



News Release

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SOUTH CAROLINA SPRING VEGETABLE ACREAGE DOWN

In **SOUTH CAROLINA**, the spring acreage of fresh market **cucumbers** is expected to total 800 acres, down 300 acres (27 percent) from last year, according to the USDA-NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Spring acreage of fresh market **tomatoes** is estimated at 2,800 acres, down 200 acres (7 percent) from last year.

South Carolina growers have contracted to grow 3,400 acres of cucumbers for pickles, down from 3,500 acres (3 percent) in 2006.

UNITED STATES SPRING VEGETABLE ACREAGE DOWN 3 PERCENT

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 cantaloupe 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. Strawberry area for harvest is forecast at 45,000 acres, virtually unchanged from a year ago.

UNITED STATES PROCESSED VEGETABLE ACREAGE UNCHANGED

Processors expect to contract 1.20 million acres of the 5 major processed vegetable crops in the U.S. this year, virtually unchanged from last year. Contracted acreage decreases are forecast for snap beans, sweet corn, and green peas, while cucumbers for pickles and tomatoes show increases. Freezing firms expect to contract 380,780 acres, down 1 percent from last year. Acreage for snap beans and sweet corn is down 3 percent and 5 percent, respectively. Green pea acreage is up 5 percent from last year. Canneries contracted for 818,460 acres, up 1 percent from 2006. Acreage increased for cucumbers for pickles and tomatoes, up 9 percent and 8 percent, respectively. Acreage declined for sweet corn and green peas, down 6 percent and 15 percent, respectively. Snap beans are virtually unchanged from last year.