

# Vegetable Report

ACREAGE-FALL QUARTER (Oct. Nov. Dec.)

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**WEATHER:** Favorable weather conditions throughout July allowed ground preparation activities for fall crop planting to remain on schedule. There was a lack of precipitation throughout the month of July but most soil moisture levels remained short to adequate. By the beginning of August, fall tomato and watermelon growers completed plantings in some Panhandle areas. Rainfall throughout August delayed some fall crop preparation in central and southern Peninsula localities. Tropical Storm Ernesto brought heavy rains to some central and southern Peninsula areas during the first week of September with field work curtailed due to wet fields; however, there was no damage reported to any fields. Okra harvesting in Dade County continued during August and September between periods of scattered showers. Field preparations and planting of fall crops remained active over the central and southern Peninsula localities throughout the month. Warm temperatures throughout August and September boosted crop growth and development. The harvesting of sweet corn, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes and watermelons got underway by the beginning of October. Tomato production around Quincy is expected to begin around mid-October.

**SNAP BEANS:** Acreage to be picked is set at 9,500 acres, down from the 10,000 acres harvested during the fall of 2005. During August and September, scattered showers delayed some planting over the central and southern Peninsula. However, crop progress was mostly on schedule. Warm weather boosted crop growth and development.

**CABBAGE:** Growers expect to harvest 1,000 acres, the same as last year. Harvesting is expected to begin by early December. Throughout August and September, scattered showers delayed some planting over the central and southern Peninsula, yet most of the crop is reported to be on schedule. Warm temperatures boosted crop growth and development.

**SWEET CORN:** Growers expect to pick 5,100 acres compared to 4,800 acres harvested in 2005. Rainfall delayed some planting in the southern Peninsula during August and September. However, most plantings are on schedule.

**CUCUMBERS:** Growers expect to pick 4,700 acres compared to 4,600 acres harvested a year ago. Scattered showers during August and September delayed some planting over the central and southern Peninsula areas. However, warm temperatures after planting boosted plant growth and development.

**BELL PEPPERS:** Producers expect to pick 4,500 acres this fall, down 400 acres from the 4,900 acres harvested last fall. Field work was interrupted by rainfall during late August through mid-September. However, field activities were able to progress with fall harvest expected to begin on schedule.

**TOMATOES:** Producers hope to pick 11,800 acres this fall, up 300 acres or up nearly 3 percent from the 11,500 acres harvested last fall. Picking in the Quincy area is expected to begin around mid-October. Scattered showers in the southern Peninsula areas during August and September delayed some fall planting.

## UNITED STATES

**GENERAL:** The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the fall quarter is forecast at 159,700 acres, down 1 percent from last year. Acreage increased for cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, and cucumbers while acreage decreased for snap beans, broccoli, celery, head lettuce, bell peppers, and tomatoes. Area forecasted for fall melon harvest is 16,200 acres, up 3 percent from last year. Cantaloupe harvested area is forecast at 12,500 acres, down 1 percent from 2005. Honeydew harvested area is forecast at 3,700 acres, up 19 percent from last fall.

**SNAP BEANS:** Fall fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 17,500 acres, down 4 percent from last year and 3 percent below 2004. Warm weather boosted crop growth and development. In Georgia, rainfall during the last few weeks in September benefited the crop. A few pest problems were reported. In New Jersey, dry conditions in late August combined with frequent heavy rains during mid-September had an adverse impact on harvest and crop development. Growing conditions had improved by late September. In Virginia, timely rains throughout the growing season benefited the crop.

**CABBAGE:** Fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 6,800 acres, up 5 percent from last year and 13 percent above 2004. Georgia received rainfall during September which helped benefit the crop. Growers in New Jersey reported some plant losses due to heavy rains in mid-September. However, growing conditions are currently favorable. Texas conditions have been good for fall vegetables due to cool nights and heavy irrigation.

**SWEET CORN:** Fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 9,700 acres, up 8 percent from last year and 7 percent above 2004. California's crop is in good condition with no insect or disease problems reported.



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**CUCUMBERS:** Area for fall harvest is forecast at 7,600 acres, up 12 percent from last year but 1 percent lower than 2004. In Texas, recent rains and cooler night time temperatures improved conditions for fall vegetables. In Virginia, dry weather conditions during the planting season discouraged some producers from planting. These same dry conditions continued during the growing season and hindered crop development.

**TOMATOES:** Fresh market area for fall harvest is forecast at 22,100 acres, down 2 percent from 2005 and 4 percent below 2004. In California, July's heat shortened the transplanting season resulting in less acreage. Unseasonable rains produced by Hurricane John delayed field preparation and planting.

**VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET, PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR HARVEST, FALL QUARTER  
BY STATES, 2006 WITH COMPARISONS**

Selected crops and States	Usual harvest period	Fall acreage			2006 area for harvest as percent of 2005
		Harvested		For harvest 2006	
		2004	2005		
		<i>Acres</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
<b>SNAP BEANS:</b>					
Florida	Oct-Dec	9,800	10,000	9,500	95
Georgia	Oct-Dec	5,000	5,100	4,700	92
New Jersey	Sep-Oct	1,600	1,300	1,500	115
Virginia	Sep-Oct	1,600	1,800	1,800	100
Total		18,000	18,200	17,500	96
<b>CABBAGE:</b>					
Florida	Oct-Dec	500	1,000	1,000	100
Georgia	Oct-Dec	4,800	4,800	4,900	102
New Jersey	Sep-Nov	500	500	600	120
Texas	Sep-Nov	200	200	300	150
Total		6,000	6,500	6,800	105
<b>SWEET CORN:</b>					
Florida	Oct-Dec	4,800	4,800	5,100	106
California	Oct-Dec	4,300	4,200	4,600	110
Total		9,100	9,000	9,700	108
<b>CUCUMBERS:</b>					
Florida	Oct-Dec	4,600	4,600	4,700	102
South Carolina	Oct-Dec	1000	700	600	86
Texas	Sep-Nov	1,200	400	1,400	350
Virginia	Sep-Oct	900	1,100	900	82
Total		7,700	6,800	7,600	112
<b>BELL PEPPERS: <sup>1/</sup></b>					
Florida	Oct-Dec	4,900	4,900	4,500	92
Texas	Sep-Nov	200	500	100	20
Total		5,100	5,400	4,600	85
<b>TOMATOES:</b>					
Florida <sup>2/</sup>	Sep-Dec	12,000	11,500	11,800	103
California	Oct-Dec	11,000	11,000	10,300	94
Total		23,000	22,500	22,100	98
<b>TOTAL OF CROPS LISTED</b>					
Florida		36,600	36,800	36,600	99
United States		68,900	68,400	68,300	100
<b>TOTAL OF CROPS ESTIMATED</b>					
United States <sup>3/</sup>		167,950	176,550	175,900	100

<sup>1/</sup> Includes fresh market and processing.

<sup>2/</sup> 2005 revised.

<sup>3/</sup> Total of crops listed plus broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, celery, head lettuce, cantaloupes, and honeydew melons.