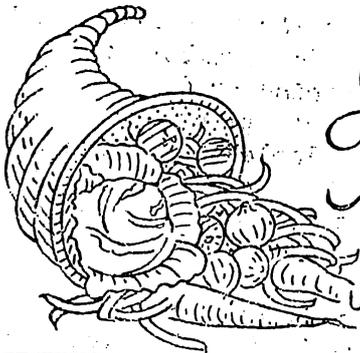


TC-52: 1102



Commercial Truck Crops

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Washington, D. C.

BAE

November 12, 1952

COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS FOR FRESH MARKET ACREAGE AND INDICATED PRODUCTION NOVEMBER 1, 1952 1953 CROPS

Note: The estimates contained in this report have been revised on the basis of the 1950 Census of Agriculture and the seasonal groupings for lettuce and spinach have been revised. Except in the case of potatoes these estimates are not strictly comparable with those previously published.

BEETS: A production of 825,000 bushels of winter beets is expected from the increased acreage in Texas this year. The 5,500 acres for harvest is 45 percent above last year but 24 percent below average for the years 1942-1951. The present estimated production, if realized, will be 40 percent above 1952 but 20 percent less than average. In the Lower Valley advanced crops in areas where water has been available from private wells should furnish a light harvest the early part of November. Crops in areas outside the Valley are in good condition and are expected to be in production around mid-November. A small non-irrigated acreage was planted in the Coastal Bend following mid-September rains but this crop has made poor progress and some of the plantings have been lost.

KALE: Virginia is expected to produce 1,088,000 bushels of kale from 2,900 acres during the 1953 winter season according to reports as of November 1. This production is slightly above last year and about 8 percent above average. Cooler weather has benefited the crop and a pick-up in movement is expected.

LETTUCE: Lettuce planted for harvest in the 1953 winter season is estimated to be 63,200 acres, about 10,000 acres more than were harvested in 1952. The 1942-1951 average acreage harvested was 46,060 acres. Increased acreage is indicated for all winter States except Florida where the acreage is the same as last year. The largest percentage increase is for Texas with a 40 percent increase, followed by California with 19 percent and Arizona with 14 percent increases.

In California the Imperial Valley crop promises to be the earliest of record. Early fields of Premier Great Lakes should mature between November 20 and 25, while the Regular Great Lakes will mature early in December. At Blythe the crop is only in fair condition having been damaged by high fall temperatures. Stands are spotty and some bolting may occur in early fields. The salt marsh caterpillar threat is still present but to date fencing has prevented any material loss. Harvest should

LETTUCE (Cont'd.): start in the area about November 10 and should be general by November 25. Late October conditions were favorable for lettuce in all areas of Texas. Although some early plantings in the Winter Garden bolted as a result of the early hot weather, later plantings have responded favorably to cooler weather and are expected to furnish a light production starting in early November. The Uvalde section is expected to be in production around mid-November, while a small acreage of earlier plantings in the Lower Valley should furnish production around November 7-10. If growers' plans are to be fully carried out, plantings for later harvest in the Valley will need more water than is now available from private wells. In Florida many early seed beds and small acreages seeded to the field were lost but transplanting has been fairly active and indications point to about the same acreage this year as last.

SPINACH: The prospective winter spinach crop, based on conditions as of November 1, is expected to total 4,069,000 bushels, 94 percent of last year's crop and about 69 percent of average. Acreage for harvest is less than last year for Texas, South Carolina and Mississippi while the California acreage is unchanged from a year ago. The winter crop in Louisiana has decreased to a point where the acreage is negligible and estimates have consequently been dropped. In Texas, the main producer of winter spinach, early season harvest of spinach is all expected to come mainly from the irrigated sections of the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass areas. A light harvest is expected in the Winter Garden around November 10 with the Eagle Pass section starting the latter part of the month. Growing conditions in these areas were favorable the last half of October with water ample for the amount of early acreage planted. Conditions in the Coastal Bend have been unfavorable as no rain has been received in this area since early September. A small irrigated acreage was planted around mid-October in this area, but non-irrigated plantings will be very light unless conditions improve materially. Plantings in the Lower Valley are also light as the limited water supply is being used for other crops. In Mississippi planting has been delayed by the prolonged dry spell and the only acreages to come up have been those irrigated. In South Carolina the crop is in good condition, but the October dry weather has retarded growth and rain is needed badly.

TRUCK CROPS FOR FRESH MARKET

Acreage and Indicated Production for certain Commercial Truck Crops for the 1953 Crop Season with Comparisons 1/

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1942-51	Prelim. 1952	Ind. 1953	10-YR. AV. 42-51	Prelim. 1952	Ind. 1952	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1942-51	Prelim. 1952	Ind. 1953
	2/			2/			2/		
	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	- Boxes -			- 1,000 boxes -		
ARTICHOKEs: 3/	7,300	8,300	8,000	100	90		722	747	Dec. 10
			Prelim. Prospective						
ASPARAGUS: 3/ 4/	125,670	133,430	138,130	85	79		10,634	10,513	
BEETS:			Prelim.	- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Texas.....	7,240	3,800	5,500	140	155	150	1,029	589	825
			Prelim. Prospective						
CABBAGE:				- Tons -			- Tons -		
Winter: 3/ 4/	55,490	37,900	54,400	6.42	8.01		353,400	303,400	
KALE:				- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Virginia.....	2,710	2,700	2,900	374	395	375	1,012	1,066	1,088
LETTUCE:				Crates 4-6 doz.			- 1,000 crates -		
Winter:									
Arizona.....	13,180	14,000	16,000	186	205		2,436	2,870	
California.....	27,100	30,800	36,500	187	219		5,032	6,468	
Texas.....	5/ 5,900	6,200	8,700	138	150		5/ 604	930	
Florida.....	2,230	2,000	2,000	129	160		276	320	
Group total	46,060	53,000	63,200	179	200		8,107	10,588	
ONIONS: 3/				Sacks -			- 1,000 sacks -		
Early Spring:	42,770	38,800	62,800	108	100		4,094	3,880	
POTATOES, EARLY COMMERCIAL:			Prelim. Prospective	- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter 3/.....	10,910	11,000	13,300	180	222		1,933	2,445	
SHALLOTS:				- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter 3/.....	2,740	3,500	3,500	28	33	32	76	116	112

See footnotes on page 4.

TRUCK CROPS FOR FRESH MARKET

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Acres and Indicated Production for Certain Commercial Truck Crops for the 1953 Crop Season with Comparisons 1/

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1942-51 2/	Prelim. 1952	Ind. 1953	10-YR. AV. 42-51 2/	Prelim 1952	Ind. 1953	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1942-51 2/	Prelim. 1952	Ind. 1953
SPINACH:	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES Prelim.	- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
<u>Winter:</u>									
California.....	3,080	2,500	2,500	532	560	600	1,621	1,400	1,500
Louisiana.....	800	300	---	70	70	---	57	21	---
Texas.....	32,050	18,000	15,600	126	135	140	4,146	2,430	2,184
South Carolina..	5/ 620	1,000	700	5/160	250	250	5/ 103	250	175
Mississippi.....	5/ 610	2,100	2,000	5/107	105	105	5/ 65	220	210
Group total	36,250	23,900	20,800	162	181	196	5,875	4,321	4,069
			Prospective	- Crates -			- 1,000 crates -		
STRAWBERRIES: 3/4/	112,430	130,260	119,000	76.3	91.2		8,715	11,878	

1/ The 10-year averages and the 1952 estimates shown in this report (TC-52: 1102) have been revised on the basis of the 1950 Census of Agriculture. The 1953 estimates are comparable with the revised 10-year averages and 1952 estimates. Revised estimates for the individual years, 1939-50, will be published after December 17, 1952. The revised 10-year averages and 1952 estimates given in this report have not been included in the report on 1952 crops (TC-52: 1101).

2/ For group totals and for all States, averages of the annual totals, not the sum of the State or group averages.

3/ Data from releases of September 10 (TC-52: 902) and October 10 (TC-52: 1002).

4/ Includes acreage from which the production is taken for processing.

5/ Short-time average: Lettuce, Texas, 1946-51; Spinach, South Carolina, 1949-51; Mississippi, 1949-51