, while eggplant and tomatoes showed the largest acreage decrease. Broccoli, head lettuce, and bell peppers remain steady.

Acres planted for spring onions, at 40,500, were up slightly from 1999 and up 4 percent from 1998. Acreage increased in Texas and went down in California and Georgia. Arizona's acreage was unchanged from 1999.

Florida's winter strawberry acreage is estimated at 6,300 acres, up 2 percent from both 1999 and 1998.

<p>The release date for the Vegetable 1999 Summary has been changed from January 14, 2000 to January 28, 2000.</p>

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Annual Area for Harvest
by Season, Major States, 1998-2000
(Domestic Units)**

Crop and Season	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2000
	1998	1999	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans	11,500	9,500	9,600
Broccoli ¹	30,500	30,000	30,000
Cabbage	11,300	13,000	13,800
Carrots	27,400	24,800	26,500
Cauliflower ¹	9,000	10,000	11,500
Celery ¹	7,300	7,800	7,500
Sweet Corn	5,800	5,900	6,800
Eggplant	800	700	600
Escarole/Endive ²	750	750	
Head Lettuce	68,000	64,500	64,500
Bell Pepper ¹	4,300	5,000	5,000
Spinach	2,500	2,100	2,600
Tomatoes	10,900	15,900	14,600
Total Winter Crop	190,050	189,950	193,000

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² Not published to avoid disclosure.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Annual Area for Harvest
by Season, Major States, 1998-2000
(Metric Units)**

Crop and Season	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2000
	1998	1999	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Snap Beans	4,650	3,840	3,890
Broccoli ¹	12,340	12,140	12,140
Cabbage	4,570	5,260	5,580
Carrots	11,090	10,040	10,720
Cauliflower ¹	3,640	4,050	4,650
Celery ¹	2,950	3,160	3,040
Sweet Corn	2,350	2,390	2,750
Eggplant	320	280	240
Escarole/Endive ²	300	300	
Head Lettuce	27,520	26,100	26,100
Bell Pepper ¹	1,740	2,020	2,020
Spinach	1,010	850	1,050
Tomatoes	4,410	6,430	5,910
Total Winter Crop	76,910	76,870	78,110

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² Not published to avoid disclosure.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Annual Area for Harvest
by Crop, State, and Total, Winter Season, 1998-2000**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area			2000 as Percent of 1999
		Harvested		For Harvest 2000	
		1998	1999		
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Snap Beans FL	Jan-Mar	11,500	9,500	9,600	101
Broccoli ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	30,500	30,000	30,000	100
Cabbage FL	Jan-Mar	4,800	6,000	6,000	100
TX	Dec-Mar	6,500	7,000	7,800	111
Total		11,300	13,000	13,800	106
Carrots CA	Jan-Mar	21,000	22,000	23,000	105
FL ²	Nov-Mar	4,100			
TX	Dec-Mar	2,300	2,800	3,500	125
Total		27,400	24,800	26,500	107
Cauliflower ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	9,000	10,000	11,500	115
Celery ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	7,300	7,800	7,500	96
Sweet Corn FL	Jan-Mar	5,800	5,900	6,800	115
Eggplant FL	Jan-Mar	800	700	600	86
Escarole/Endive FL ³	Jan-Mar	750	750		
Head Lettuce AZ - Western	Nov-Apr	51,000	44,000	45,000	102
CA	Jan-Mar	17,000	20,500	19,500	95
Total		68,000	64,500	64,500	100
Bell Pepper ¹ FL	Jan-Mar	4,300	5,000	5,000	100
Spinach TX	Dec-Mar	2,500	2,100	2,600	124
Tomatoes FL	Jan-Mar	10,900	15,900	14,600	92

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² Estimate discontinued.

³ Not published to avoid disclosure.

**Onions and Strawberries for Fresh Market: Area Planted
and Harvested by Crop, Season, and Total, 1998-2000**

Crop, Season, and State	Planted Area			Harvested Area		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	For Harvest 2000
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Onions ¹						
Spring						
AZ ²	2,500	3,000	3,000	2,500	3,000	
CA ²	9,400	7,500	7,300	9,100	7,300	
GA	15,000	16,000	15,000	13,900	14,500	14,000
TX	12,000	13,800	15,200	11,400	12,700	14,400
Total ²	38,900	40,300	40,500	36,900	37,500	
Strawberries ³						
Winter						
FL	6,200	6,200	6,300	6,200	6,200	6,300

¹ Primarily fresh market.

² 2000 - harvested acreage published April 7, 2000.

³ Includes fresh market and processing.

Snap Beans: Florida acreage for harvest is 9,600 acres, up 1 percent from last year but 17 percent below two years ago. Winter harvest is active. The crop is in good condition.

Broccoli: California acreage is forecast at 30,000 acres, the same as last year but 2 percent below 1998. The broccoli crop is in good condition due to mild weather.

Cabbage: Winter acreage for harvest is forecast at 13,800, 6 percent above 1999 and 22 percent more than 1998. The crop is doing well in Texas despite most growing areas being very dry. Winter harvest in Florida is active and the crop is in good condition.

Carrots: Winter harvested acreage is forecast at 26,500, 7 percent above 1999 and 14 percent above comparable states in 1998. The California crop is reported in good condition due to mild weather. Few problems have been reported. Baby carrots continue to be in high demand.

Cauliflower: California acreage is forecast at 11,500 acres, up 15 percent from 1999 and 28 percent above 1998. Cool nights and mildly warm days have been beneficial to the cauliflower crop.

Celery: The winter celery crop for harvest in California is forecast at 7,500 acres, 4 percent below last year but 3 percent above the year before.

Sweet Corn: Florida harvested acreage is forecast at 6,800 acres, 15 percent more than 1999 and 17 percent above 1998. Flooding caused by Hurricane Irene's rains delayed some winter crop planting in the East Coast and Dade County areas. By late October, planting increased in the southern Peninsula. Mostly dry and mild weather during November and most of December aided crop development and allowed planting to progress normally. The oldest acreage in Dade County began tasseling in early to mid-December. Dade County growers expect harvesting to start about mid-January.

Eggplant: Acreage for winter harvest in Florida, at 600 acres, is down 14 percent from 1999 and 25 percent from 1998. Crop condition is good. Cutting is active and harvest is underway for regular and specialty varieties.

Head Lettuce: Acreage for harvest is forecast at 64,500, the same as last year and 5 percent below two years ago. Harvest is active in the Imperial Valley of California with good quality reported.

Onions: Growers intend to plant 40,500 acres of spring onions for 2000, a slight increase from 1999 and 4 percent above 1998. The California crop is progressing faster than normal due to favorable weather, thus causing growers to expect an earlier than usual harvest. Some California growers expressed concern about the lack of normal rainfall in the valley and snowfall in the mountains. In Georgia, the condition of the crop is fair to good. Weather conditions have been favorable until winter which has been drier than normal. Some growers have already irrigated the crop.

Bell Peppers: Winter acreage in Florida is forecast at 5,000 acres, the same as last year and 16 percent more than 1998. Winter crop planting was delayed by flooding from Hurricane Irene during mid-October in the East Coast and southwestern areas. Planting got back on schedule as fields dried out. Mild and mostly dry weather during November and most of December provided nearly ideal conditions for plant growth and development. Cool temperatures during later December caused no significant damage to the crop.

Spinach: Harvested acres of winter spinach for 2000 is forecast at 2,600 acres in Texas. This is 24 percent above 1999 and 4 percent above 1998.

Strawberries: Florida winter acreage is forecast at 6,300 acres, up 2 percent from last year and the year before. Strawberry harvesting began in late November, early December at a low level. The season has progressed well. There have been no major problems thus far.

Tomatoes: Florida winter tomato acreage is forecast at 14,600 acres, down 8 percent from 1999 but 34 percent above 1998. Flooding caused by Hurricane Irene during the second week of October significantly damaged some plants and delayed some transplanting of the winter crop. Dade County growers replanted the acreage lost to this flooding. Dry, mild conditions during the last half of October, all of November and most of December allowed plants to recover and winter crop transplanting to get back on schedule. By mid-December, Dade County plants damaged by Hurricane Irene were making a good crop above the crown hand while southwestern and East Coast growers started picking acreage that had no damage from the storm. Dade County producers began harvesting in late December with some first pick yields lower than normal due to the storm damage.

The next "Vegetables" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on April 7, 2000.

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