



# News Release

National  
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Statistics  
Service

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In Cooperation with Clemson University

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## **SOUTH CAROLINA VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE DOWN**

South Carolina's harvested fresh market vegetable and melon acreage for 6 major crops totaled 14,400 for the 2007 crop year according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Total acreage was down 9 percent from 2006's acreage of 15,900. Fresh market snap beans acreage for harvest was estimated at 600 acres, down 50 percent from a year ago. Harvested acreage for fresh market cucumbers was 2,000 acres, up 11 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage of fresh market tomatoes was 2,700 acres, down 10 percent from the 2006 acreage. Harvested acreage for cantaloups was 1,100 acres, unchanged from the previous year. Squash harvested acreage was 1,000 acres, down 23 percent from the previous year. Watermelon acreage for harvest was set at 7,000 acres, down 7 percent from the previous year.

South Carolina's contracted cucumbers for pickles acreage for 2007 was set at 2,400 harvested acres, down 14 percent from 2006 and 41 percent below 2005.

For the 2007 crop year, South Carolina was ranked in the top 10 in the total production of the following vegetables: 8<sup>th</sup> in cantaloups, 8<sup>th</sup> in cucumbers, and 9<sup>th</sup> in watermelons,.

## **UNITED STATES VEGETABLE ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION UP**

Fresh market vegetable and melon production for the 24 selected crops estimated in 2007 totaled 494 million hundredweight, up 2 percent from last year. Harvested area covered 1.94 million acres, virtually unchanged from 2006. Value of the 2007 crop is estimated at 10.9 billion dollars, up 2 percent from a year ago. The three largest crops, in terms of production, are onions, head lettuce, and watermelons, which combined to account for 38 percent of the total production. Head lettuce, tomatoes, and onions claim the highest values, accounting for 32 percent of the total value when combined.

For the 24 selected vegetables and melons estimated in 2007, California continues to be the leading fresh market State, accounting for 46 percent of the harvested area, 50 percent of production, and 54 percent of the value.