



VEGETABLES

Acreeage- Winter Quarter (January, February, March 2011)

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Florida

General: This report refers to the vegetable acres for harvest in the winter season (January, February, and March 2011). Growers were contacted in December 2010. The weather narrative for the fall season (October, November, and December 2010) is included. During the fall, growers harvested fall vegetables while planting winter vegetables.

Weather: Unusually cold and dry weather during the fall season affected the winter vegetable harvest. In the beginning of **October**, Tropical Storm Nicole brought heavy rains to south Florida. Towards the end of October, field preparation increased. Strawberry farmers in Polk County irrigated fields.

In **November**, drought conditions continued and fire indexes remained high. Amicable weather aided strawberry development in Hillsborough County.

Three freeze warnings were in effect in **December**. During the first week, vegetable growers covered plants and ran irrigation to mitigate freeze damage. Mid-month, a state of emergency for agricultural crops was issued, easing highway truck restrictions to allow maximum amounts of vegetables to be quickly transported to processors. The December freezes resulted in varying levels of damage. Damage was more prominent in non-irrigated fields. Cold temperatures slowed plant development and could offset harvesting periods. In the south, growers reported problems with pepper bruising due to cold temperatures.

Snap Beans: Florida area for harvest is forecast at 9,000 acres, down 20 percent from last year. In south Florida, some growers reported 80 percent damage to their crop due to freeze.

Cabbage: Florida producers expect to harvest 5,000 acres through March; up 4 percent from last year. Planting for the winter crop began in the Hastings area during the first week of November.

Sweet Corn: Florida harvested area is forecast at 6,700 acres, 20 percent below last year. Planting of the winter crop was underway by early November.

Bell Peppers: Winter area for harvest is forecast at 6,000 acres, down 8 percent from last year. Unseasonably cold and freezing temperatures delayed crop growth, while some growers reported leaf burn.

Strawberries: Harvested area is forecast at 9,900 acres, 13 percent above last year. Growers in Hillsborough County began planting by October.

Tomatoes: Florida winter tomato harvested area is forecast at 8,500 acres, unchanged from 2010.

United States

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the winter quarter is forecast at 155,200 acres, down 1 percent from last year. Acreage declined for snap beans, broccoli, sweet corn, and bell peppers. Acreage increased for cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, and head lettuce. Area harvested for spinach and tomatoes remains unchanged.

Broccoli: California harvested area is forecast at 24,500 acres, down 4 percent from 2010. Unseasonably cold weather limited broccoli production. However, quality and size of the winter broccoli crop is reported to be good.

Cabbage: Winter area for harvest is forecast at 12,400 acres, 5 percent above 2010. In Texas, crop development and quality are reported to be excellent due to a mild and cool spring.

Celery: The winter celery crop for harvest in California is forecast at 7,300 acres, up 3 percent from last year. Quality of the winter celery crop is reported to be good.

Carrots: Winter harvested area is forecast at 18,100 acres, up 9 percent from last year. In California, planting of winter carrots is underway. In Texas, the carrot crop is progressing well.

Cauliflower: California harvested area is forecast at 9,200 acres, up 8 percent from last year. Quality and size of the cauliflower crop is reported to be good.

Head Lettuce: Area for harvest is forecast at 52,500 acres, up 3 percent from last year. Harvest in Arizona began in mid-November. Harvest of California's iceberg lettuce crop began around the third week of November.

Spinach: Harvested area of winter spinach in Texas is forecast at 1,000 acres, unchanged from 2010. Development of the Baby leaf spinach is well underway.

Strawberries: Planted area for the major States (California, Florida, and Oregon) is forecast at 50,000 acres, up 1 percent from 2010. California's strawberry harvest started slowly this year due to wet and cool weather.

Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Strawberries, Area Harvested by Crop--States and United States: Winter Season, 2009, 2010, and Forecasted 2011

Selected crops and States	Usual harvest period	Winter acreage			2011 area for harvest as percent of 2010 (percent)
		Harvested		For harvest 2011 (acres)	
		2009 (acres)	2010 (acres)		
Snap Beans					
Florida	January - March	12,000	11,300	9,000	80
Cabbage					
Florida	January - March	4,900	4,800	5,000	104
Texas.....	December - March	6,820	7,040	7,400	105
Total.....		11,720	11,840	12,400	105
Sweet Corn					
Florida	January - March	8,800	8,400	6,700	80
Bell Peppers¹					
Florida	January - March	6,800	6,500	6,000	92
Tomatoes					
Florida	January - March	9,300	8,500	8,500	100
Carrots					
California.....	January - March	15,500	16,000	17,500	109
Texas.....	December - March	700	600	600	100
Total.....		16,200	16,600	18,100	109
Head Lettuce					
Arizona - Western.....	November - April	32,000	34,000	35,000	103
California.....	January - March	15,000	17,000	17,500	103
Total.....		47,000	51,000	52,500	103
Broccoli¹					
California.....	January - March	26,000	25,500	24,500	96
Cauliflower¹					
California.....	January - March	9,000	8,500	9,200	108
Celery¹					
California.....	January - March	7,200	7,100	7,300	103
Spinach					
Texas.....	December - March	600	1,000	1,000	100
TOTAL OF CROPS LISTED					
Florida		41,800	39,500	35,200	89
United States.....		154,620	156,240	155,200	99
Strawberries¹					
Florida	December - May	8,800	8,800	9,900	113
California.....		39,800	38,600	38,000	98
Oregon.....		1,700	1,900	1,900	100
Total.....		50,300	49,300	49,800	101

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.