

vegetables - fresh market



Released:
April 8, 1975
3:00 P.M. E.T.

INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR HARVEST - SPRING QUARTER APRIL 1, 1975

Prospective acres for harvest for 14 fresh market vegetables during the spring quarter of 1975 (April, May and June) are placed at 238,350 acres, 1 percent more than the 235,340 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1974. Potential production for these 14 crops based on the average yield for the last three years is projected at 38.2 million cwt. This would be 3 percent less than the 1974 spring quarter output of 39.4 million cwt. The 14 crops included in this group are snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, escarole, lettuce, green peppers, spinach and tomatoes.

Melon acreage for harvest (cantaloup, honeydew melons and watermelon) in the spring quarter of 1975 is estimated at 104,900 acres, 1 percent below the 1974 spring quarter total of 105,700 acres. A projection of average yields per acre for the past three years for these crops would indicate a potential production of 12.8 million cwt., down 6 percent from the spring quarter a year earlier.

Prospective acreage of asparagus for harvest in 1975 is estimated at 103,580 acres, down 8 percent from 1974. The 1975 acreage of strawberries for harvest in the spring seasonal group of States is set at 37,610 acres, down 2 percent from the same period last year.

The second forecast of the spring onion crop for Texas is placed at 2,975,000 cwt., 17 percent less than the 1974 crop. This is down 6 percent from the March 1 forecast. Estimates for all spring crop onion States will be published on May 8, 1975.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

CROP REPORTING BOARD

Vg 2-1 (4-75)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR HARVEST AND INDICATED PRODUCTION, BY
CROPS, SPRING QUARTER 1/, UNITED STATES, 1975 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP	SPRING ACREAGE			SPRING PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST	1973	1974	INDICATED 1975 2/
	1973	1974	1975			
	ACRES			1,000 CWT.		
WINTER	174,230	196,100	172,920	31,076	34,811	30,754
SPRING:						
SNAP BEANS	23,900	24,820	24,370	775	854	829
BROCCOLI 3/	12,300	11,900	13,000	800	1,071	1,079
CABBAGE 3/	25,650	23,260	22,630	4,595	4,344	4,119
CARROTS 3/	18,700	17,100	15,500	3,766	4,539	3,674
CAULIFLOWER 3/	3,900	4,600	4,600	273	414	428
CELERY 3/	9,100	9,000	9,100	4,302	4,154	4,286
SWEET CORN	39,100	33,900	34,100	4,143	3,603	3,444
CUCUMBERS	16,500	16,900	16,200	1,559	1,629	1,555
EGGPLANT	650	750	850	156	180	194
ESCAROLE	2,180	2,110	2,310	339	296	326
LETTUCE	54,200	48,200	51,100	12,596	12,489	12,571
GREEN PEPPERS 3/	10,100	9,500	11,100	1,053	1,035	1,154
SPINACH	2,320	2,400	2,290	157	158	153
TOMATOES	35,200	30,900	31,200	4,567	4,592	4,368
<u>TOTAL 14 VEGETABLES</u>	253,800	235,340	238,350	39,081	39,358	38,180
CANTALOUPS	26,500	22,400	20,900	3,417	2,957	2,613
HONEYDEW MELONS	2,400	2,100	2,200	336	231	246
WATERMELONS	83,500	81,200	81,800	11,001	10,504	9,980
<u>TOTAL MELONS</u>	112,400	105,700	104,900	14,754	13,692	12,839
<u>TOTAL SPRING-CROP</u>	366,200	341,040	343,250	53,835	53,050	51,019

1/ APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE.

2/ BASED ON AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE, 1972-74

3/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

ACREAGE INTENTIONS BY SPECIFIED PLANTING PERIODS AND PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR HARVEST,
 SPRING QUARTER 1/, BY STATES, 1975 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE PLANTED AND TO BE PLANTED FOR SPECIFIED PLANTING PERIODS			SPRING ACREAGE 1/ FOR HARVEST			
	PLANTING PERIOD	YEAR OF PLANTING		INTENDED	1973	1974	1975
		1973	1974	1975			
		ACRES					
CABBAGE 2/:							
ARIZ	AUG-MAR	1,000	1,200	600	490	580	300
CALIF	NOV-FEB	3,300	3,000	3,300	3,300	3,000	3,300
FLA	SEP-MAR	18,300	19,600	16,800	5,800	5,400	4,500
GA	DEC-JUL	3,200	3,800	3,800	2,500	2,500	2,900
LA	AUG-FEB	1,900	1,900	1,800	700	600	1,000
MD	MAR-JUN	680	680	680	200	200	210
MISS	JAN-FEB	800	750	800	800	730	750
MO	MAR-SEP	730	800	720	550	600	540
N J	MAR-AUG	4,700	4,900	4,800	800	800	800
N C	JAN-MAR	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,400	2,200	2,300
OHIO	FEB-APR	450	450	450	450	450	450
S C	DEC-JAN	1,100	1,200	1,300	1,000	1,100	1,300
TENN	FEB-APR	1,000	770	700	960	750	680
TEX	APR-JAN	21,500	21,000	17,500	4,700	3,600	3,000
VA	FEB-AUG	1,900	1,900	1,700	1,000	750	600
GROUP TOTAL		62,960	64,350	57,250	25,650	23,260	22,630
CANTALOUPS:							
ARIZ	JAN-APR	8,700	6,900	6,900	6,900	5,500	5,500
CALIF	DEC-MAR	9,100	7,900	7,100	9,100	7,900	7,100
TEX	JAN-MAR	11,000	9,300	8,700	10,500	9,000	8,300
GROUP TOTAL		28,800	24,100	22,700	26,500	22,400	20,900
CELERY 2/:							
CALIF-S. COAST	JUL-APR	9,300	10,200	10,400	4,200	4,400	4,500
C. COAST	JAN-SEP	9,800	8,600	8,700	600	500	500
FLA	AUG-APR	12,700	12,200	11,500	4,300	4,100	4,100
GROUP TOTAL		31,800	31,000	30,600	9,100	9,000	9,100
ESCAROLE:							
FLA	AUG-MAR	8,100	7,900	7,000	1,600	1,400	1,600
N J	MAR-AUG	1,300	1,400	1,500	380	510	560
OHIO	APR-SEP	1,200	1,470	1,000	200	200	150
GROUP TOTAL		10,600	10,770	9,500	2,180	2,110	2,310
HONEYDEW MELONS:							
TEX	JAN-MAR	2,400	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,100	2,200
TOMATOES:							
ALA	APR-JUL	9,300	9,300	8,000	2,000	2,600	2,400
ARK	APR-MAY	2,900	3,000	3,300	400	1,600	1,500
CALIF-DESERT	NOV-JAN	2,000	2,000	1,600	2,000	2,000	1,600
OTHER	FEB-JUL	29,500	29,500	29,000	1,700	2,400	2,400
FLA	JUL-APR	46,700	35,500	31,700	17,600	11,900	12,400
GA	MAR-APR	3,500	3,000	2,800	900	1,400	1,300
LA	MAR-APR	800	1,000	850	700	900	800
S C	MAR-APR	8,700	8,200	8,400	5,800	5,500	5,200
TEX-S. TEX	DEC-MAR	3,000	1,700	2,700	2,500	1,400	2,300
OTHER	MAR-JUN	6,000	4,500	4,700	1,600	1,200	1,300
GROUP TOTAL		112,400	97,700	93,050	35,200	30,900	31,200
WATERMELONS:							
ALA	MAR-JUN	14,400	14,400	15,200	600	2,900	3,800
ARIZ	JAN-MAR	4,300	2,100	2,500	0	900	1,000
CALIF-DESERT	NOV-MAR	5,500	3,300	3,800	3,800	2,700	3,000
FLA	NOV-MAR	54,700	50,000	47,000	48,700	44,500	43,200
GA	FEB-MAY	33,500	31,000	33,000	400	3,200	3,800
TEX	JAN-JUN	65,000	55,000	55,000	30,000	27,000	27,000
GROUP TOTAL		177,400	155,800	156,500	83,500	81,200	81,800

SEE FOOTNOTES ON PAGE 5.

PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR HARVEST, SPRING QUARTER 1/, BY STATES, 1975
WITH COMPARISONS

CROP AND STATE	SPRING ACREAGE 1/			1975 ACRES FOR HARVEST AS PERCENT OF 1974 PERCENT
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST 1975	
	1973	1974		
	ACRES			
SNAP BEANS 3/:				
ALA	450	720	870	121
CALIF	600	700	700	100
FLA	11,800	12,000	11,600	97
GA	2,000	2,200	2,300	105
LA	600	600	500	83
MD	550	600	600	100
N J	600	700	800	114
N C	3,200	2,900	2,900	100
S C	2,800	3,000	2,900	97
VA	1,300	1,400	1,200	86
GROUP TOTAL	23,900	24,820	24,370	98
BROCCOLI 2/ 3/:				
CALIF	12,300	11,900	13,000	109
CARROTS 2/ 3/:				
ARIZ	2,300	1,800	1,000	56
CALIF-DESERT	4,600	5,800	5,200	90
CALIF-OTHER	4,800	4,400	5,700	130
TEX-OTHER	7,000	5,100	3,600	71
GROUP TOTAL	18,700	17,100	15,500	91
CAULIFLOWER 2/ 3/:				
CALIF	3,900	4,600	4,600	100
SWEET CORN 3/:				
ALA	1,300	1,400	1,400	100
CALIF	5,100	3,400	4,300	126
FLA	29,900	26,300	26,700	102
TEX	2,800	2,800	1,700	61
GROUP TOTAL	39,100	33,900	34,100	101
CUCUMBERS 3/:				
CALIF	800	800	700	88
FLA	7,000	6,900	6,500	94
N C	1,800	2,300	2,500	109
S C	4,200	4,100	3,800	93
TEX	2,700	2,800	2,700	96
GROUP TOTAL	16,500	16,900	16,200	96
EGGPLANT 3/:				
FLA	650	750	850	113
LETTUCE 3/:				
ARIZ - YUMA	2,900	--	--	
OTHER	9,500	6,600	5,400	82
CALIF - OTHER	36,900	36,400	40,300	111
FLA	1,600	1,900	2,100	111
N J	1,700	1,700	1,700	100
N MEX	1,200	1,300	1,300	100
N Y	400	300	300	100
GROUP TOTAL	54,200	48,200	51,100	106
GREEN PEPPERS 2/ 3/:				
CALIF	500	700	500	71
FLA	6,600	5,500	7,200	131
LA	1,400	1,300	1,400	108
TEX	1,600	2,000	2,000	100
GROUP TOTAL	10,100	9,500	11,100	117
SPINACH 3/:				
CALIF	400	500	400	80
MD & VA	1,400	1,350	1,300	96
N J	520	550	590	107
GROUP TOTAL	2,320	2,400	2,290	95

SEE FOOTNOTES ON PAGE 5.

ACREAGE AND ESTIMATED PRODUCTION REPORTED TO DATE, 1975 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975
	1973	1974	1975						
	ACRES			CWT.			1,000 CWT.		
ASPARAGUS 2/:									
CALIF	45,000	44,100	38,200	28	29		1,260	1,279	
ILL	8,700	7,200	7,000	12	12		104	86	SEPT 10
MASS	500	470	470	22	19		11	9	
MICH	15,400	17,000	17,800	16	15		246	255	
N J	10,400	6,800	5,100	12	13		125	88	
WASH	22,000	23,400	22,000	28	29		616	679	
OTHER STS 4/	13,380	13,520	13,010	14	15		183	208	
U S	115,380	112,490	103,580	22	23		2,545	2,604	
ONIONS 2/:									
SPRING									
ARIZ	1,600	2,000		480	410		768	820	MAY 8
CALIF	5,400	5,400		280	335		1,512	1,809	
TEX	19,500	21,000	17,000	160	170	175	3,120	3,570	2,975
GROUP TOTAL:	26,500	28,400		204	218		5,400	6,199	
STRAWBERRIES 2/:									
WINTER	1,400	1,300	1,100	135	135	165	189	176	182
SPRING:									
ARK	1,300	1,200	1,100	22	23		29	28	
CALIF	8,100	8,900	9,800	395	430	395	3,200	3,827	3,871
ILL	1,000	950	900	32	33		32	31	
IND	650	700	700	29	25		19	18	JUNE 9
KY	600	500	600	28	26		17	13	
LA	1,100	1,000	900	55	55	70	61	55	63
MD	550	570	600	31	28		17	16	
MASS	250	280	300	40	51		10	14	
MICH	3,400	3,100	2,900	44	57		150	177	JUNE 9
MO	600	480	540	32	33		19	16	
N J	1,100	1,000	900	42	53		46	53	
N Y	1,100	1,000	1,000	40	44		44	44	
N C	2,100	2,000	2,200	32	28		67	56	
OHIO	1,400	1,500	1,700	30	37		42	56	
OKLA	650	630	600	39	16		25	10	
OREG	7,800	7,200	6,000	62	57		484	410	
PA	1,300	1,300	1,300	32	33		42	43	
TENN	860	730	670	17	22		15	16	
VA	600	400	300	19	20		11	8	
WASH	3,600	3,600	3,400	60	63		216	227	
WIS	1,400	1,300	1,200	27	29		38	38	
TOTAL SPRING	39,460	38,340	37,610	116	134		4,584	5,156	
U S	40,860	39,640	38,710	117	135		4,773	5,332	

1/ APRIL, MAY AND JUNE.

2/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

3/ ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR SPECIFIED PERIODS ARE NOT ESTIMATED NATIONALLY.

4/ MOSTLY FOR PROCESSING; INCLUDES ARK, DEL, IND, IOWA, MD, MINN, OHIO, OREG AND VA.

ASPARAGUS: Prospective acreage for harvest is estimated at 103,580 compared with 112,490 acres in 1974. In Illinois, the 1975 asparagus crop survived the mild winter in good condition. Soil moisture is adequate to surplus. Michigan growers are continuing expansion of asparagus acreage, although the rate has slowed. Spring soil moisture is adequate and winter crown damage light.

Soil moisture is in excess in some low areas of New Jersey and soil temperatures continue quite cool. Temperatures in Virginia have been slightly above normal while moisture has been excessive. Yields are expected to be about normal. In Washington, plants went into the winter in good condition. Spring moisture and weather have favored growth.

SNAP BEANS: The prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter of 1975 is placed at 24,370 acres, 2 percent less than the 24,820 acres harvested in 1974. Based on a three year average yield, this crop is expected to provide 829,000 cwt. which would be 3 percent less than the 1974 spring crop.

Planting in central and north Alabama is underway. Above normal rainfall during February and March slowed land preparation and planting in southern counties. In California, the weather favored crop growth during the early part of the growing season although, most of March was too cold and rainy for ideal crop development. Supplies will be available in normal quantity during May and June. The South Coast will provide most of the spring supplies, with the other areas furnishing only limited production.

In Florida, the Southeast area is supplying a steady supply of good quality beans. Plantings are active in the West Central area. Early plantings are making good growth. Land preparation is underway in South New Jersey. Early planting is expected to get underway about mid-April. Earliest harvest is expected to begin during early June. The winter and spring weather in North Carolina has been wet and planting got underway a little later than normal. Early planting of the Virginia crop has been delayed due to excessive rainfall.

BROCCOLI: Prospective acres for harvest during the 1975 spring quarter for California is placed at 13,000 acres, 9 percent more than the 11,900 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1974. Production is projected at 1,079,000 cwt. which would be 1 percent more than the 1974 crop.

The crop was hit by several freezes in February and March, resulting in considerable acreage loss. Shipments are now heavy from the Salinas Valley and Santa Maria area. Movement is expected to remain strong thru April and May declining gradually through June.

CABBAGE: Prospective acreage for harvest during the 1975 spring quarter is placed at 22,630 acres, 3 percent less than the 23,260 acres harvested during the same quarter in 1974. Based on a three year average yield, this acreage is expected to provide 4.1 million cwt. which would be 5 percent less than the 1974 spring crop.

Harvest in Arizona began in November and is expected to continue with limited supplies available until May or early June. In California, the crop made good growth and development during January and February. However, crop progress was slowed in March due to cold and rainy weather. Supplies during the spring months are expected to be about normal, with most production coming from the South Coast. The Central Coast will also furnish some production.

Harvest is active in all Florida areas with good quality and yields. The Hastings and Central areas are providing the bulk of supplies. Harvest in Louisiana began in the Breaux Bridge area with head size running small to medium. Mississippi's cabbage crop is good although excess moisture kept some acreage from being planted. New Jersey's soils are mostly cold and wet but some transplanting has been done with increasing activity expected during early April. Harvest is expected to begin during early June.

The North Carolina crop appears to be off to a slow start. Wet, cool weather hampered planting and many farmers had to replant because of frost during the last of March. Ohio's setting of the crop this year has been slowed by wet weather. Harvest is in the latter stages in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Supplies are expected to continue their seasonal decline and will be exhausted by the end of May. Some volume will also be available from the San Antonio-Winter Garden area throughout the spring quarter. Early planting of the Virginia spring crop has been delayed due to excessive rainfall.

CANTALOUPS: The 1975 prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter is estimated at 20,900 acres, 7 percent less than the 22,400 acres harvested in 1974. Production from this acreage is projected at 2.6 million cwt., which would be 12 percent less than the comparable period of last year.

In Arizona, growth has been generally good, however it was slowed as a result of below normal temperatures around March 1. Harvest is expected to begin in May in the western areas and later in the central areas. The California crop is progressing well in both the Imperial and Palo Verde Valleys. Growing weather to date has been favorable.

Planting is completed in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Cantaloups are currently making good progress with harvest expected to get underway in mid-May. At Laredo, the crop is making satisfactory progress. In the Winter Garden area, planting is nearing completion with early fields beginning to emerge.

CARROTS: The 1975 prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter is estimated at 15,500 acres, 9 percent less than the 17,100 acres harvested in 1974. Projected 1975 spring production based on the recent three year average yield is placed at 3.7 million cwt., 19 percent less than the 1974 spring crop.

Harvest has been steady since January in Arizona, with peak volume expected in the spring quarter. Carrots are now moving from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys of California in peak volume. With excellent market prices, the crop is being dug somewhat ahead of schedule. Harvest will continue active through April and May and end in June.

Planting of carrots for spring harvest is complete in the San Joaquin Valley of California. Rains caused some disruptions in planting schedules. Light harvest is underway in Kern County; however, the harvest peak will not occur until the end of May. Digging will remain active in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas through May. At Laredo, harvest for processing will begin in early April. Supplies should also continue available from the San Antonio-Winter Garden area into May.

CAULIFLOWER: In California, the prospective acreage for harvest during the 1974 spring quarter is placed at 4,600 acres, the same as harvested during the spring quarter of 1974. Spring crop production is expected to be 428,000 cwt. based on a three year average yield. This would be 3 percent more than last year's yield.

The California crop is moving in good volume from the Salinas Valley and the Santa Maria area. Quality is variable at this time. Supplies are expected to be available at moderate levels through May, but declining in June.

CELERY: Prospective acres for harvest during the 1975 spring quarter is estimated at 9,100 compared with 9,000 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1974. A production of 4.3 million cwt. is projected based on a three year average yield which would be 3 percent more than the same period of 1974.

In California, most celery shipments for the spring quarter will come from the South Coast with the Oxnard area providing most of the production. Some additional production will come from Orange County. Cutting in California's Central Coast will begin in May and increase until peak volume is reached in October and November.

In Florida, volume supplies are available from the Everglades and Zellwood. Quality and yields are good. Harvest should continue steady through April and decline seasonally through May and June. Light transplanting continues.

SWEET CORN: Prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter is estimated at 34,100 acres, 1 percent more than the 33,900 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1974. Production from this crop is expected to be 3.4 million cwt. based on a three year average yield. This would be 4 percent less than the 1974 crop.

Above average rainfall during February and March slowed land preparation and planting in Alabama. The California spring crop maturity has been slowed by wet, cool weather. First shipments are expected in early May from Desert area, with Kern County beginning in June.

The Pompano and Dade County areas are furnishing the bulk of current supplies in Florida. Most of the spring harvest will come from the Everglades and Zellwood. Harvest should become active in mid-April and peak in May. Plantings are nearing completion. Growth in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas is good and harvest is expected to get underway around mid-May.

CUCUMBERS: Acres for harvest during the 1975 spring quarter is placed at 16,200 acres, 4 percent less than the 16,900 acres harvested in spring of 1974. This acreage is expected to provide 1.56 million cwt. for spring quarter production based on a three year average yield--5 percent less than in the comparable period of 1974.

Favorable weather in California during January and February advanced crop growth and development. However, crop progress was retarded during March by cold and rainy weather. Spring quarter supplies however are expected to be normal from the South Coast. In Florida, the crop is in good condition. Harvest of the spring crop is underway in the Southwest. The crop in central areas is growing well although there has been some wind damage. Light harvest is underway and should peak in May. Planting of the North Carolina crop is expected to get underway on schedule. Most of the producing area has had ample moisture and is now in need of some open weather.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, cucumbers are making excellent progress. Harvest is expected to get underway in mid-April. In the Coastal Bend area picking should start in mid or late April. The irrigated crop is making good progress, but the dryland crop is beginning to show stress due to the lack of rainfall. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area harvest should get underway in late April or early May.

EGGPLANT: In Florida, spring acreage for harvest is estimated at 850 acres compared with 750 acres last year. Based on 3 year average yield expectations, production is projected at 194,000 cwt., 8 percent more than the production obtained with the 1974 spring crop.

Plant condition is good to excellent in the Pompano area. Harvest is active and should increase as the season progresses to a late April peak. Quality, color, and packout are very good. Planting is active in the North Central area.

ESCAROLE: Acres for harvest during the 1975 spring quarter is placed at 2,310 acres, 9 percent more than the 2,110 acres harvested in the spring quarter of 1974. Based on a three year average yield, production is expected to total 326,000 cwt., 10 percent more than the 1974 crop.

In Florida, harvest continues steadily in the Everglades and Zellwood areas. Supplies are expected to remain steady through April and decline seasonally in May. Quality and size are good. Plantings are complete in the Everglades and nearing completion in Zellwood and central areas.

New Jersey soils are cold and wet but some land preparation has been completed. Transplanting is expected to be active the first part of April. Harvest is expected to begin during late May.

Planting should begin in Ohio during the first two weeks of April.

LETTUCE: Spring quarter prospective acreage for harvest in 1975 is placed at 51,100 acres 6 percent more than the 48,200 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1974. Projected 1975 spring production, based on three year average yields, totals 12.6 million cwt., 1 percent above the 1974 spring production.

In Arizona planting of lettuce has made good progress and good stands were obtained. Limited harvest is expected to begin in late March in the central areas and April in the Eastern areas. Planting of spring lettuce in California had a considerable number of interruptions due to rains. Harvest is underway in the Oxnard, Santa Maria and Bakersfield areas. At Salinas cutting will begin about April 15. The Salinas crop was slow in developing due to wet, cool weather conditions in March.

In Florida, Romaine and Iceberg types are in good supply while supplies of other types are light. Most volume is coming from the mucklands of the Everglades and Zellwood, supplemented by cuttings from Sarasota and Lake Placid. Volume should remain heavy through April. Plantings are nearing completion. In New Jersey transplanting is progressing as soil conditions permit. Soil moisture has been adequate to surplus. Much of the early seeded acreage has now germinated. Early harvest is expected to begin about mid-May. Lettuce is progressing satisfactorily in all areas of New Mexico. Thinning for the most part has been completed. Earliest harvest will get underway in the Mesilla Valley in late April or early May.

HONEYDEW MELONS: The 1975 spring quarter prospective acreage in Texas is estimated at 2,200 acres, 5 percent more than the 2,100 acres harvested in the spring quarter of 1974. Production for the spring crop is projected at 246,000 cwt., 6 percent more than the 1974 spring crop. The crop is currently making good progress in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas where the majority of the 1975 spring crop will be grown. Only a small acreage will be planted in the Winter Garden area. Harvest should get underway in mid-May with supplies available into July.

ONIONS: The spring onion crop in Texas is estimated at 2,975,000 cwt., 17 percent less than the 1974 crop of 3,570,000 cwt. and down 6 percent from the March 1 forecast.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, onion harvest gained momentum during the month of March. Extremely high temperatures along with dry weather is rapidly maturing onions. Some tops went down the last week of March due to winds and 90 degree plus temperatures. Most fields are yielding pre-packs and mediums with jumbos in very short supply. Supplies should continue to increase in April with peak movement expected from mid-April to mid-May. Later onions are also maturing quickly.

At Laredo, onions made good growth during the month of March as warm dry weather prevailed. Harvest of early fields is not expected to begin until mid-April.

In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area, onions made only fair growth during March. Freezing weather in February reduced stands and weed control is a problem in some fields. Harvest is expected to get underway in late April or early May.

TEXAS SPRING ONIONS: ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION BY AREAS

Area	Acres for harvest			Yield per acre			Production		
	1973	1974	1975 1/	1973	1974	1975 1/	1973	1974	1975 1/
	Acres			Cwt			1,000 cwt		
Rio Grande Valley	14,900	21,000	13,700	161	170	175	2,399	2,771	2,398
Laredo	600	500	400	265	250	200	159	125	80
Winter Garden 2/	4,000	4,200	2,900	141	161	171	562	674	497
Total all areas	19,500	3/17,000	160	170	175	3,120	3,570	2,975	
	3/21,000								

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes San Antonio, Eagle Pass and Coastal Bend areas. 3/ Includes 1,500 acres and 1,000 acres in 1974 and 1975 respectively of late onion varieties that will be harvested after July 1.

GREEN PEPPERS: The 1975 spring quarter acreage for harvest is placed at 11,100 acres, up 17 percent from the 9,500 acres harvested in the spring quarter of 1974. Production for the 1975 spring crop, based on 3 year average yields, is placed at 1.15 million cwt., 11 percent more than 1974 spring production.

Planting of spring green peppers is complete in California, and the crop is generally making good progress. Harvest will begin in early May. Southern California will provide most of the production for the spring quarter. In Florida, the Southwest and Southeast areas are now providing good supplies. Harvest is increasing as more growers start picking. Plant growth is good in central areas and should furnish good volume in May.

The majority of the spring crop will be grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Only a small acreage will be planted in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area this year. Harvest should get underway in early May.

SPINACH: Prospective acres for harvest during the 1975 spring quarter is placed at 2,290 acres, 5 percent less than harvested during the spring quarter of 1974. The 1975 spring production, based on the average yield of the past three years is projected at 153,000 cwt., 3 percent less than the 1974 spring crop.

February weather was very favorable for crop growth in California. However, development was slowed in March by cold and rainy weather. Marketings this spring are expected to be at a normal level, originating mostly from the South Coast. Only limited supplies are expected from the Central Coast. In New Jersey soil moisture has been adequate to surplus, but growth has been limited because of low soil temperatures. Light harvest from early growth is expected to begin about mid-April.

Cold winds in March caused some reduction in the quality of the crop in Virginia. Heavy rains have flooded some fields and resulted in some setbacks in harvesting schedules.

STRAWBERRIES: The 1975 acreage for harvest in the spring seasonal group of States is estimated At 37,610 acres, 2 percent less than the 38,340 acres harvested in 1974.

California's picking of strawberries began in late January, in the Vista area of San Diego County. The Orange County and Oxnard areas started picking in early February. Harvest is underway in the Santa Maria-Oceano district. Volume shipments are not expected from the Salinas and San Joaquin Valleys until about mid-April. Good yields are expected this year in all areas.

With the help of the relatively mild winter, the Illinois strawberry crop has survived the winter in good condition. The crop is in fair to good condition, with no apparent winter injury in Kentucky. Most Louisiana growers experienced less cold damage this year than normal. Demand has been excellent and the quality good.

In Michigan winter weather was relatively mild with little damage to strawberries. Soil moisture is excellent now, but berries have not broken dormancy. New Jersey soil moisture is adequate to surplus. Growth has been very limited because of cool temperatures with much of the acreage being covered for protection. Bloom is expected to begin during early May with light harvest getting underway during late May. The commercial acreage of strawberries in North Carolina is in fair to good condition. Some blooms were killed in the bud stage during the last freeze. However, prospects for a good crop are favorable. Adequate moisture is present in Oklahoma; however, sub-freezing temperatures on March 29 and 30 may have adverse effects on final yield. Oregon growers report no winter kill, however, dry weather last fall reduced prospects on non-irrigated fields. Strawberry plants in Pennsylvania wintered very nicely. Many growers have not removed straw covering from plants to date. The crop is in good condition in Virginia with harvesting expected to begin in early May.

Winter temperatures were generally mild in Washington with no appreciable damage to plants. With good snow cover in Wisconsin a minimum of winter injury is expected.

TOMATOES: The 1975 spring quarter acreage for harvest is placed at 31,200 acres, 1 percent more than the 30,900 acres harvested during the 1974 spring quarter. Production for the 1975 spring crop is projected at 4.37 million cwt. based on the average yield for the past three years. This is 5 percent less than the 1974 spring crop.

Planting is now starting in central and north Alabama, but is virtually complete in Geneva and Houston Counties. California's Imperial Valley tomato crop has made good development to date. Picking will begin toward the end of April, but will not be very active until June. Planting and crop development of early tomato acreage has progressed well in the South Coast area. However, planting in the San Joaquin Valley has been interrupted frequently by rains. First supplies are expected in late May from both the South Coast and the San Joaquin Valley.

In Florida, supplies should hold steady through April and peak in May. Most volume is coming from Dade County and the Southwest, supplemented by the Pompano area. Size and quality are good. The crop is in good condition in the Palmetto-Ruskin area which should provide the bulk of the May and early June production. Transplanting began in the New Orleans area of Louisiana in early March and is expected to be completed by mid-April throughout the State. Spring tomatoes are currently making excellent growth in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Good stands with good to excellent fruit set are reported. Some early fields will be picked starting in mid-April, but the majority of the crop will be harvested in May and June. Tomato planting is completed in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area. A freeze in March killed some plants in the field in Central Texas and replanting is underway.

WATERMELONS: Prospective acreage for harvest during the 1975 spring quarter is estimated at 81,800 acres, 1 percent more than the 81,200 acres harvested during the same quarter in 1974. Production for the 1975 spring crop, based on the average yield for the past three years, is projected at 9.98 million cwt., 5 percent less than the 1974 spring crop.

The first major plantings of watermelons were made the week of March 24 in the extreme southern counties of Alabama. In Arizona, plantings were virtually complete by the end of March. Early germination and growth has been generally good but occasionally slowed due to unusually cool weather. Planting of spring watermelons in the Imperial and Palo Verde Valleys of California is complete. Crop development to date is about normal.

In Florida, light harvest is underway and should reach moderate volume after mid-April in the Southwest area. Fruit set and size are good. In the West Central area, plants are making good growth. Harvest should start in mid-May. Peak harvest is expected in June. Texas' planting is complete in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and almost finished in the Coastal Bend and Winter Garden areas. Irrigated watermelons are making good progress but dryland acreage is beginning to show stress from lack of rainfall. East Texas melon seeding has been delayed in some area because of excessive moisture. Planting will start in North Texas in April and the High Plains in May.

