



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



VEGETABLES

ACREAGE- FALL QUARTER (OCT. NOV. DEC.)

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FLORIDA

WEATHER: Mostly favorable weather allowed field work to progress on schedule throughout July. Scattered showers during August interrupted the laying of some plastic and other field preparations. However, producers also irrigated some acreage in drier localities. Warm temperatures throughout August accelerated crop growth and development. By early September hot, dry conditions in caused stress on transplants in some central Peninsula localities. Vegetable planting was in high gear in most central and southern Peninsula areas by mid-September. Near the end of the month, scattered thunderstorms hampered some field activities in central and southern Peninsula areas. Tomato picking was slowly increasing around Quincy and getting underway in the southern Peninsula. Several tomato growers will not be replanting this year due to low market prices. The harvesting of sweet corn, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes and watermelon is expected to begin around mid-October.

SNAP BEANS: Acreage to be picked at 10,300 acres harvested compared to 4,500 acres harvested in 2006. During August and September, mostly dry weather allowed land preparations to remain on schedule. Planting in central and southern areas started in September. Some growers waited until high soil temperatures cooled to avoid germination problems.

CABBAGE: Growers expect to harvest 900 acres, the same as last year. Throughout August and September, scattered showers interrupted some planting over the central and southern Peninsula with most progress on schedule. Mostly warm temperatures boosted growth and development. The crop remains in good condition with growers planning to continue planting through mid-December.

SWEET CORN: Growers expect to harvest 4,200 acres compared to 1,700 acres harvested a year ago. Most planting stayed on schedule during August and September over the southern Peninsula with only minor delays due to rain. Warm and mostly moist conditions encouraged good germination in virtually all fields.

CUCUMBERS: Growers expect to pick 3,200 acres down 800 acres from last fall's 4,000 acres harvested. Throughout August and September, scattered showers delayed some planting over the central and southern Peninsula with most progress on schedule. Mostly warm temperatures boosted growth and development but more ample rains are needed to loosen soils.

BELL PEPPERS: Producers expect to harvest 4,400 acres this fall, up 1,500 acres from last year's 2,900 acres. Field work activities were interrupted by scattered rains during late August and mid-September. However, dry conditions in southern Peninsula localities allowed field work to progress with fall harvest expected to begin in October.

TOMATOES: Producers hope to pick 7,400 acres, down 2,600 acres from last year's 10,000 acres harvested. Picking in the Quincy area is slowly increasing and getting underway in the southern Peninsula. Scattered showers in the southern Peninsula areas in August and September delayed some fall crop planting with most harvesting on schedule.

UNITED STATES

GENERAL: The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the fall quarter is forecast at 154,300 acres, up 5 percent from last year. Acreage increased from last year for snap beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, and bell peppers while acreage declined for broccoli, cucumbers, head lettuce, and tomatoes. Area harvested for celery remains unchanged.

SNAP BEANS: Fall fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 19,200 acres, up 47 percent from last year. In Georgia, soil moisture supplies are mostly short to very short. Drought conditions that have existed since early spring have been somewhat alleviated by recent rainfall. In New Jersey, topsoil moisture supplies were short in August and irrigation was necessary in the South Jersey area. Rainfall in late August relieved some crop stress. Growing conditions improved in late September with near normal temperatures. In Virginia, dry conditions have had an adverse effect on the quality of the crop.

CABBAGE: Fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 6,700 acres up 2 percent from last year. Recent rainfall in Georgia has helped to somewhat alleviate drought conditions that have existed since early spring. In New Jersey, harvest of the cabbage crop started in mid-September. The quality of the crop is reported to be good. In Texas, conditions have been good with few insect problems reported.

SWEET CORN: Fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 8,300 acres, up 34 percent from last year. The California crop is in good condition due to favorable weather.

CUCUMBERS: Area for fall harvest is forecast at 5,500 acres, down 13 percent from 2006. Downy mildew was reported in portions of South Carolina and Texas. Growers in Virginia have experienced an extremely dry growing season.

TOMATOES: Fresh market area for fall harvest is forecast at 17,600 acres, down 16 percent from 2006. In California, ideal early season weather produced plentiful supplies of fall season tomatoes. However, cooler than average daytime temperatures in August slowed ripening in some fields, followed by heat issues in late August.

**VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET, PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR HARVEST, FALL QUARTER
BY STATES, 2007 WITH COMPARISONS**

Selected crops and States	Usual harvest period	Fall acreage			2007 area for harvest as percent of 2006
		Harvested		For harvest 2007	
		2005	2006		
		<i>Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>
SNAP BEANS:					
Florida	Oct-Dec	10,000	4,500	10,300	229
Georgia	Oct-Dec	5,100	5,600	5,600	100
New Jersey	Sep-Oct	1,300	1,200	1,500	125
Virginia	Sep-Oct	1,800	1,800	1,800	100
Total		18,200	13,100	19,200	147
CABBAGE:					
Florida	Oct-Dec	1,000	900	900	100
Georgia	Oct-Dec	4,800	5,100	4,900	96
New Jersey	Sep-Nov	500	400	700	175
Texas	Sep-Nov	200	200	200	100
Total		6,500	6,600	6,700	102
SWEET CORN:					
Florida	Sep-Dec	4,800	1,700	4,200	247
California	Oct-Dec	4,200	4,500	4,100	91
Total		9,000	6,200	8,300	134
CUCUMBERS:					
Florida	Oct-Dec	4,600	4,000	3,200	80
South Carolina	Oct-Dec	700	700	700	100
Texas	Sep-Nov	400	700	700	100
Virginia	Sep-Oct	1,100	900	900	100
Total		6,800	6,300	5,500	87
BELL PEPPERS: ^{1/}					
Florida	Oct-Dec	4,900	2,900	4,400	152
Texas ^{2/}		500	100		
Total		5,400	3,000	4,400	147
TOMATOES:					
Florida	Sep-Dec	12,000	10,000	7,400	74
California	Oct-Dec	10,000	11,000	10,200	93
Total		22,000	21,000	17,600	84
TOTAL OF CROPS LISTED					
Florida		37,300	24,000	30,400	127
United States		67,900	56,200	61,700	110
TOTAL OF CROPS ESTIMATED					
United States ^{3/}		175,500	163,800	169,500	103

^{1/} Includes fresh market and processing.

^{2/} Estimates discontinued in 2007.

^{3/} Total of crops listed plus broccoli, cantaloupes, carrots, cauliflower, celery, head lettuce and honeydew melons.