

2018 SEASON VEGETABLE HIGHLIGHTS

Value

The 2018 value of production for the published major berries, spring potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons totaled \$1.54 billion, down two percent from the comparable 2017 value. The ranking from the highest to lowest value of the berry, spring potato, vegetables, and watermelon crops are: (1) tomatoes, (2) strawberries, (3) bell peppers, (4) watermelons, (5) sweet corn, (6) cucumbers, (7) spring potatoes, (8) snap beans, (9) cabbage, (10) blueberries, and (11) sweet potatoes. The crops that increased in percentage and value were cabbage (+32%), tomatoes (+28%), and watermelons (+5%). Crops that decreased in value and percentage included bell peppers (-4%), strawberries (-6%), sweet corn (-10%), cucumbers (-14%), snap beans (-18%), spring potatoes (-28%), blueberries (-29%).

Acreage

The harvested acreage for 2018 for the published major berries, potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons totaled 208,000 acres, down two percent from the comparable acres harvested the previous year. Crops with increased acreage and percentages included snap beans (15%), cabbage (13%), strawberries (3%) watermelons (2%), and sweet corn (2%). Crops with less acreage and percentage decreased included bell peppers (-1%), tomatoes (-4%), cucumbers (4%), and spring potatoes (-28%). Blueberry harvested acres remain unchanged.

Production

Utilized production in 2018 of the published major berries, potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons totaled 41.1 million hundredweight, down 12% from the comparable million hundredweight the prior calendar year. Crops with increased percentage and production were strawberries (+15%), cabbage (+3%), and blueberries (+2%). Commodities with percentage decreases and less production were snap beans (-1%), watermelons (-7%), bell peppers (-11%), sweet corn (-13%), tomatoes (-15%), cucumbers (-20%), and spring potatoes (-23%).

Rankings for Utilized Production

The rankings for production for 2018 for the published major berries, potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons in 1,000 cwt were (1) watermelon 8,043.3, (2) tomatoes 6,766.2, (3) spring potatoes 5,512.0, (4) sweet corn 4,764.0, (5) cucumbers 4,233.0, (6) bell peppers 3,570.0, (7) cabbage 3,172.0, (8) strawberries 2,450.0, (9) snap beans 1,575.0, (10) sweet potatoes 812.0 and (11) blueberries 204.2.

Rankings for Acreage

The rankings for harvested acreage for 2018 for the published major berries, potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons were (1) sweet corn 39,700 acres, (2) snap beans 31,500 acres, (3) tomatoes 27,000 acres, (4) cucumbers 24,900 acres, (5) watermelons 22,500 acres, (6) spring potatoes 20,800 acres, (7) bell peppers 11,900 acres, (8) strawberries 9,800 acres, (9) cabbage 8,900 acres, (10) sweet potatoes 5,800 acres, and (11) blueberries. 5,200 acres.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF COLLECTED DATA

All information collected from individual agricultural producers is held strictly confidential. Data provided by individual producers or other agricultural firms are used only to compile and publish statistics at the county, State, and national levels. Statistics at the county and State level are not published if they will potentially disclose information about an individual or operation. In addition, all names and addresses obtained by this office are held confidential

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Planted Acreage is the total acreage which has been planted for harvest during the crop year. Acreage lost and replanted to the same crop in time for harvest in the same quarter is counted only once. Acreage harvested and planted again to the same crop is counted twice.

Harvested Acreage is the acreage partially or completely harvested. Acreage lost before or at maturity through natural or economic causes is not included in the acreage for harvest.

Yield is the average production per harvested acre of merchantable quality harvested and sold or utilized for human consumption.

Production is the quantity actually harvested and sold or utilized for human consumption.

Unit Value for fresh market sales is the equivalent price received, f.o.b. shipping point basis and encompasses all grades and sizes marketed or utilized. Included are packing charges, selling charges, precooling, top ice, or other costs which contribute to the value of the product at shipping point. The value per unit for quantities sold to processors is the average value paid for usable quantities, on a "delivered to plant door" basis. This value includes transportation and other normal costs incident to delivery at plant door.

Total Value is the equivalent value of production sold or utilized based on the unit value. Cullage and other quantities not sold or utilized because of natural or economic factors are excluded.

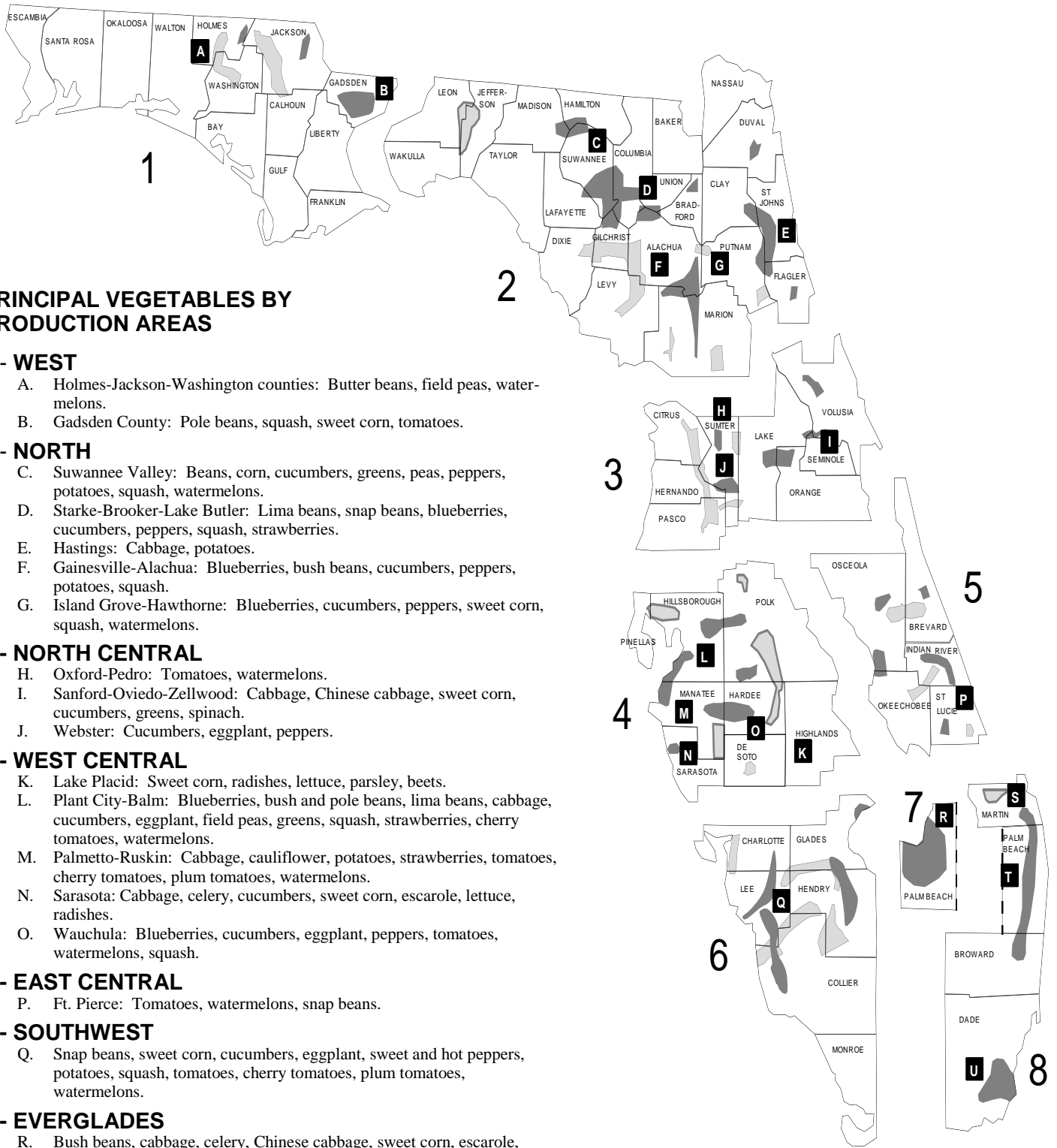
Other Counties include harvested acreage for all counties for which either published data would result in the disclosure of individual operations or acreage totals for specific commodities of minor importance in the State.

Production And Price Unit - The official USDA vegetable crop estimates are published on a weight basis. For this bulletin, the official estimates for most vegetable crops have been converted to hundredweight. If changes in container weights are necessary, all data pertaining to the production of the commodity in question are revised to maintain comparability between years. The table below gives the net weight used per container and the number of containers per hundredweight for Florida produce.

Florida Produce

[Most common unit, estimated net weight, and units per hundredweight, 2018 crop season]

Commodity	Unit	Estimated net weight	Number of units per cwt	Commodity	Unit	Estimated net weight	Number of units per cwt
		(pounds)				(pounds)	
Snap Beans.....	Bushel	30	3.333	Lettuce, Iceberg	Carton	50	2.000
Blueberries	Flat	11	9.090	Lettuce, Romaine.....	Carton	40	2.500
Cabbage.....	Crate	50	2.000	Lettuce, Leaf	Carton	25	4.000
Carrots	Sack	48	2.083	Okra.....	Bushel	30	3.333
Cauliflower	Carton	25	4.000	Parsley.....	Crate	21	4.762
Celery.....	Crate	60	1.667	Bell Pepper	Bushel	28	3.571
Chinese Cabbage.....	Crate	50	2.000	Potatoes.....	Sack	100	1.000
Sweet Corn.....	Crate	42	2.381	Radishes.....	Carton	15	6.667
Cucumbers.....	Bushel	55	1.818	Squash	Bushel	42	2.381
Eggplant.....	Bushel	33	3.030	Strawberries.....	Flat	12	8.333
Escarole	Crate	25	4.000	Sweet Potatoes.....	Crate	50	2.000
Lettuce, Bibb	Carton	10	10.000	Tomatoes.....	Carton	25	4.000
Lettuce, Boston	Carton	20	5.000	Watermelons.....	Cwt	100	1.000



PRINCIPAL VEGETABLES BY PRODUCTION AREAS

1 - WEST

- A. Holmes-Jackson-Washington counties: Butter beans, field peas, watermelons.
- B. Gadsden County: Pole beans, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes.

2 - NORTH

- C. Suwannee Valley: Beans, corn, cucumbers, greens, peas, peppers, potatoes, squash, watermelons.
- D. Starke-Brooker-Lake Butler: Lima beans, snap beans, blueberries, cucumbers, peppers, squash, strawberries.
- E. Hastings: Cabbage, potatoes.
- F. Gainesville-Alachua: Blueberries, bush beans, cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, squash.
- G. Island Grove-Hawthorne: Blueberries, cucumbers, peppers, sweet corn, squash, watermelons.

3 - NORTH CENTRAL

- H. Oxford-Pedro: Tomatoes, watermelons.
- I. Sanford-Oviedo-Zellwood: Cabbage, Chinese cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, greens, spinach.
- J. Webster: Cucumbers, eggplant, peppers.

4 - WEST CENTRAL

- K. Lake Placid: Sweet corn, radishes, lettuce, parsley, beets.
- L. Plant City-Balm: Blueberries, bush and pole beans, lima beans, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, field peas, greens, squash, strawberries, cherry tomatoes, watermelons.
- M. Palmetto-Ruskin: Cabbage, cauliflower, potatoes, strawberries, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, plum tomatoes, watermelons.
- N. Sarasota: Cabbage, celery, cucumbers, sweet corn, escarole, lettuce, radishes.
- O. Wauchula: Blueberries, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, watermelons, squash.

5 - EAST CENTRAL

- P. Ft. Pierce: Tomatoes, watermelons, snap beans.

6 - SOUTHWEST

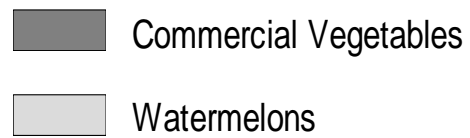
- Q. Snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, sweet and hot peppers, potatoes, squash, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, plum tomatoes, watermelons.

7 - EVERGLADES

- R. Bush beans, cabbage, celery, Chinese cabbage, sweet corn, escarole, greens, lettuce, radishes.

8 - SOUTHEAST

- S. Martin County: Cabbage, potatoes, tomatoes, watermelons.
- T. Pompano: Bush beans, lima beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, sweet and hot peppers, squash, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, plum tomatoes.
- U. Homestead: Bush and pole beans, cabbage, sweet corn, eggplant, okra, pickles, potatoes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, plum tomatoes.



Vegetables, Watermelons, Potatoes, and Berries Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value – Florida: 2017 and 2018

Crop	Planted acreage		Harvested acreage		Yield per acre	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(cwt)
Vegetables						
Beans, snap.....	28,000	33,000	27,500	31,500	58.0	50.0
Cabbage.....	9,000	9,300	8,600	8,900	360.0	360.0
Corn, sweet.....	41,700	42,000	39,000	39,700	140.0	120.0
Cucumbers.....	26,000	25,000	25,900	24,900	205.0	170.0
Peppers, bell.....	12,500	12,400	12,000	11,900	335.0	300.0
Squash.....	7,800	(D)	7,500	(D)	130.0	(D)
Tomatoes.....	29,000	29,000	28,000	27,000	300.0	280.0
Total.....	154,000	150,700	148,500	143,900	(X)	(X)
Blueberries.....	(X)	(X)	5,200	5,200	38.4	39.5
Cantaloupe.....	2,300	(D)	2,200	(D)	260.0	(D)
Potatoes, spring.....	29,000	22,000	28,700	20,800	250.0	265.0
Potatoes, sweet.....	(D)	6,500	(D)	5,800	(D)	140.0
Strawberries.....	9,600	9,900	9,500	9,800	225.0	250.0
Watermelons.....	22,400	22,600	22,000	22,500	395.0	360.0
Total, all crops.....	217,300	211,700	216,100	208,000	(X)	(X)
Crop	Utilized Production		Value per cwt		Total value	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars per cwt)	(dollars per cwt)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Vegetables						
Beans, snap.....	1,572.7	1,567.1	51.80	42.80	81,453	67,000
Cabbage.....	3,065.0	3,172.0	15.50	19.80	47,508	62,806
Corn, sweet.....	5,460.0	4,764.0	29.00	30.00	158,340	142,920
Cucumbers.....	5,309.5	4,233.0	25.90	28.00	137,601	118,524
Peppers, bell.....	4,020.0	3,570.0	47.00	50.60	188,940	180,642
Squash.....	970.1	(D)	40.30	(D)	39,095	(D)
Tomatoes.....	7,988.4	6,766.2	32.80	49.70	262,020	336,496
Total.....	28,385.7	24,072.3	(X)	(X)	914,957	908,388
Blueberries.....	199.9	204.2	423.00	296.00	84,633	60,404
Cantaloupe.....	572.0	(D)	18.00	(D)	10,296	(D)
Potatoes, spring.....	7,175.0	5,512.0	17.40	16.30	124,845	89,846
Potatoes, sweet.....	(D)	812	(D)	41.90	(D)	34,023
Strawberries.....	2,137.5	2,450.0	140.00	115.00	299,114	281,750
Watermelons.....	8,690.0	8,043.3	17.60	20.00	152,944	160,866
Total, all crops.....	47,160.1	41,093.8	(X)	(X)	1,586,789	1,535,277

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
 NA Not available.
 X Not applicable.

Snap Beans Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2016-2018

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2016	30,000	29,500	55	1,622.5	51.00	82,701
2017	28,000	27,500	58	1,572.7	51.80	81,453
2018	33,000	31,500	50	1,567.1	42.80	67,000

Cabbage Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2016-2018

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2016	8,500	7,900	340	2,686.0	18.40	49,422
2017	9,000	8,600	360	3,065.0	15.50	47,508
2018	9,300	8,900	360	3,172.0	19.80	62,806

Sweet Corn Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2016-2018

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2016	37,600	34,500	145	5,002.5	32.00	160,080
2017	41,700	39,000	140	5,460.0	29.00	158,340
2018	42,000	39,700	120	4,764.0	30.00	142,920

Cucumbers Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2016-2018

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2016	24,300	21,700	180	3,906.0	30.30	118,167
2017	26,000	25,900	205	5,309.5	25.90	137,601
2018	25,000	24,900	170	4,233.0	28.00	118,524

Florida Bell Peppers: Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2016-2018

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(\$1,000 dollars)
2016	13,500	12,900	295	3,805.5	33.10	125,962
2017	12,500	12,000	335	4,020.0	47.00	188,940
2018	12,400	11,900	300	3,570.0	50.60	180,642

Potatoes Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2016-2018

[Includes processing]

Crop year	Area		Yield per acre	Production	Value per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Spring						
2016	25,000	22,900	235	5,382	16.10	86,650
2017	29,000	28,700	250	7,175	17.40	124,845
2018	22,000	20,800	265	5,512	16.30	89,846

Sweet Potatoes Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2016-2018

[Estimates began in 2009]

Crop year	Area		Yield per acre	Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2016	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
2017	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
2018	6.5	5.8	140	812	41.90	34,023

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Squash Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2016-2018

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2016 ¹	7,400	6,900	115	793.5	45.10	35,787
2017 ¹	7,800	7,500	130	970.1	40.30	39,095
2018 ¹	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

Strawberries Acreage, Fresh Market Production, and Value – Florida: 2016-2018

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2016	9,600	9,500	205	1,947.5	166.00	323,285
2017	9,600	9,500	225	2,137.5	140.00	299,114
2018	9,900	9,800	250	2,450.0	115.00	281,750

Tomatoes Acreage, Fresh Market Production, and Value – Florida: 2016-2018

[Includes round and plum or pear-shaped varieties, and U-Pic]

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(\$1,000 dollars)
2016	30,000	28,000	260	7,280.0	52.50	382,200
2017	29,000	28,000	300	7,988.4	32.80	262,020
2018	29,000	27,000	280	6,766.2	49.70	336,496

Watermelons Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2016-2018

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2016 ¹	22,500	22,200	350	7,770.0	16.10	125,097
2017 ¹	22,400	22,000	395	8,690.0	17.60	152,944
2018 ¹	22,600	22,500	360	8,043.3	20.00	160,866

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

Vegetable Highlights

In 2018, the Nation's production for the 26 estimated vegetable and melon crops totaled 753 million cwt, 1 percent below the revised 763 million cwt in 2017. The utilized production totaled 747 million cwt, 1 percent below 2017. Area harvested in 2018 was 2.50 million acres, a 3 percent reduction from the previous year. In 2018, the top three vegetables, in terms of area harvested, were sweet corn, tomatoes, and snap beans. In terms of total production, the three largest crops were tomatoes, sweet corn, and onions, which combined accounted for 56 percent of the all vegetables total.

The value of utilized production for 2018 vegetable crops was \$12.9 billion, down 12 percent from the previous year. Tomatoes, head lettuce, and romaine lettuce claimed the highest values, accounting for 31 percent of the total value of production when combined.

For the 26 selected vegetables and melons estimated in 2018, California continued to be the leading State in terms of area harvested, utilized production, and value of production. Florida was second and Minnesota ranked third in terms of area harvested. Washington and Florida ranked second and third, respectively, in terms of utilized production; while Florida and Georgia ranked second and third, respectively, in terms of value of utilized production. The top three States accounted for 69 percent of the total value of utilized production when combined.

Leading Vegetable States in 2018

Rank	Area harvested		Utilized Production		Value of utilized production	
	State	Percent of total	State	Percent of total	State	Percent of total
1	California	39.8	California	60.4	California	57.1
2	Florida	7.1	Washington	5.3	Florida	8.7
3	Minnesota	6.4	Florida	4.5	Georgia	3.5
4	Washington	5.8	Georgia	2.4	Washington	2.7
5	Michigan	4.1	Minnesota	2.3	Texas	2.4

Planting and Harvesting Seasons of Selected Vegetables, Berries, and Melons – Florida

CROP	Usual Planting Dates ¹					Usual Harvesting Dates							
						Begin	Most Active			End			
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Snap Beans ²													
Blueberries													
Cabbage													
Carrots													
Cantaloupes													
Celery													
Sweet Corn													
Cucumbers													
Eggplant													
Escarole/Endive													
Lettuce/Romaine													
Peppers													
Potatoes													
Radishes													
Squash ³													
Strawberries													
Tomatoes													
Watermelon													

¹ Usual date direct seeded or transplanted.

² Includes pole beans.

³ A small acreage of summer squash is marketed locally during July and August.