

# VEGETABLES--FRESH MARKET

Release:  
March 7, 1969  
3:00 P.M. EST

## ACREAGE AND ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL CROPS MARCH 1, 1969

Winter Vegetables: At 39.8 million hundredweight (cwt.) production of winter vegetables is 8 percent above last year and 3 percent above the 1967 crop.

Cabbage: The winter cabbage crop is estimated at 7.8 million cwt., 3 percent more than 1968. Supplies are expected to increase during March. The 10,500 acres for harvest of early spring cabbage compares with 10,600 acres last year.

Carrots: Production of winter carrots, at 6.4 million cwt., is 21 percent more than last year. Movement from California and Texas is expected to increase during March.

Celery: Supplies of winter celery are estimated at 5.4 million cwt., 5 percent above 1968. Supplies from Florida and California are expected to continue in good volume. Drier conditions are needed in California.

Lettuce: At 13.4 million cwt., production of winter lettuce is 10 percent more than last year. Movement is expected to continue into April from Arizona, California, Texas, and Florida. Production from the early spring crop is forecast at 7.7 million cwt., 20 percent less than 1968.

Onions: The early spring onion crop in Texas, at 4.0 million cwt., is 63 percent above the hurricane-damaged 1968 crop. Volume movement is expected by mid-March. The 23,700 acres intended for harvest for the late summer crop compares with 23,200 acres harvested in 1968.

Tomatoes: Florida winter tomato production, at 2.7 million cwt., is 13 percent above last year. Good volume is expected to continue into March. The 19,500 acres for early spring harvest is 1,700 acres more than 1968.

Watermelons: Prospective acreage for harvest of early summer watermelons is placed at 202,400 acres, compared with 200,600 acres harvested last year.

Strawberries: Winter strawberry production of 14.0 million pounds is 8 percent less than last year. The early spring crop, at 10.5 million pounds, is 13 percent less than the 1968 crop.

Summary of acreage and estimated production reported to date, 1969 with comparisons

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage			Production		
	Harvested		For	1967	1968	Ind. 1969
	1967	1968	harvest 1969			
	- Acres -			- 1,000 cwt. -		
<b>WINTER:</b>						
Artichokes .....	9,600	9,600	10,100	730	576	606
Snap Beans .....	17,000	14,900	15,700	612	492	581
Beets .....	1,800	900	1,500	126	94	150
Broccoli .....	3,560	1,950	2,950	98	85	138
Cabbage .....	41,100	37,600	46,200	7,124	7,611	7,807
Carrots .....	38,100	26,200	37,200	5,544	5,263	6,358
Cauliflower .....	2,050	1,450	2,000	89	76	124
Celery .....	12,100	10,800	11,600	5,698	5,130	5,391
Sweet Corn .....	11,100	9,000	10,700	777	630	642
Eggplant .....	600	500	400	129	92	74
Escarole .....	7,000	5,900	7,300	770	796	766
Kale .....	1,100	1,000	1,000	72	70	60
Lettuce .....	75,800	70,200	80,600	13,005	12,240	13,408
Green Peppers .....	7,100	6,900	6,400	746	828	608
Shallots .....	600	600	650	21	22	23
Spinach .....	7,600	5,900	7,500	372	343	375
Tomatoes .....	14,900	13,000	15,600	2,831	2,340	2,652
Total Winter .....	251,110	216,400	257,400	38,744	36,688	39,763
<b>EARLY SPRING:</b>						
Snap Beans .....	11,900	14,500	Apr. 8	449	495	Apr. 8
Broccoli .....	15,600	17,300	14,900	1,326	1,557	1,192
Cabbage .....	11,850	10,600	10,500	1,806	1,420	Apr. 8
Cauliflower .....	8,400	8,600	7,700	756	774	654
Sweet Corn .....	39,100	35,700	Apr. 8	3,414	2,832	Apr. 8
Cucumbers .....	10,700	11,100	Apr. 8	1,016	1,022	Apr. 8
Lettuce .....	41,200	46,000	40,500	7,788	9,560	7,677
Onions .....	23,000	21,500	23,000	3,795	2,472	4,025
Green Peppers .....	1,200	1,400	Apr. 8	48	41	Apr. 8
Tomatoes .....	17,800	17,800	19,500	3,619	3,240	Apr. 8
<b>MID-SPRING:</b>						
Snap Beans .....	9,600	9,700	Apr. 8	296	279	May 8

Summary of acreage and estimated production reported to date, 1969 with comparisons

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage			Production		
	Harvested		For	1967	1968	Ind. 1969
	1967	1968	harvest 1969			
	Acres			1,000 cwt.		
<b>LATE SPRING:</b>						
Asparagus .....	78,900	78,700	80,200	1,635	1,741	Apr. 8
Snap Beans .....	12,500	12,100	May 8	476	509	May 8
Cabbage .....	7,250	7,150	6,900	1,090	993	May 8
Sweet Corn .....	9,200	10,000	May 8	508	645	May 8
Cucumbers .....	14,000	15,550	May 8	1,137	1,174	May 8
Lettuce .....	3,620	3,670	May 8	584	559	May 8
Onions .....	8,900	9,300	9,900	2,667	2,742	May 8
Tomatoes .....	17,750	19,150	May 8	1,304	1,299	May 8
Watermelons .....	60,700	61,600	60,100	9,061	8,372	May 8
<b>SPRING:</b>						
Asparagus .....	50,200	46,700	45,600	1,406	1,494	1,277
Lima Beans .....	900	900	Apr. 8	27	22	May 8
Cantaloups .....	33,800	38,200	Apr. 8	3,885	3,841	May 8
Carrots .....	3,800	3,700	3,000	684	610	Apr. 8
Celery .....	8,200	8,100	Apr. 8	3,507	3,475	Apr. 8
Eggplant .....	850	700	Apr. 8	144	108	Apr. 8
Honeydew Melons :	2,400	2,250	May 8	358	168	May 8
Green Peppers ...:	8,300	8,000	Apr. 8	850	801	Apr. 8
Shallots .....	350	420	450	11	15	16
Spinach .....	3,800	3,350	Apr. 8	230	194	Apr. 8
<b>EARLY SUMMER:</b>						
Cabbage .....	6,260	6,180	Apr. 8	1,355	1,312	June 9
Cantaloups .....	13,500	13,400	May 8	751	806	June 9
Carrots .....	7,900	8,800	May 8	2,528	3,080	June 9
Celery .....	2,600	3,000	June 9	1,313	1,770	June 9
Sweet Corn .....	30,600	31,600	June 9	2,110	2,119	June 9
Cucumbers .....	5,850	6,400	June 9	570	674	June 9
Honeydew Melons :	1,300	750	June 9	117	79	June 9
Onions .....	13,100	15,500	14,350	3,320	3,344	June 9
Green Peppers ...:	8,100	8,600	May 8	346	334	June 9
Tomatoes .....	41,750	44,650	June 9	4,667	5,461	June 9
Watermelons .....	188,700	200,600	202,400	15,712	16,195	June 9
<b>MID-SUMMER:</b>						
Cantaloups .....	48,450	54,300	July 8	6,655	7,801	July 8

Summary of acreage and estimated production reported to date, 1969 with comparisons

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage			Production		
	Harvested		For	1967	1968	Ind. 1969
	1967	1968	harvest 1969			
Acres			1,000 cwt.			
<b>LATE SUMMER:</b>						
Cabbage .....	15,880	14,980	Apr. 8	3,531	3,113	July 8
Cantaloups .....	9,700	9,150	July 8	801	794	July 8
Carrots .....	1,700	1,800	June 9	572	623	July 8
Sweet Corn .....	84,300	84,600	July 8	5,404	5,504	July 8
Cucumbers .....	5,450	5,830	July 8	462	492	July 8
Honeydew Melons :	7,600	7,300	July 8	1,102	1,132	July 8
Onions .....	58,500	60,070	59,080	19,027	20,601	Aug. 8
Green Peppers ..	18,620	19,920	July 8	1,844	2,113	Aug. 8
Tomatoes .....	23,380	23,580	July 8	2,792	2,753	Aug. 8
Watermelons .....	23,200	23,700	Apr. 8	2,949	3,116	July 8
<b>SUMMER:</b>						
Lima Beans .....	10,000	9,600	July 8	261	234	July 8
Snap Beans .....	24,370	24,120	July 8	1,015	1,027	July 8
Beets .....	950	900	June 9	168	147	June 9
Cauliflower .....	2,900	2,800	July 8	297	308	July 8
Celery .....	4,950	5,130	June 9	1,668	1,780	July 8
Eggplant .....	1,500	1,300	July 8	180	169	July 8
Escarole .....	2,450	2,200	June 9	352	310	June 9
Garlic .....	4,400	6,400	Apr. 8	506	800	July 8
Lettuce .....	44,050	46,400	June 9	11,369	12,095	June 9
Spinach .....	1,200	1,100	July 8	78	66	July 8

Acreage and estimated production reported to date, 1969 with comparisons

Crop and State	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested		For	1967		Ind.	1967		Ind.
	1967	1968	harvest:	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	- Acres -			- Cwt. -			- 1,000 cwt. -		
ARTICHOKES 1/									
Winter:									
California .....	9,600	9,600	10,100	76	60	60	730	576	606
ASPARAGUS 1/									
Spring:									
California .....	50,200	46,700	45,600	28	32	28	1,406	1,494	1,277
Late Spring:									
Massachusetts ...	950	950	900	18	22		17	21	
New Jersey .....	24,800	24,300	23,800	22	24		546	583	
Illinois .....	9,900	8,800	8,800	17	18		168	158	
Michigan .....	12,700	13,200	13,900	15	13		190	172	Apr. 8
Delaware .....	4,000	4,300	5,000	19	20		76	86	
Maryland .....	3,800	3,400	3,700	18	20		68	68	
Washington .....	16,700	17,100	17,600	27	31		451	530	
Oregon .....	1,200	1,300	1,500	27	24		32	31	
Other States 2/	4,850	5,350	5,000	18	17		87	92	
Group Total ...	78,900	78,700	80,200	21	22		1,635	1,741	
All States .....	129,100	125,400	125,800	24	26		3,041	3,235	
SNAP BEANS:									
Winter:									
Florida .....	17,000	14,900	15,700	36	33	37	612	492	581
BEETS									
Winter:									
Texas .....	1,800	900	1,500	70	105	100	126	94	150
BROCCOLI 1/									
Winter .....	3,560	1,950	2,950	28	44	47	98	85	138
Early Spring:									
California .....	15,600	17,300	14,900	85	90	80	1,326	1,557	1,192

See footnotes on page 9.

Acreage and estimated production reported to date, 1969 with comparisons

Crop and State	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested		For	1967		Ind.	1967		Ind.
	1967	1968	harvest	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	- Acres -			- Cwt. -			- 1,000 cwt. -		
<b>CABBAGE 1/</b>									
Winter:									
Florida .....	15,400	17,000	18,500	210	230	180	3,234	3,910	3,330
Texas .....	19,000	12,500	21,000	130	150	150	2,470	1,875	3,150
Arizona .....	1,600	1,900	1,600	170	145	160	272	276	256
California .....	5,100	6,200	5,100	225	250	210	1,148	1,550	1,071
Group Total .....	41,100	37,600	46,200	173	202	169	7,124	7,611	7,807
Early Spring:									
South Carolina ...	2,400	2,000	2,300	90	75		216	150	
Georgia .....	2,500	2,500	2,300	125	110		312	275	
Alabama .....	650	700	700	110	100		72	70	
Mississippi .....	700	700	500	145	90		102	63	Apr. 8
Louisiana .....	2,300	2,000	1,800	100	100		230	200	
California .....	3,300	2,700	2,900	265	245		874	662	
Group Total .....	11,850	10,600	10,500	152	134		1,806	1,420	
Late Spring 3/ ...	7,250	7,150	6,900	150	139		1,090	993	May 8
<b>CARROTS 1/</b>									
Winter:									
Texas .....	30,600	16,000	28,000	115	160	140	3,519	2,560	3,920
California .....	7,500	10,200	9,200	270	265	265	2,025	2,703	2,438
Group Total .....	38,100	26,200	37,200	146	201	171	5,544	5,263	6,358
Spring:									
Arizona .....	3,800	3,700	3,000	180	165		684	610	Apr. 8
<b>CAULIFLOWER 1/</b>									
Winter .....	2,050	1,450	2,000	43	52	62	89	76	124
Early Spring:									
California .....	8,400	8,600	7,700	90	90	85	756	774	654
<b>CELERY 1/</b>									
Winter:									
Florida .....	7,800	6,800	6,900	430	425	410	3,354	2,890	2,829
California .....	4,300	4,000	4,700	545	560	545	2,344	2,240	2,562
Group Total .....	12,100	10,800	11,600	471	475	465	5,698	5,130	5,391
<b>SWEET CORN</b>									
Winter:									
Florida .....	11,100	9,000	10,700	70	70	60	777	630	642

See footnotes on page 9.

Acreage and estimated production reported to date, 1969 with comparisons

Crop and State	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested		For	1967 : 1968		Ind.	1967 : 1968		Ind.
	1967	1968	harvest	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	- Acres -			- Cwt. -			- 1,000 cwt. -		
<b>EGGPLANT</b>									
Winter:									
Florida .....	600	500	400	215	185	185	129	92	74
<b>ESCAROLE</b>									
Winter:									
Florida .....	7,000	5,900	7,300	110	135	105	770	796	766
<b>KALE 1/</b>									
Winter:									
Virginia .....	1,100	1,000	1,000	65	70	60	72	70	60
<b>LETTUCE</b>									
Winter:									
Florida .....	3,900	4,000	4,500	90	90	75	351	360	338
Texas .....	6,500	3,200	6,000	110	125	120	715	400	720
Arizona, Yuma ..	16,000	14,000	16,500	175	190	180	2,800	2,660	2,970
California .....	49,400	49,000	53,600	185	180	175	9,139	8,820	9,380
Group Total ...	75,800	70,200	80,600	172	174	166	13,005	12,240	13,408
Early Spring:									
North Carolina..	400	400	300	150	150	150	60	60	45
New Mexico .....	3,100	5,200	4,300	260	250	250	806	1,300	1,075
Arizona .....	17,100	17,800	19,000	200	175	185	3,420	3,115	3,515
California .....	20,600	22,600	16,900	170	225	180	3,502	5,085	3,042
Group Total ...	41,200	46,000	40,500	189	208	190	7,788	9,560	7,677
<b>ONIONS 1/</b>									
Early Spring:									
Texas .....	23,000	21,500	23,000	165	115	175	3,795	2,472	4,025
Late Spring 3/...	8,900	9,300	9,900	300	295		2,667	2,742	May 8
Early Summer 3/..	13,100	15,500	14,350	253	216		3,320	3,344	June 9

See footnotes on page 9.

Acreage and estimated production reported to date, 1969 with comparisons

Crop and State	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested		For	1967 : 1968		Ind.	1967 : 1968		Ind.
	1967	1968	harvest	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	- Acres -			- Cwt. -			- 1,000 cwt. -		
ONIONS 1/--Con. Late Summer 3/:									
New York .....	14,000	13,400	13,800	300	280		4,200	3,752	
Ohio .....	600	600	600	435	400		261	240	
Indiana .....	800	900	1,000	350	310		280	279	
Michigan .....	7,000	6,800	6,400	320	320		2,240	2,176	
Wisconsin .....	1,900	1,800	1,800	270	250		513	450	
Minnesota .....	1,100	1,000	900	260	265		286	265	Aug. 8
Iowa .....	300	320	280	240	215		72	69	
Colorado .....	6,000	6,100	5,700	275	290		1,650	1,769	
Utah .....	600	750	900	350	290		210	218	
Washington ....	1,000	1,200	1,100	370	450		370	540	
Idaho & East.									
Oregon Total..	7,100	8,800	8,400	410	493		2,913	4,337	
Idaho .....	3,400	4,200	4,000	405	485		1,377	2,037	
E. Oregon .....	3,700	4,600	4,400	415	500		1,536	2,300	
W. Oregon .....	2,100	2,100	2,200	320	420		672	882	
California ....	16,000	16,300	16,000	335	345		5,360	5,624	
Group Total...	58,500	60,070	59,080	325	343		19,027	20,601	
GREEN PEPPERS 1/									
Winter:									
Florida .....	7,100	6,900	6,400	105	120	95	746	828	608
SHALLOTS									
Winter .....	600	600	650	35	37	35	21	22	23
Spring:									
Louisiana .....	350	420	450	31	35	35	11	15	16
SPINACH									
Winter:									
Texas .....	6,000	4,500	6,000	30	42	35	180	189	210
California ....	1,600	1,400	1,500	120	110	110	192	154	165
Group Total ..	7,600	5,900	7,500	49	58	50	372	343	375

See footnotes on page 9.



Acreage and estimated production reported to date, 1969 with comparisons

Crop and State	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested	For	harvest	1967	1968	Ind.	1967	1968	Ind.
	1967	1968	1969			1969			1969
	- Acres -			- Cwt. -			- 1,000 cwt. -		
<b>TOMATOES</b>									
Winter:									
Florida .....	14,900	13,000	15,600	190	180	170	2,831	2,340	2,652
Early Spring:									
Florida .....	14,300	14,200	15,500	225	200		3,218	2,840	
Texas .....	2,200	1,600	1,900	58	50		128	80	Apr. 8
California .....	1,300	2,000	2,100	210	160		273	320	
Group Total ..	17,800	17,800	19,500	203	182		3,619	3,240	
<b>WATERMELONS</b>									
Late Spring 3/..	60,700	61,600	60,100	149	136		9,061	8,372	May 8
Early Summer 3/:									
North Carolina :	6,500	6,000	6,500	70	65		455	390	
South Carolina :	24,000	24,000	24,000	90	68		2,160	1,632	
Georgia .....	36,000	39,500	40,000	95	90		3,420	3,555	
Alabama .....	13,000	14,500	15,000	100	90		1,300	1,305	
Mississippi ...:	8,300	8,500	9,000	80	78		664	663	
Arkansas .....	5,700	5,800	6,000	85	85		484	493	
Louisiana .....	3,100	3,300	3,000	80	90		248	297	
Oklahoma .....	9,500	11,000	10,000	80	70		760	770	
Texas .....	70,000	74,000	75,000	60	65		4,200	4,810	June 9
Arizona .....	3,400	4,000	3,900	175	170		595	680	
California .....	9,200	10,000	10,000	155	160		1,426	1,600	
Group Total ..	188,700	200,600	202,400	83	81		15,712	16,195	
<b>STRAWBERRIES 1/</b>									
Winter:									
Florida .....	2,000	1,900	1,800	8,800	8,000	7,800	17,600	15,200	14,040
Spring:									
California .....	8,000	8,600	8,900	26,100	33,700		208,800	289,820	Apr. 8
Early Spring:									
Louisiana .....	3,800	3,500	2,800	3,100	3,100	3,300	11,780	10,850	9,240
Texas .....	600	500	500	2,500	2,500	2,500	1,500	1,250	1,250
Group Total ..	4,400	4,000	3,300	3,018	3,025	3,179	13,280	12,100	10,490
Mid-Spring 3/ ..	14,050	12,650	11,550	2,795	2,840		39,270	35,925	May 8
Late Spring 3/	38,570	35,450	35,020	5,161	4,793		199,076	169,895	May 8
ALL STATES .....	67,020	62,600	60,570	7,133	8,353		478,026	522,940	

1/ Includes processing. 2/ Mostly processing. Includes Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Virginia, Tennessee, and Arkansas. 3/ 1969 acreage for harvest is prospective acreage.

COMMENTS CONCERNING CONDITION AND  
MOVEMENT OF VEGETABLES

ARTICHOKEs: California's winter artichoke crop is forecast at 606,000 cwt., 5 percent above last year. Light supplies are available from some central coast areas. Harvest activity is expected to increase.

ASPARAGUS: The acreage of asparagus for harvest in 1969 is estimated at 125,800 acres compared with 125,400 acres harvested in 1968. Supplies for both fresh market and processing will come from this acreage.

California's crop of spring asparagus is forecast at 1,277,000 cwt., 15 percent below last year's crop. Current supplies are mostly originating from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. In the important Stockton Delta district, volume supplies are not expected until after mid-March. The abnormally high rainfall this winter is expected to lower the yields in the Delta district.

The acreage of late spring asparagus for harvest is estimated at 80,200 acres compared with 78,700 acres harvested last year. In New England, beds received ample fall and winter moisture. In New Jersey, rainfall has been below normal, however recent snowfall has been beneficial. Harvest is expected to start during late April. In Michigan, weather conditions during the fall and winter have been favorable. Major increase in acreage accrued in the west central area. The Washington crop came through the winter in good condition, however the unusually cold winter may delay the start of harvest. In eastern Oregon, extended cold weather is slowing growth. Harvest is expected to start about two weeks late. In western Oregon, growth is near normal after an unusually severe winter, and harvest is expected to be on schedule.

SNAP BEANS: Production of winter snap beans in Florida is estimated at 581,000 cwt., 18 percent above the 1968 crop. Supplies are expected to continue in good volume through March. Dade County pole beans are in good condition. Bush varieties are also available in Dade County but most of the current movement is from the Pompano area.

BEEETS: The winter beet crop in Texas is forecast at 150,000 cwt., 60 percent more than last year's hurricane-damaged crop. Harvest was active in the Rio Grande Valley during February. Movement is expected to remain steady during March.

BROCCOLI: Early spring broccoli production in California, at 1,192,000 cwt., is 23 percent below 1968. Rainy weather has caused slow growth and reduced yield. Cutting during March is expected to increase. Supplies have been light from the important Salinas Valley and the Santa Maria-Oceano district. Additional supplies should be available during March from south coast counties and the San Joaquin Valley. Harvest in the desert district should be virtually completed by mid-March.

**CABBAGE:** Winter cabbage production is forecast at 7,807,000 cwt., 3 percent more than the 1968 crop. The Florida harvest is at a volume level. The Hastings and central areas are the principal sources of supply. Harvest is also underway in the west central area, the Everglades and surrounding area sandlands extending into south Dade County. Cool weather has retarded growth. In Texas, movement was slowed during February. Lower Rio Grande Valley shipments are expected to peak in March with supplies available until May. Harvest in the Winter Garden and Iaredo areas is well past the peak with light supplies available during March. Arizona's shipments were light during February. Supplies are expected to be available until mid-June. In California, light supplies are moving from the Oxnard and other south coastal areas. Supplies should increase during March from the south coast district. Cutting is virtually completed in the Imperial Valley.

The early spring cabbage acreage is estimated at 10,500 acres for harvest compared with 10,600 acres harvested in 1968. In South Carolina, planting has been later than usual. First movement is expected by mid-April. The crop has made good growth in Georgia. Stands are good, and light harvest is expected by early April. Harvest is underway in southern areas of Alabama. Recent rains lowered quality in coastal counties. The Mississippi crop was mostly set before mid-February. Plants are in fair to good condition. The crop in both the New Orleans and Arnaudville areas of Louisiana is in good to excellent condition. Harvest has passed peak in the New Orleans area, and is expected to start at Arnaudville about the first of April. Cutting in California is expected to begin about the first of April in all producing districts. Supplies, in good volume, are expected by May from the Salinas Valley and south coastal districts. Additional supplies should also be available from the San Francisco Bay area.

**CARROTS:** Production of winter carrots is placed at 6,358,000 cwt., 21 percent more than last year. In south Texas the crop made good growth in February and shipments are expected to peak in March. Supplies should be available until June. In California, good supplies from both the Coachella and Imperial Valleys should be available during March and April.

The spring carrot acreage in Arizona is estimated at 3,000 acres for harvest in 1969, compared with 3,700 acres harvested in 1968. Movement will continue through most of July.

**CAULIFLOWER:** Production of early spring cauliflower in California is forecast at 654,000 cwt., 16 percent below last year. Heavy rains have slowed growth and reduced yields. Harvest activity is light in all producing areas. Cutting during March should increase as the weather clears and fields dry.

**CELERY:** Production of winter celery, at 5,391,000 cwt., is 5 percent above last year. Volume supplies of Florida celery are expected during March. The Everglades will continue to be the major producing area with some supplies available from Sanford-Oviedo and Sarasota. A statewide storm in mid-February did minor damage to the crop. Cutting in California is fairly active in all south coast producing counties. Recent rains limited harvest activity in the Chula Vista district of San Diego County and in Orange County. In the Oxnard district, plant growth has been slow. In San Diego County, supplies should taper off during March as harvest nears completion. In the other south coast counties, supplies should be adequate through March.

**SWEET CORN:** The winter sweet corn crop in Florida is estimated at 642,000 cwt., 2 percent more than last year. Supplies are expected to peak during March as movement from the Everglades is expected to increase rapidly during March. Ft. Myers-Immokalee and Lower East Coast areas are expected to maintain a steady volume during the month.

**EGGPLANT:** Production of winter eggplant in Florida is estimated at 74,000 cwt., 20 percent below last year. Peak movement is expected during March with supplies available until April.

**ESCAROLE:** Florida's production of winter escarole is placed at 766,000 cwt., 4 percent less than last year's crop. Shipments should continue at a high level during March. The Everglades is the principal source of supply, supplemented by the Lake Placid-Sarasota and Zellwood areas.

**KALE:** The winter kale crop in Virginia is estimated at 60,000 cwt., 14 percent below last year. Harvest was at a virtual standstill during most of February. Cutting should become active about mid-March with volume supplies available by the first of April.

**LETTUCE:** At 13,408,000 cwt., the production of winter lettuce is 10 percent more than last year. A steady supply of Florida lettuce is expected during March. Plantings are making moderate recovery from February storm damage. In Texas, Lower Rio Grande Valley shipments are expected to decline in March, but continue into April. The Winter Garden crop is making satisfactory growth with cutting expected in April. Arizona's crop improved during February. Supplies are expected to be available into early April. In California harvest in the Imperial Valley is practically completed. Good movement from the late acreage in the Blythe district is expected by mid-March. Cutting should continue into April.

Production of early spring lettuce is forecast at 7,677,000 cwt., 20 percent below 1968. The North Carolina crop is late. In New Mexico, most of the crop is up. Cold nights have hampered growth. Thinning activity is underway in southern areas. In Arizona, the crop is in good condition but warmer temperatures should help development. Harvest was expected to start in the Salt River Valley in early March. In California, numerous rains have plagued field work. Harvest in the important Salinas Valley is expected to begin about the first of April. Light cutting should be underway in the Santa Maria-Guadalupe area and the San Joaquin Valley by late March.

**ONIONS:** The Texas early spring onion crop is estimated at 4,025,000 cwt., 63 percent above the 1968 crop, and 6 percent more than 1967. Onions made good growth in the Lower Rio Grande Valley during the first half of February as mild temperatures stimulated growth; however, cloudy, damp weather during the latter half of the month was conducive for blight. Volume movement from the valley is expected by mid-March. Marketings are expected to peak in early April with supplies available throughout May. In the Winter Garden, Laredo and Coastal Bend areas, the crop generally made good progress during February. These areas received showers during the last half of February; but blight has not been serious. In the Coastal Bend and Laredo areas, harvest is expected to get underway in early April with peak supplies in late April. Movement should continue until mid-May. In the Winter Garden, harvest should get underway about mid-April with peak movement occurring in May.

Texas Early Spring Onions

Area	Acres for harvest			Yield per acre			Production		
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969 1/
	- - Acres - -			- - Cwt. - -			- - 1,000 cwt. - -		
Rio Grande Valley	13,800	11,200	15,500	170	142	175	2,346	1,590	2,712
Coastal Bend 2/	2,600	2,300	1,200	85	65	146	221	150	175
Laredo	1,300	1,900	1,400	250	140	200	325	266	280
Winter Garden 3/	5,300	6,100	4,900	170	76	175	903	466	858
Total all areas	23,000	21,500	23,000	165	115	175	3,795	2,472	4,025

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes Wilson County. 3/ Includes San Antonio and Eagle Pass areas.

ONIONS, Cont.: Growers of late summer onions intend to harvest 59,080 acres in 1969 compared with 60,070 acres harvested last year. Ohio has experienced a comparatively mild and dry winter. In Colorado, planting is underway in the Arkansas Valley and should start in other areas around mid-March. Planting in Washington is expected to be delayed about two weeks because of a late spring. Soil moisture is adequate. In California's desert areas, planting is expected to be completed around mid-March. Rains and wet fields have hampered planting operations on the early acreage in the San Joaquin Valley. Planting is expected to start in the central coast as soon as the weather clears and fields dry. Seeding in the Tulelake-Butte Valley area should be active during April. First harvest is expected in July in the desert area. In Utah, growers expect to begin planting about March 20, but the unusually wet winter may cause some delay.

GREEN PEPPERS: Production of winter green peppers in Florida is forecast at 608,000 cwt., 27 percent less than last year. Volume supplies from the Pompano and Ft. Myers-Immokalee areas are expected through March.

SHALLOTS: Spring shallot production in Louisiana is estimated at 16,000 cwt., 7 percent above 1968. Harvest is expected to continue steady through March. Excessive moisture has limited cultivation.

SPINACH: Production of winter spinach is forecast at 375,000 cwt., 9 percent above last year. In Texas supplies should be available through March. In California, supplies in March should be in good volume, with light movement continuing through the late spring months.

TOMATOES: Florida's winter tomato crop, at 2,652,000 cwt., is 13 percent above last year. Good volume is expected to continue into March. Wind and rain during mid-February damaged plants and caused some fruit cracking and bloom drop.

The early spring tomato acreage, at 19,500 acres for harvest in 1969, compares with 17,800 acres harvested in 1968. Seeding and transplanting of Florida's spring tomatoes are virtually completed. Wind and rain battered young plants during mid-February. In the Ft. Pierce area, blowing sand cut off some plants at the ground level and spot resetting is expected. Prospects are favorable for spring production in spite of the cool weather at the end of February. In Texas most of the acreage was seeded in January and

TOMATOES, Cont.:

early February. Generally mild temperatures in February were beneficial for growth of vines. By March 1, early vines were blooming and beginning to set fruit. Harvest is expected to get underway in late April -- about two weeks earlier than last year. In California's Imperial Valley, picking of cherry tomatoes is currently light. Round type tomatoes should be in volume supply in May.

WATERMELONS: Growers intend to harvest 202,400 acres of early summer watermelons this year compared to 200,600 acres harvested in 1968 and 188,700 acres harvested in 1967. In South Carolina, planting of the 1969 crop should begin in general the first week of March in the southern counties and be virtually completed in this area by the end of the month. A small acreage has already been planted in Jasper County. Growers are expected to start planting in the Pageland-Jefferson area around April 1. Planting is underway in southern areas of Georgia. Ample supply of seed is available for first plantings, with Charleston Greys and Jubilees the leading varieties. A few early fields have been planted in southern Alabama, but land preparation has been delayed by wet fields in coastal and central sections. In Mississippi, planting should start about the middle of March if weather permits. Generally excessive soil moisture in Louisiana has limited field preparation and prohibited planting for at least another week to 10 days. Field work in Oklahoma is behind in most districts because of wet fields. Above normal temperatures in south Texas in January and the first part of February enabled growers in that area to plant on schedule. The crop in that area is ahead of last year in stage of development. In central, east and north areas, showers in mid-February interrupted land preparation, but provided planting moisture. Planting should get underway in central and east Texas in early March. For the State, crop prospects appear good and movement is expected to be earlier than last year. First supplies are expected from the Lower Valley about mid-May. In Arizona, early planting was delayed by rainfall in January, and many growers are still planting. In California, planting normally starts about March 1.

STRAWBERRIES: The winter strawberry crop in Florida is estimated at 14,040,000 pounds, 8 percent less than last year. Harvest is active in both the lower east coast and Plant City areas. Movement is expected to peak in March. No damage is evident from the rain and wind of February 15 and the recurring frosts in Plant City.

The early spring strawberry crop is forecast at 10,490,000 pounds, 13 percent below last year. In Louisiana, plants are in good condition although frosts on February 18-19 slowed development and caused some loss of fruit. Harvest began in late February and should reach full scale about mid-March. In the Poteet area of Texas, plants made satisfactory progress during February. Harvest is expected to get underway about mid-March in this area with peak movement in April. Local market supplies will be available along the upper coast and in east Texas in April.

Revised estimates of acreage, yield, production,  
value per cwt., and total value, 1968

Crop, seasonal group and State	Acreage		Yield	Production	Value	
	Planted	Harvested	per acre		Per. cwt.	Total
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>1,000 dollars</u>
WATERMELONS						
Early Summer:						
North Carolina ..:	6,000	6,000	65	390	1.85	722
South Carolina ..:	25,000	24,000	68	1,632	1.45	2,366
Georgia .....	40,000	39,500	90	3,555	1.60	5,688
Alabama .....	15,200	14,500	90	1,305	1.80	2,349
Mississippi .....	9,000	8,500	78	663	1.40	928
Arkansas .....	5,800	5,800	85	493	1.50	740
Louisiana .....	3,500	3,300	90	297	1.80	535
Oklahoma .....	12,500	11,000	70	770	1.30	1,001
Texas .....	80,000	74,000	65	4,810	1.25	6,012
Arizona .....	4,000	4,000	170	680	3.05	2,074
California .....	10,000	10,000	160	1,600	2.25	3,600
Group Total .....	211,000	200,600	81	16,195	1.61	26,015

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