

VEGETABLES—FRESH MARKET

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ACREAGE AND ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL CROPS DECEMBER 1, 1958

The production of winter vegetables is expected to be significantly larger in 1959 than in 1958, the Crop Reporting Board announced today. Forecasts for 10 crops which usually account for more than half of the winter production indicate a 9 percent increase over 1958. Marked increases in the production of celery, lettuce, broccoli and kale are expected. The largest of these is for celery which is forecast to be 22 percent greater than last year's crop. Partially offsetting these larger crops are declines in the production of cauliflower, beets, artichokes, Brussels sprouts and shallots. Spinach is expected to be about the same. Acreage estimates have also been made for cabbage, carrots and escarole. Current reports point to a larger acreage for each of these three crops. In the winter of 1958 yields were low and much production was lost in Florida because of freeze and flood damage. With favorable weather in Florida, production there should be considerably higher in 1959.

By the end of November cold weather had ended the harvest of tender fall vegetables in all except the southern States. Harvest of fall vegetables continues on about their normal schedule in the southeast. November presented a variety of weather conditions with temperatures dropping from much above normal to below freezing in many vegetable producing areas of the country. Killing frosts on November 15-18 in central and southern California killed tender fall vegetables, including tomatoes, sweet corn, green peas, peppers, cucumbers in most of the States producing areas. However, as harvest was nearly complete on the bulk of these crops the overall loss was a small percentage of the season's production. Some of the hardy vegetables, such as Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, and lettuce benefited from the lower temperatures. Daily harvest of hardy fall and winter vegetables in California is gradually increasing. Conditions have been favorable in New Mexico and Arizona for normal progress of their winter vegetables. Texas enjoyed relatively dry weather in November for much needed cultivation and planting of additional acreage. Weather has been quite favorable in Florida for the growth of crops and planting of winter crops. Harvest of fall crops there is in full swing.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service
Vg 2-1 (12-58)

Crop Reporting Board
Washington, D. C.

Summary of Acreage and Indicated Production Reported to Date, 1959 with Comparisons

SEASONAL GROUP AND CROP	ACREAGE FOR HARVEST			PRODUCTION		
	Average 1949-57	1958	Indicated 1959	Average 1949-57	1958	Indicated 1959
	- Acres -			- 1,000 cwt. -		
WINTER						
Artichokes	8,230	9,400	9,300	317	329	298
Beets	3,830	2,500	2,000	278	200	160
Broccoli	6,450	2,900	3,300	279	122	143
Brussels Sprouts	360	150	60	16	6	2
Cabbage <u>1/</u>	40,840	37,300	41,400	---		
Carrots	38,520	26,000	30,500	---		
Cauliflower	4,840	4,750	2,550	470	378	210
Celery	9,850	11,600	13,150	4,270	4,936	6,047
Escarole	4,410	5,500	6,700	---		
Kale	2,790	2,500	2,400	202	162	180
Lettuce	63,770	62,600	61,900	8,583	8,616	9,079
Shallots	3,500	2,000	1,800	93	46	43
Spinach	18,950	14,150	14,650	749	730	730

1/ Includes processing.

Acreage and Indicated Production Reported to Date, 1959 with Comparisons

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE FOR HARVEST			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	Average 1949-57	1958	Ind. 1959	Av. 49-57	1958	Ind. 1959	Average 1949-57	1958	Ind. 1959
ARTICHOKES	- Acres -			- Cwt. -			-1,000 cwt.-		
Winter California	8,230	9,400	9,300	39	35	32	317	329	298
ASPARAGUS									
Spring 1/ 2/...	140,090	158,560	159,760	24	21		3,292	3,284	
BEEETS									
Winter.....	3,830	2,500	2,000	75	80	80	278	200	160
BROCCOLI 1/									
Winter									
South Carolina	370	200	200	28	15	20	11	3	4
Texas.....	5,360	2,000	2,600	43	35	40	231	70	104
Arizona.....	720	700	500	56	70	70	37	49	35
Group Total..	6,450	2,900	3,300	44	42	43	279	122	143
BRUSSELS SPROUTS									
Winter									
Texas 3/.....	360	150	60	45	40	35	16	6	2
CABBAGE 1/									
Winter									
Florida.....	16,540	15,500	18,000	198	130		3,288	2,015	
Texas.....	19,610	16,500	18,000	113	150		2,217	2,475	
Arizona.....	1,080	900	700	226	245		243	220	Jan.9
California....	3,610	4,400	4,700	213	315		769	1,386	
Group Total..	40,840	37,300	41,400	160	163		6,517	6,096	
Early Spring 2/									
South Carolina	2,090	2,400	2,400	139	85		288	204	
Georgia.....	5,340	4,200	4,300	112	100		599	420	
Alabama.....	1,080	900	900	107	105		116	94	Apr.10
Mississippi...	4,360	2,900	2,600	105	85		447	246	
Louisiana.....	3,960	3,000	3,400	91	100		366	300	
California....	2,910	3,600	3,800	217	225		635	810	
Group Total..	19,730	17,000	17,400	125	122		2,451	2,074	
CARROTS 1/									
Winter									
Florida.....	60	---	---	100	---		6	---	
Louisiana.....	270	---	---	30	---		8	---	
Texas.....	27,170	19,500	21,600	94	160		2,547	3,120	Jan.9
Arizona.....	2,240	900	1,100	186	190		422	171	
California....	8,780	5,600	7,800	225	265		1,934	1,484	
Group Total..	38,520	26,000	30,500	130	184		4,917	4,775	

Acreage and Indicated Production Reported to Date, 1959 with Comparisons

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE FOR HARVEST			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	Average 1949-57	1958	Ind. 1959	Av. 49-57	1958	Ind. 1959	Average 1949-57	1958	Ind. 1959
	- Acres -			- Cwt. -			-1,000 cwt. -		
CAULIFLOWER 1/ Winter									
Florida.....	1,060	450	550	116	75	110	123	34	60
Texas.....	3,010	4,300	2,000	79	80	75	256	344	150
Arizona.....	770	---	---	124	---	---	91	---	---
Group Total..	4,840	4,750	2,550	97	80	82	470	378	210
CELERY									
Winter									
Florida.....	5,960	6,900	8,000	399	305	390	2,379	2,104	3,120
Arizona.....	290	500	750	391	540	500	114	270	375
California....	3,600	4,200	4,400	494	610	580	1,777	2,562	2,552
Group Total..	9,850	11,600	13,150	433	426	460	4,270	4,936	6,047
ESCAROLE									
Winter									
Florida.....	4,410	5,500	6,700	124	110		549	605	Jan.9
KALE									
Winter.....	2,790	2,500	2,400	72	65	75	202	162	180
LETTUCE									
Winter									
Florida.....	3,360	3,700	3,500	111	65	110	374	240	385
Texas.....	11,820	10,000	5,500	97	60	90	1,119	600	495
Arizona, Yuma.	13,780	9,700	9,900	140	155	155	1,927	1,504	1,534
California....	34,810	39,200	43,000	149	160	155	5,167	6,272	6,665
Group Total..	63,770	62,600	61,900	135	138	147	8,583	8,616	9,079
ONIONS 2/ Early Spring...	36,760	27,000	43,000	66	95		2,267	2,565	Mar.10
SHALLOTS									
Winter									
Louisiana.....	3,500	2,000	1,800	26	23	24	93	46	43
SPINACH									
Winter									
South Carolina	530	350	350	38	29	40	21	10	14
Mississippi...	970	---	---	22	---	---	22	---	---
Louisiana.....	200	---	---	13	---	---	3	---	---
Texas.....	14,890	12,000	12,500	30	42	40	418	504	500
California....	2,360	1,800	1,800	122	120	120	286	216	216
Group Total..	18,950	14,150	14,650	42	52	50	749	730	730
STRAWBERRIES 1/ Winter									
Florida.....	4,020	2,000	1,800	2,380	1,300		9,577	2,600	Jan.9
Spring 2/.....	111,780	109,500	103,970	3,818	4,817		426,793	527,425	
ALL STATES.....	115,800	111,500	105,770	3,818	4,754		436,370	530,025	

1/ Includes processing.

2/ 1959 acreage prospective.

3/ Short-time average.

COMMENTS CONCERNING CONDITION AND MOVEMENT
OF VEGETABLES

ARTICHOKES: California's 1958-59 artichoke crop is forecast at 298,000 cwt., which is 9 percent less than was produced last year. Both acreage and expected yield are under that of last season. Freezes in mid-November ended production from the small acreage in the Santa Maria area. Frost in the important Castroville district did considerable damage by scarring buds, thus lowering quality. Supplies to date have been low and are expected to remain seasonally light for the next two months.

BEEETS: Winter beets made good progress in all south Texas areas during November. Early plantings that were weeded and cultivated after the continuous October rains were furnishing light supplies in late November. Additional acreage was planted for March and April harvest. Supplies of bunch beets will be light until after mid-December as tops have been damaged by heavy rains and insects. Topped beets are available in fairly good volume from the Lower Valley.

BROCCOLI: Winter production is forecast at 143,000 cwt., 17 percent more than last year's production but only about one-half of average. In Texas, the major State in this group, the crop in general is in good condition. Light harvest has started in the San Antonio area. Production from the Lower Valley will be later than usual but supplies will be available in fairly good volume in early January. The Arizona crop has made normal progress. Shipments started the third week of November and, thus far, all has moved in mixed cars. The South Carolina crop is reported to be in good condition. Light harvest was expected to begin in early December.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS: In Texas, Brussels sprouts production will be cut drastically from last year because of a sharp reduction in acreage. Production of only 2,000 cwt. is expected this season, which is one-third of last year's output. Stands are poor. A light supply will be available in late December which will be marketed locally.

CABBAGE: Acreage of winter cabbage for harvest this season is placed at 41,400 acres, 11 percent more than last year's acreage but only slightly above average. Larger acreages in Florida and Texas account for most of the increase over last season. Florida's cabbage is making good progress in all areas of the State. Limited supplies are now being harvested but harvest will be active in late December. Planting continues active for late harvest in all areas with approximately 60 percent of total acreage planted on December 1. In Texas, about 3,000 acres of early plantings were lost as a result of the October floods. As fields dried in late November, planting was active and more than the usual acreage for late harvest was planted. Poor growing weather through October will result in considerably lighter than normal supplies in December and January. Harvest is now underway in San Antonio, Winter Garden and Lower Valley districts. Production in South Texas will be in volume through March with some supplies in April. In California, light harvest was expected to start the first week of December in the Imperial Valley but volume will be light until after January 1. Harvest in other areas of southern California is gradually increasing daily.

The prospective acreage of early spring cabbage is placed at 17,400 acres, which is slightly above last year but 12 percent below average.

December 10, 1958

CARROTS: Acreage of winter carrots for harvest is estimated at 30,500 acres which is 17 percent above that harvested in 1958 but 21 percent below average. All States have more acreage than last year. Wet weather in all South Texas areas through October resulted in plants making good growth but very short root development. However, fields for late season harvest are expected to be much better. A light harvest began in late November in the San Antonio area, and Winter Garden, and the Lower Valley will have supplies in December. Volume supplies from all areas will be available through May. In California, high temperatures in September and early October caused considerable replanting. Some early planted fields in the Imperial Valley still have uneven stands. Harvest has begun but supplies will be light through January. Arizona is expected to begin shipment the second week of December.

CAULIFLOWER: Production of winter cauliflower in Florida and Texas is forecast at 210,000 cwt., only about one-half of last year's production. Texas' acreage for harvest is down over 50 percent. Plantings will be lighter in all areas of Texas because of continuous rains this fall. Acreage loss of early plantings was heavy. Harvest started in the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass in late November but volume production will not be available until late December. Some late acreage will furnish supplies into March. Harvest of the Florida crop is expected to begin about mid-December.

CELERY: Winter celery production is forecast at a record large 6,047,000 cwt., which is 23 percent above last winter's production and 42 percent more than average. Acreage expansion and favorable yield prospects in Florida are responsible for most of the increase over last year's production. Growing conditions in Florida have ranged from only fair to excellent. Harvest is active in Zellwood and the Everglades. The crop is progressing well in California. The frost in mid-November nipped the tops of celery in Orange County, but damage was minor as only a small volume was mature at that time. Light harvest is underway in Orange, Los Angeles and Ventura counties and was expected to begin in San Diego County about December 8. Harvest from early fields in Arizona should begin about mid-December.

ESCAROLE: Florida has 6,700 acres of escarole this winter, 22 percent above last year's and 52 percent more than their average acreage. Harvest is in progress in all areas. Principal areas of supply will be the Zellwood and Everglades areas with lighter volume from the Sanford, Hillsborough and Sarasota areas.

LETTUCE: Prospective production of winter lettuce is estimated at 9,079,000 cwt., 5 percent above last winter's crop and 6 percent larger than average. Supplies from the desert areas of California have been light but are expected to become moderately heavy after December 10. The cool weather of mid-November had no damaging effects and generally benefited the crop by slowing growth. The Arizona crop is in good condition and quality has been good. Harvest is underway and shipments will be increasing in December. In Texas, early fields have been turning out low yields but prospects for crops to be harvested during December are more promising. About half of the acreage will be harvested after January 1. Harvest in the Uvalde-Batesville area began in mid-November and was expected to start in the Lower Valley in mid-December. Weather conditions in Florida have been favorable and the crop has made good progress. Harvest is now underway in practically all producing areas.

December 10, 1958

SHALLOTS: Louisiana's winter shallot crop is now forecast at 43,000 cwt., 7 percent less than was produced last winter. Weather conditions have been favorable, but quality and yield have been lowered by insect infestation.

SPINACH: Production of winter spinach is estimated at 730,000 cwt., the same as last winter and about equal to average. In Texas, a light harvest began in mid-November in the Winter Garden and harvest was expected to begin in Eagle Pass early in December. Supplies will be in volume during December. The crop is making good progress. The small crop in South Carolina is reported to be in good condition.

STRAWBERRIES: Acreage of Florida's winter crop is estimated at 1,800 acres, 200 acres less than were harvested last winter. Weather conditions have been favorable for plant growth and the crop is making good progress.

NEW YORK CABBAGE STOCKS

DECEMBER 1, 1958

Stocks of Danish cabbage in New York State on December 1 are estimated at 1,217,000 cwt. This is 57 percent above the relatively small stocks on hand December 1, 1957 and nearly a third above average. Most of this cabbage is stored in western New York. The larger stocks are partially due to the increased production in New York. However, with production in other areas also considerably above last year, demand for Danish cabbage has been below that of last year.

In addition to the stocks of Danish cabbage, supplies of cabbage during the winter months are available from the late fall producing States of Virginia, North and South Carolina and the winter States of Florida, Texas, Arizona and California. Harvest is about at peak in the late fall States where production is expected to be about one-fifth larger than in 1957.

NEW YORK CABBAGE (Danish for fresh market and kraut)

YEAR	ACREAGE <u>1/</u>	YIELD PER ACRE (Derived)	PRODUCTION			DECEMBER 1 STOCKS	
			Total	Not Harvested <u>2/</u>	Harvested	Amount on hand	Percent of Production Harvested
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>		<u>1,000 cwt.</u>		<u>1,000 cwt.</u>	
1947-56 Average	11,250	231	2,546	206	2,341	933	39
1957	8,000	230	1,840	---	1,840	773	42
1958	7,800	310	2,418	121	2,297	1,217	53

1/ Acreage for harvest, including any partially harvested or not harvested because of low prices or other economic factors.

2/ Not harvested because of low prices or other economic factors.