



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



VEGETABLES

ACREAGE- SPRING QUARTER (APR., MAY, JUN., JUL.)

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FLORIDA

WEATHER: Planting and harvesting progressed normally despite dry, hot temperatures during the first half of **January**. The warm weather adversely affected strawberry quality during the beginning of the month; however, by mid-January cool temperatures helped boost development. Tomato transplanting began in the Quincy area after mid-month. Warm temperatures accelerated the ripening of many crops with some harvesting up to two weeks ahead of normal. There was an increase in supplies to meet significant increase in demand. Cooler temperatures swept over the sunshine State by late January. Cold weather crossed from the Panhandle all the way down to the central Peninsula with some areas experiencing some frosts and hard freezes. Potato planting was active around the Hastings area. Growers marketed snap beans, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes throughout the month. In early **February**, a cold front swept across the State causing temperatures to plunge to freezing and near freezing points as well as generated significant rainfall in most areas. No major damage was reported to most vegetables. The wet weather slowed vegetable harvest across the central and southern Peninsula. Growers ran overhead sprinklers for freeze protection and the rains reduced the quality of mature strawberries in addition to the volume marketed. Producers used freeze covers to protect most vegetables from the cold; however, the cold temperatures caused some spotty leaf burn on beans, potatoes, squash, and sweet corn. Heavy rains and wind-borne sand in some fields knocked off some blooms and bruised some fruit, which impacted future tomato yields. Heavy rains in the Hastings area flooded some potato fields with some seed uncovered; however, producers drained fields and covered seed back up. Some cabbage, mixed vegetables, and recent potato plantings showed significant damage from the heavy rains in the Immokalee area. Freezing temperatures coupled with dry conditions continued from mid to late February. At the beginning of **March**, growers welcomed light showers which caused few interruptions in planting and harvesting. Growers began picking light amounts of blueberries. Cabbage cutting neared the usual seasonal peak in mid-March as growers met the increased demand for the St. Patrick's Day holiday. Scattered rains by mid-month helped ease some dry conditions but more rains were needed. Several areas across the Peninsula were extremely dry for the month, which increased the risk for wild fires. The continued drought conditions by month's end began to impact growth development of vegetables in central and southern Peninsula areas. Producers marketed snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes throughout March. Potato digging remained active during the month.

This report reflects conditions as of April 1 and represents acreage for harvest during the spring months of April, May, June, and July. Estimated acreage by growing region is no longer available.

SNAP BEANS: In Florida, harvest of the winter crop continued during February and early March. Clear weather allowed planting to proceed on schedule. Cool temperature slowed some maturation. A cold snap around mid-February caused some leaf damage around Lake Okeechobee and Homestead.

CABBAGE: In Florida, planting of the spring crop started in January. Mostly mild conditions kept planting on schedule. Despite a few nights of hard frost, cabbage escaped significant damage because growers covered the crop with freeze cloths and ran overhead sprinklers. Most cutting of the cabbage crop is expected to be complete by the end of May.

CUCUMBERS: Florida's spring planting started in January. Mostly warm and dry conditions kept planting on schedule. Despite a few nights of hard frost in mid-February, cucumbers escaped significant damage as growers covered the crop with freeze cloths and ran overhead sprinklers. Cool temperatures slowed some crop development.

BELL PEPPERS: Florida's area for harvest is forecast at 7,400 acres, down 1 percent from 2006. Mostly favorable weather conditions during January and February allowed planting and harvesting to progress. In mid-February, cool temperatures slowed plant development over the central and southern Peninsula. By March, clear weather allowed planting and harvesting to proceed on schedule, while warmer temperatures increased crop growth and fruit development in all vegetable areas. Dry conditions allowed planting and harvesting to proceed at a rapid pace.

TOMATOES: In Florida, many areas experienced cold temperatures during most of February. Some producers either covered plants with freeze cloths or ran overhead sprinklers to protect plants from frosty temperatures. There was frost burn on some lower leaves of tomatoes in the Immokalee area. Producers reported slow development due to cold temperatures. Mostly clear conditions leading into early March allowed planting and harvesting to continue on schedule across the southern Peninsula area. Soil moisture supplies have been mostly short across the central and southern Peninsula.

WATERMELONS: Minimal freeze damage during mid-February was reported on Florida's watermelon crop. However, growers that planted early were able to reset plants. Producers will start harvesting in April and continue into early July if prices hold up. Watermelon prices and availability of trucks to haul melons to market will impact how long growers in the State harvest their watermelon crop. Vine Decline disease is currently under control due to growers implementation of a White fly population management program. Watermelons are currently sizing well and quality is expected to be good.

UNITED STATES

GENERAL: The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the spring quarter is forecast at 200,700 acres, down 3 percent from last year. Acreage declines for snap beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, head lettuce, bell peppers, sweet corn, and tomatoes more than offset acreage increases for broccoli and cucumbers. Melon acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 73,900, down 2 percent from last year. Watermelon acreage is down 1 percent from 2006 while cantaloup acreage declined 4 percent from a year ago. Honeydew melon acreage increased 2 percent from 2006. Asparagus area for spring harvest is forecast at 42,000 acres, down 6 percent from last year.

SNAP BEANS: Area for spring harvest is forecast at 20,200 acres, down 9 percent from last year. Georgia snap beans are in fair to good condition. Soil moisture has been mostly adequate this spring and temperatures were close to normal. In New Jersey, cold temperatures and scattered snow showers delayed some plantings.

CABBAGE: Area for spring harvest is forecast at 6,700 acres, down 4 percent from last year. The Georgia crop is in fair to good condition. Soil moisture and temperatures have been favorable for the crop. In Texas, dry weather has provided favorable growing conditions for the cabbage crop.

CUCUMBERS: Spring harvested area is forecast at 7,300 acres, up 1 percent from 2006.

TOMATOES: Area for harvest is forecast at 28,000 acres, down 2 percent from 2006. Warm weather throughout California provided ideal growing conditions for tomatoes. Sporadic rainfall provided adequate water to promote plant growth. There have been no reports of significant pest infestations or diseases.

WATERMELONS: Area intended for harvest is forecast at 38,800 acres, down 1 percent from last year. California's spring melon crop is progressing well.

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

Selected crops and States	Usual harvest period	Spring acreage			2007 area for harvest as percent of 2006
		Harvested		For harvest 2007	
		2005	2006		
		Acres		Percent	
SNAP BEANS:					
Florida	Apr-Jun	11,500	11,000	9,000	90
Georgia	Apr-Jun	9,100	9,600	8,500	89
New Jersey	Jun-Aug	1,600	1,600	1,800	113
Total		22,200	22,200	20,200	91
CABBAGE:					
Florida	Apr-Jun	1,800	1,400	1,400	100
Georgia	Apr-Jun	4,000	3,900	3,600	92
New Jersey	May-Aug	1,000	1,000	1,200	120
Texas	Apr-Jun	900	700	500	71
Total		7,700	7,000	6,700	96
SWEET CORN:					
Florida	Apr-Jun	21,000	21,000	20,500	98
California	Apr-Jun	11,500	13,000	12,000	92
Total		32,500	34,000	32,500	96
CUCUMBERS:					
Florida	Apr-Jun	5,900	5,500	6,100	111
South Carolina	May-Aug	1,000	1,100	800	73
Texas	Apr-Jun	300	600	400	67
Total		7,200	7,200	7,300	101
BELL PEPPERS: ^{1/}					
Florida	Apr-Jul	7,800	7,500	7,400	99
Texas	Apr-Jun	200	100	^{2/}	--
Total		8,000	7,600	7,400	97
TOMATOES:					
Florida	Apr-Jul	17,500	17,500	17,200	98
California	Apr-Jun	7,000	8,000	8,000	100
South Carolina	May-Jul	3,000	3,000	2,800	93
Total		27,500	28,500	28,000	98
WATERMELON:					
Florida	Apr-Jul	26,000	25,300	24,600	97
California	Apr-Jun	3,600	3,600	3,600	100
Texas	Apr-Jun	10,800	10,100	10,600	105
Total		40,400	39,000	38,800	99
TOTAL OF CROPS LISTED					
Florida		91,500	89,200	87,100	98
United States		145,500	145,500	140,900	97
TOTAL OF CROPS ESTIMATED					
United States ^{3/}		282,900	282,800	274,600	97

^{1/} Includes fresh market and processing.

^{2/} Estimates discontinued in 2007.

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