vegetables - fresh market

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INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR HARVEST
FALL QUARTER - OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1973

Fall Fresh Market Vegetable Acreage Up 4 Percent

Prospective acreage of 14 fall fresh market vegetables for harvest during October, November and December 1973 is placed at 250,300 acres, 4 percent more than the 239,710 acres harvested during the fall quarter of 1972. Potential production for these 14 crops, based on average yields per acre for recent years, is projected at 44.6 million cwt. This is 6 percent more than last year's fall production of 41.9 million cwt.

Production from the 14 crops represented in this group is expected to be higher for snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, celery, lettuce and spinach. Decreases are estimated for cauliflower, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, escarole, green peppers and tomatoes.

Melon acreage for harvest in the fall quarter of 1973 is estimated at 3,200 acres, 43 percent less than the 1972 fall quarter total of 5,600 acres. Based on average yields for recent years, potential production is indicated at 371,000 cwt., a 41 percent decrease from the fall 1972 quarter.

The October 1 onion production forecast for summer States with primarily storage type onions is estimated at 20.7 million cwt., 4 percent above last year, but 6 percent below the September forecast of 22.0 million cwt.

Texas spring onion growers intend to plant 21,000 acres for the spring of 1974, 2 percent more than in 1973.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
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Prospective acreage for harvest and indicated production, by crops and seasons, United States, 1973 with comparisons

Crop	Acreage Harvested 1971	Acreage Harvested 1972	Acreage For harvest 1973	Production 1971	Production 1972	Production Indicated 1973 1/
	Acres			1,000 cwt.		
Winter	176,960	194,140	180,470	28,942	31,096	30,758
Spring	368,150	395,720	359,490	51,985	54,623	53,574
Summer	601,640	578,700	606,870	74,784	72,571	74,045
Fall 2/:						
Snap Beans	15,530	18,500	17,310	599	654	658
Broccoli 3/	11,660	11,660	16,250	748	752	1,089
Cabbage 3/	30,900	29,130	32,550	8,104	7,024	8,333
Carrots 3/	21,260	21,020	25,260	6,29[illegible]	6,166	7,426
Cauliflower 3/	10,950	11,130	11,340	1,097	1,192	1,168
Celery 3/	9,150	10,030	10,350	4,360	4,986	5,113
Sweet Corn	17,610	19,500	17,400	1,021	1,474	1,148
Cucumbers	11,900	13,500	12,100	1,172	1,328	1,137
Eggplant	550	800	650	96	124	109
Escarole	2,220	2,140	2,130	250	256	253
Lettuce	53,600	59,700	64,400	10,751	12,126	12,687
Green Peppers 3/	11,000	11,200	10,600	1,155	1,355	1,155
Spinach	2,350	2,100	2,460	125	125	135
Tomatoes	27,200	29,300	27,500	3,971	4,373	4,208
Total 14 Vegetables	225,880	239,710	250,300	39,743	41,935	44,619
Cantaloups	4,600	4,800	2,700	511	477	284
Honeydew Melons	720	800	500	122	153	87
Total Melons	5,320	5,600	3,200	633	630	371
Total Fall Crop	231,200	245,310	253,500	40,376	42,565	44,990

1/ Based on average yield per acre.
2/ October, November, and December.
3/ Includes fresh market and processing.

Acreage intentions by specified planting periods and prospective acreage for harvest, Fall quarter 1/, by States, 1973 with comparisons

Crop and State	Acreage planted and to be planted for specified planting periods				Fall acreage 1/		
	Planting period	Year of planting			Harvested		For harvest
		1971	1972	Intended 1973	1971	1972	1973
		Acres					
Cabbage 2/:							
Mass. & Conn.	Apr.-July	1,350	1,300	1,400	350	350	380
New York-L. I.	Apr.-July	1,000	1,000	1,100	540	660	630
New York-Upstate	Apr.-July	9,300	9,900	10,200	6,600	6,400	7,200
New Jersey	Mar.-Aug.	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,000	1,300	1,300
Pennsylvania	Apr.-Aug.	3,000	2,900	3,000	1,200	1,100	1,100
Ohio	June-Aug.	1,900	1,900	2,000	1,700	1,700	1,800
Indiana	Mar.-June	1,100	930	1,000	200	180	200
Illinois	Apr.-June	1,900	1,700	1,500	500	300	300
Michigan	Apr.-July	5,700	5,200	5,200	2,600	1,700	1,500
Wisconsin	Apr.-June	6,200	6,000	5,800	2,600	1,500	3,500
Missouri	Mar.-June	800	800	800	370	440	200
Virginia	Feb.-Aug.	2,300	2,100	1,900	200	250	300
North Carolina	Mar.-Aug.	5,100	5,200	4,900	2,100	2,700	1,900
Florida	Sept.-Mar.	19,100	17,900	18,900	2,300	2,400	3,100
Texas	Apr.-Jan.	21,000	19,500	20,000	5,100	4,500	5,600
Colorado	Apr.-June	2,100	2,100	1,800	500	400	300
Arizona	Aug.-Dec.	1,400	1,200	1,100	340	220	240
Oregon	Mar.-July	1,500	1,400	1,500	1,000	730	1,100
California	Mar.-Oct.	6,600	6,600	6,800	1,700	2,300	1,900
Group Total		93,150	89,430	90,700	30,900	29,130	32,550
Cantaloups:							
Arizona	June-Aug.	1,200	600	600	1,200	600	600
California	July-Aug.	3,400	4,200	2,100	3,400	4,200	2,100
Group Total		4,600	4,800	2,700	4,600	4,800	2,700
Celery 2/:							
New York	Apr.-July	1,600	1,400	1,300	300	500	250
Michigan	Apr.-July	2,500	2,500	2,400	500	400	360
Florida	Aug.-Apr.	12,600	12,700	12,800	2,400	2,500	2,600
Washington	Apr.-June	250	230	240	250	230	240
California-So. Coast	July-Apr.	8,300	9,300	9,900	1,200	1,700	1,900
-Other	July-Sept.	8,600	8,800	9,600	4,500	4,700	5,000
Group Total		33,850	34,930	36,240	9,150	10,030	10,350
Escarole:							
Ohio	Apr.-Aug.	1,000	1,100	1,200	120	140	30
Florida	Aug.-Mar.	9,200	9,000	8,500	2,100	2,000	2,100
Group Total		10,200	10,100	9,700	2,220	2,140	2,130
Honeydew Melons:							
Arizona	June-Aug.	220	200	100	220	200	100
California	July-Aug.	500	600	400	500	600	400
Group Total		720	800	500	720	800	500
Tomatoes:							
New York	May-June	3,400	3,300	3,100	300	400	400
Pennsylvania	Apr.-June	3,000	3,000	3,000	400	500	400
Indiana	May-June	2,300	2,300	2,200	300	300	300
Florida	July-Apr.	44,400	46,700	36,500	13,500	16,000	11,200
Alabama	Mar.-July	8,200	8,700	10,000	1,000	600	1,000
Texas	July-Sept.	2,400	3,000	1,400	1,600	2,200	1,000
California	Feb.-July	27,100	28,800	28,800	10,100	9,300	13,200
Group Total		90,800	95,800	85,000	27,200	29,300	27,500

See footnotes on page 5.

Prospective acreage for harvest, Fall quarter 1/, by States, 1973 with comparisons

Crop and State	Fall acreage 1/			1973 acres for harvest as percent of 1972
	Harvested		For harvest 1973	
	1971	1972		
	Acres			Percent
Snap Beans 3/:				
New Jersey	600	1,000	1,300	130
Maryland	200	300	260	87
Virginia	2,100	2,800	2,200	79
North Carolina	300	650	450	69
South Carolina	1,200	1,400	1,300	93
Georgia	530	520	300	58
Florida	10,200	11,300	11,000	97
California	400	530	500	94
Group Total	15,530	18,500	17,310	94
Broccoli 2/ 3/:				
Texas	400	300	200	67
Arizona	560	360	450	125
Oregon	1,100	900	800	89
California	9,600	10,100	14,800	147
Group Total	11,660	11,660	16,250	139
Carrots 2/ 3/:				
Massachusetts	250	200	250	125
New York	1,300	1,000	1,200	120
Michigan	2,500	1,900	2,400	126
Wisconsin	1,200	600	2,100	350
Minnesota	580	540	830	154
Texas-High Plains	3,900	3,300	3,200	97
Texas-Other	1,800	2,500	1,800	72
Colorado	530	480	480	100
Washington	1,300	1,600	1,800	113
Oregon	1,500	1,400	2,200	157
California-Desert	800	1,000	900	90
California-Other	5,600	6,500	8,100	125
Group Total	21,260	21,020	25,260	120
Cauliflower 2/ 3/:				
New York-Upstate	700	780	740	95
New York-L.I.	990	1,000	1,100	110
Michigan	390	300	200	67
Texas	270	0	200	200
Arizona	100	150	100	67
Oregon	1,200	1,300	1,200	92
California	7,300	7,600	7,800	103
Group Total	10,950	11,130	11,340	102

See footnotes on page 5.

Prospective acreage for harvest, Fall quarter 1/, by States, 1973
with comparisons

Crop and State	Fall acreage 1/			1973 acres for harvest as percent of 1972
	Harvested		For harvest 1973	
	1971	1972		
	Acres			Percent
Sweet Corn 3/:				
New York	1,800	1,900	1,700	89
Michigan	400	1,000	1,000	100
Florida	12,100	13,200	11,700	89
Oregon	910	600	700	117
California	2,400	2,800	2,300	82
Group Total	17,610	19,500	17,400	89
Cucumbers 3/:				
Virginia	1,300	1,300	1,200	92
South Carolina	1,300	1,400	1,200	86
Florida	6,700	7,400	6,900	93
Texas	2,200	2,900	2,200	76
California	400	500	600	120
Group Total	11,900	13,500	12,100	90
Eggplant 3/:				
Florida	550	800	650	81
Lettuce 3/:				
New Jersey	900	1,000	900	90
Florida	1,500	1,500	2,200	147
Texas-Winter Garden	600	800	1,400	175
Texas-High Plains	1,400	1,300	1,000	77
New Mexico	3,500	3,300	4,400	133
Arizona-Yuma	7,300	8,200	8,500	104
Arizona-Other	10,300	11,400	9,900	87
California	28,100	32,200	36,100	112
Group Total	53,600	59,700	64,400	108
Green Peppers 2/ 3/:				
New Jersey	900	1,100	1,000	91
Florida	3,100	3,200	2,900	91
Texas	4,000	4,000	2,700	68
California	3,000	2,900	4,000	138
Group Total	11,000	11,200	10,600	95
Spinach 3/:				
New Jersey	400	500	360	72
Texas	1,600	1,200	1,700	142
California	350	400	400	100
Group Total	2,350	2,100	2,460	117

1/ October, November and December.
2/ Includes fresh market and processing.
3/ Acreage intentions for specified periods are not estimated nationally.

Onions 1/: Acreage and production reported to date, 1973 with comparisons

Season and State	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested		For Harvest 1973	1971	1972	Ind. 1973	1971	1972	Ind. 1973
	1971	1972							
	Acres			Cwt.			1,000 cwt.		
Spring	25,300	24,700	26,500	217	223	204	5,498	5,501	5,400
Summer:									
Non-storage Total 2/	10,950	10,750	11,300	263	265	256	2,875	2,846	2,894
Storage 3/:									
New York	13,300	11,500	13,600	310	200	220	4,123	2,300	2,992
Ohio	600	570	600	450	265	300	270	151	180
Indiana	1,000	900	900	310	290	310	310	261	279
Michigan	6,200	6,400	6,500	270	335	290	1,674	2,144	1,885
Wisconsin	1,600	1,500	1,400	235	250	280	376	375	392
Minnesota	800	950	950	300	265	290	240	252	276
Colorado	5,000	5,100	4,400	295	335	300	1,475	1,709	1,320
Utah	950	1,000	1,100	230	370	240	219	370	264
Washington	1,200	1,100	1,200	400	380	420	480	418	504
West. Oregon	2,100	2,100	2,100	400	365	440	840	767	924
Idaho & E. Oregon	9,100	9,200	10,500	470	523	495	4,281	4,809	5,198
California	20,700	18,700	22,800	345	345	285	7,142	6,452	6,498
Storage Total	62,550	59,020	66,050	343	339	314	21,430	20,008	20,712
Total Summer	73,500	69,770	77,350	331	328	305	24,305	22,854	23,606
United States	98,800	94,470	103,850	302	300	279	29,803	28,355	29,006

Onions 1/: Acreage intentions, 1974 with comparisons

Season and State	Planted acreage			1974 as a percent of	
	1972	1973	Intended 1974	1972	1973
	Acres			Percent	
Spring:					
Texas	18,500	20,500	21,000	114	102

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.
2/ Primarily onions sold without being placed in storage.
3/ Primarily storage type onions.

ONIONS: Texas spring onion growers intend to plant 21,000 acres for the spring of 1974, 2 percent more than 1973. Acreage in the Lower Rio Grande Valley is expected to be slightly higher. The Laredo area acreage should remain about the same as last year. The small acreage in the Coastal Bend area is expected to be down. Growers in the Winter Garden-San Antonio area are showing more interest in the late Israeli variety which is harvested in July. As a result, spring onion acreage in this area is expected to decrease while summer onion acreage should increase in 1974.

SNAP BEANS: The 1973 fall quarter prospective acres for harvest is estimated at 17,310 acres, 6 percent less than the 18,500 acres harvested during the same quarter in 1972. Based on a 2 projection of historic average yields, this acreage is expected to provide 658,000 cwt. which would be 1 percent more than the 1972 fall crop.

In Maryland and Virginia, unfavorable weather hampered plantings and normal growth. Harvest of South Carolina's crop got underway October 1 and volume is now good. Georgia's acreage decline is due mainly to disease and adverse weather conditions.

In New Jersey, harvest is light and declining as cooler temperatures have slowed maturity. Recent rainfall has been beneficial. The first killing frost will determine the time of final harvest.

The fall crop in North Carolina is in fair condition. The crop in the southeast is hurting from dry weather earlier in the season. Rain damaged some acreage in the northeast. Harvest started the last week of September and should be active during October if weather permits.

In Florida, crop progress has been mostly good with planting for fall harvest still active in southern areas. Harvest of pole beans continues active with all areas of the State expected to be in bush bean production by November 1. The Pompano-Dade district will furnish the bulk of the fall bush bean volume, starting about mid-October.

The California fall crop is progressing favorably. Supplies will be available in moderate volume during October and the first half of November from the south and central coasts. Production should decline after mid-November.

BROCCOLI: The 1973 prospective acres for harvest during the fall quarter is placed at 16,250 acres, 39 percent more than the fall of last year. Based on historic average yields, production is expected to total 1,089,000 cwt. which would be 45 percent more than the same period in 1972.

Heavy rains in Texas during September have delayed planting. Only a small acreage has been planted and poor stands are expected in some areas because of flooding. Harvest is expected to begin near mid-October in Arizona. Volume movement is expected by late December with supplies available until near the end of March. Broccoli is in good supply in Oregon. Harvest conditions are excellent.

California broccoli is moving in good volume from the Salinas area where harvest should continue very active through November. Harvest in the Santa Maria area is increasing. Peak harvest from both the Santa Maria area and South Coast districts is not expected until December.

CABBAGE: Prospective acres for harvest during the 1973 fall quarter is forecast at 32,550 acres, 12 percent more than the fall quarter of 1972. This acreage, using historic average yields is expected to provide 8,333,000 cwt., an increase of 19 percent from 1972.

In Upstate New York, harvest of Danish type cabbage for storage should be underway about mid-October. Yields on Kraut-varieties are generally low. Recent rains are expected to improve later yields. On Long Island, New York, favorable weather has resulted in good quality supplies of cabbage. Harvest continues active in western Suffolk County while general harvest in eastern Suffolk County will be underway around mid-October. In New Jersey, harvest is moderate. Recent rainfall and cooler temperatures have been beneficial. Current volume is expected to extend through mid-November with final harvest during late November. Cabbage prospects are poor in Pennsylvania as blackleg infestation reduced quality and yields. Plants were severely damaged in some fields. The crop is in good condition in Ohio and should respond favorably to late September rainfall.

Indiana's quality and yield were excellent on harvested fields. Ample moisture and sunshine provided favorable growing conditions. Wet weather early in the season has slowed Illinois crop progress. Recent warm, dry weather enabled the crop to mature rapidly. Harvest is proceeding on schedule. In southeast Michigan, hot, dry weather in late August and early September and continued dry soils most of September seriously damaged the crop.

Harvest in Wisconsin is delayed. Fields which replaced acreage lost earlier to Black Rot and Blackleg infestations. Many of the late plantings need 2 or 3 more weeks to develop good sized heads for maximum yield. Kraut packers are finding it difficult to get enough tonnage to fill needs. North Carolina's crop appears to be doing very well. Harvest is expected to start about mid-October with a plentiful supply expected during November and December. In Florida, transplanting is active in all areas as soil conditions permit. Recurring showers in late September, have restricted transplanting and land preparation in Hastings and North Central areas. Early harvest is expected in mid-November, with a fair movement by early December.

Planting of cabbage got underway in South Texas areas in late July and is expected to continue into January. Heavy rains in September delayed some land preparation and seeding. Harvest is expected to start during the latter half of October in the Winter Garden and in November in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Oregon cabbage is in good supply. Weather conditions for harvest have been good. Fall acreage in California has made very good growth. Supplies this fall are expected to be normal. The South Coast and central districts will be in continuous production during the fall months.

CANTALOUPS: The 1973 fall quarter estimate of 2,700 acres for harvest is 2,100 acres less than the 4,800 acres harvested in 1972. Production from this acreage is projected at 284,000 cwt., which would be 40 percent less than the comparable period last year.

Harvest of cantaloups in Arizona is expected to get underway in the central areas mid-October. Fields are in good condition. Cantaloups are planted for fall harvest in the Yuma area this year. Acreage for fall harvest in California is down sharply. The Imperial Valley should start harvest during early October. Supplies are expected to peak during late October, with harvest completed by the end of November.

CARROTS: The 1973 prospective acres for harvest during the fall quarter is forecast at 25,260 acres, 20 percent more than the acres harvested in 1972. Production is projected on basis of historic average yield at 7,426,000 cwt. which would also be 20 percent more than the 1972 fall crop.

In Michigan harvest is moving rapidly and ahead of last year. In Wisconsin, a good crop of carrots is moving to canners. Recent rains have boosted the yields of slicers, dicers and fresh market carrots. Harvest of carrots got underway on the High Plains of Texas in late August. Movement during September was slow due to a weak market. Quality on early fields has varied. Later carrots are making good growth. Movement is expected to increase in October with supplies available until late December.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Winter Garden-San Antonio areas planting got underway in August, but was interrupted by heavy rains in September. Some acreage was lost and had to be replanted while other fields have poor stands. Harvest of early fields should get underway by mid-November. Harvest is now beginning in Washington with fresh market yields heavier than normal. In Oregon, size and quality are good. Carrot movement is increasing from the Salinas Valley of California with generally good quality. Peak harvest activity is expected during November and December. There will be a good volume of carrots available from the South Coast and San Joaquin Valley throughout the fall. Digging is not expected to get underway in the desert areas until early December.

CAULIFLOWER: Prospective acres for harvest in the fall quarter is estimated at 11,340, 2 percent above the same period in 1972. Based on historic average yields fall crop production is expected to be 1,168,000 cwt.--2 percent less than the fall 1972 output.

Hot, dry weather in August delayed New York's Long Island crop development. Harvest began around mid-September and continued light through the month. Volume supplies are expected during October and through November. In Michigan hot, dry weather during late August and much of September seriously damaged the crop. Heavy rains in Texas during September have delayed planting of cauliflower in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Harvest is expected to get underway in Arizona around the first of December. Supplies should be available until next March. Planting is virtually complete. In Oregon, harvest conditions are good. In California, cauliflower is moving in good volume from the Salinas Valley. Light supplies are originating from southern California and the Santa Maria areas. Light supplies are also available from the San Francisco Bay area and the San Joaquin Valley. A strong movement is expected from all California districts during November and December.

CELERY: Fall quarter 1973 celery acreage for harvest is placed at 10,350 acres, 3 percent more than the 1972 crop of 10,030 acres. Production for the fall crop is projected at 5,141,000 cwt. based on average yields in recent years. This would be 3 percent more than last year's crop and 17 percent more than the 1971 crop.

Volume harvest of excellent quality celery remains active in New York. Improved growing conditions in Orange County have resulted in better size and excellent quality. Harvest should continue through October. Celery in Wayne County continues to grow well. Harvest is expected to be completed in early November unless an early freeze occurs. Harvest in Michigan is drawing to a close and is expected to be finished in mid-October.

In Florida, crop condition is generally good despite frequent rains and hot temperatures. Both the Zellwood and the predominant Everglades mucks should begin harvest about November 1 with supplies increasing to full volume during December.

In Washington, harvest is underway. Volume is expected until mid-November. Early fields are yielding well and quality is good. In California, the South Coast area should start harvest during November. Ventura County will furnish most of the celery from the South Coast with lesser amounts available from San Diego and Orange Counties. The Central Coast area is currently in peak volume. Cuttings are expected to be completed in January in the Central Coast districts of Salinas and Santa Maria-Oceano.

SWEET CORN: Prospective acres for harvest during the 1973 fall quarter is estimated at 17,400 acres compared with 19,500 acres harvested during the 1972 fall period. This is 11 percent less than the 1972 acreage harvested. Production of 1,148,000 cwt. is anticipated on the basis of yields in recent years. This would be 22 percent less production than for the same period in 1972.

In New York, harvest is virtually complete in most areas. Michigan's sweet corn is in final harvest stages. Hot weather in August and early September reduced prospects in late planted fields. In Florida, pulling began during the last week of September which is the usual starting date. The Everglades will furnish the bulk of the fall movement, reaching full volume by mid-October. A small acreage at Zellwood should start October 20-25. Oregon's water supplies for irrigation have been short in some areas, but crop prospects remain good.

Harvest of California's crop should become active during October and continue through early November. Currently, good quality corn is being picked in the southern San Joaquin Valley and in the South Coast areas.

CUCUMBERS: The 1973 fall quarter prospective acres for harvest is estimated at 12,100 acres, 10 percent less than the 13,500 acres harvested during the fall quarter of 1972. Based on historic average yields production of 1,137,000 cwt. is expected which would be 14 percent less than the fall 1972 output.

The South Carolina crop is in good condition. Harvest has started in Beaufort and Charleston Counties and should be underway in Jasper County the first week in October. Texas' picking got underway in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area in late September with increased supplies expected in October. Harvest is expected to start in the Lower Valley after mid-October with shipments available into December. Heavy rains in September may cause some replanting and a reduction in acreage if rainfall continues.

In Florida, frequent and often heavy rains have hampered plantings and the crop is somewhat later than usual in most areas. The West Central should furnish light loadings in early October and increase late in the month as the Southwest area gets underway. Supplemental supplies will be available in North Central, North and West Florida areas during the quarter. Peak volume should occur during the last half of November. The fall crop in California has progressed favorably in growth and development. Supplies this fall are expected to be a little above normal. A moderate movement is expected during October and the first half of November. Production should originate mainly from the South Coast. Harvest should decline after mid-November and should end about mid-December.

EGGPLANT: The 1973 prospective acres for harvest in Florida during the fall quarter is placed at 650 acres compared with 800 acres harvested last year. The fall production projection is expected to be 109,000 cwt. 12 percent less than the 1972 crop.

A limited supply should be available from scattered Florida points in the North and West in early October. The major Pompano area crop is expected to make a light start in late October with good volume during November and December. The West Central should supplement Pompano in December as cold weather ends production in other areas.

ESCAROLE: Estimated 1973 fall quarter acreage for harvest of 2,130 is practically unchanged from last year. Production from this acreage is projected at 253,000 cwt. which compares to 256,000 cwt. produced for the 1972 fall crop.

Late September rainfall was beneficial to the Ohio crop after prolonged dry weather conditions. The total acreage planted and to be planted in Florida during the 1973-74 crop year is set at 8,500 acres. During the 1973 fall quarter an estimated 2,100 acres are expected to be harvested, compared with 2,000 during the year-earlier quarter. Light cuttings will begin in early October. Scheduled planting of about equal acreages of escarole and endive should furnish full volume for Thanksgiving and continuing through December.

HONEYDEWS: Prospective acreage for harvest during the 1973 fall quarter is estimated at 500 acres compared with 800 acres harvested during the 1972 fall period. Production of 87,000 cwt. is anticipated on the basis of yields in recent years. This compares to 153,000 cwt. output during the same period in 1972.

Fall melons are making good progress in Arizona. Harvest is expected to get underway in about two weeks. Weather conditions have been generally good. Harvest of California's honeydews from the Imperial Valley started in early October. Harvest is expected to be completed by the end of November. The fall Desert deal is quite small compared to the summer deal in the Central Valley.

LETTUCE: The 1973 fall quarter lettuce acreage for harvest is estimated at 64,400 acres, 8 percent above the 1972 crop of 59,700 acres. Projected production based on average yields in recent years is 12.7 million cwt.--5 percent more than the 1972 fall crop.

In New Jersey, harvest is increasing steadily. The crop is showing good stands and color. Heavy volume is expected to extend through early November with seasonally declining supplies expected until late November. In Florida, plantings of Iceberg and Romaine are up substantially from last fall while seedings of Boston, Bibb and Leaf have held stable. First cuttings of most types are expected to begin about mid-October with Iceberg starting during the first half of November. Supplies should be at full volume through December.

Harvest got underway on the High Plains of Texas in late September. Movement is expected to increase in early October and peak in mid-October. Supplies should be available into November. Heavy rains in September delayed planting in the Winter Garden and San Antonio areas and caused some early plantings to be lost. In the Yuma area of Arizona, early planted fields have good stands. Planting is still active and is expected to continue until December. Harvest is expected to begin during the early part of November. Harvest of lettuce began in the Willcox area of Arizona the last of September. The crop is making good progress in the Salt River Valley areas and harvest is expected to begin by mid-October. In California, harvest is moderately active in the Salinas area. Good volume should continue until November when supplies will decline. Cutting is underway in the Brentwood area and in the San Joaquin Valley. Brentwood shipments should peak in early October. The San Joaquin Valley should be very active by late October or early November. The desert deal should get underway in late November.

ONIONS: The October 1 production estimate for summer States with primarily storage type onions is placed at 20.7 million cwt., 4 percent above last year. Total production of non-storage and storage type summer crop onions is estimated at 23.6 million cwt., 3 percent more than one year ago. Acreage is estimated at 66,050 acres, 12 percent more than the 59,020 acres harvested in 1972.

In New York, Orange County onion harvest was finished by the end of September. Shipments have been steady during the month as supplies also moved into storage. In central and western sections, harvest has progressed rapidly under generally favorable conditions and was complete by the first week in October. With lower yields the crop did not finish as well as expected. Harvest is near completion in Indiana where quality is good.

There are fewer Jumbos, but yields are above average. Harvest in Michigan moved along rapidly and is well ahead of last year. Early fields cured well in hot, dry weather but in later fields curing was slowed by rain. Harvest is virtually complete in Ohio and conditions for harvest were excellent generally. Rain as well as late maturity has delayed harvest in Utah. Many growers in Wisconsin had half of the crop dug and in storage on October 1. There is a wide variation in quality. Four to six inches of rain the last week of September virtually halted harvesting in one district with a large acreage. Colorado's harvest is about half completed with yields about average. The season continues later than normal. In Washington, lifting of good quality onions is in full swing. Most growers have completed 60-70 percent of their harvest with two more weeks to go. Shipments are light at this time, with most of the crop moving into storage. Except for a few showers at the end of the third week, weather has been favorable. Rains during the last half of September slowed the Idaho and eastern Oregon harvest. There was no apparent damage to harvested onions remaining in the fields. Western Oregon's harvest was slowed by rain, but is nearly completed. Harvest of summer onions continues in California. Harvest progressed very rapidly during September in the south and central coasts and San Joaquin Valley. The Tulelake area is just getting a good start on harvest, with good yields indicated. However, yields in the other areas of California are down from an average level. This reflects the late, rainy spring weather plus untimely hot spells during the growing season.

GREEN PEPPERS: Fall quarter acreage for harvest is estimated at 10,600 acres, 5 percent less than the 11,200 acres harvested during the same quarter in 1972. Based on historic average yields, this acreage is expected to provide production of 1,155,000 cwt. which is 15 percent less than the year earlier output.

In New Jersey, recent rainfall has been beneficial, but cooler temperatures have slowed maturity. Harvest is declining with moderate supplies moving to market. In Florida, crop condition is fair to good with hot, wet weather causing increased spraying and other cultural activity. The important Pompano and Southwest areas should commence harvest during October 22-26, and will be supplemented by a lesser volume from the North Central area. Full volume is expected by mid-November, continuing into the winter quarter.

Heavy rains in Texas during September have caused poor stands in some fields in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Harvest is expected to commence in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area in mid-October and in the Lower Valley in late October or early November. Excessive rainfall has resulted in extensive spraying operations to control diseases. In California, harvest is currently very active in the Santa Clara Valley and San Joaquin district. Some supplies are also available from the South Coast area. Generally, above normal supplies will be available until early November--with seasonally declining supplies until December.

SPINACH: The fall estimates of 2,460 acres for harvest is 17 percent more than the 2,100 acres harvested in 1972. Production is projected at 135,000 cwt., and compares with 125,000 cwt. produced for the fall crop last year.

In New Jersey, recent rain and cooler temperatures have been beneficial for crop development. Supplies are expected to be mostly light to moderate through mid-November. Texas' planting was underway in September in the Winter Garden area with rains interrupting seeding throughout the month. Harvest of early fields is expected to start in the Winter Garden area in November. No significant volume is expected from the small acreage in the Lower Rio Grande Valley until after the first of the year.

In California, fall supplies of market spinach are expected to be normal. The crop has progressed favorably during the last two months. Fall production will originate mainly from the South Coast.

TOMATOES: The 1973 prospective acres for harvest during the fall quarter is placed at 27,500 acres as compared to 29,300 harvested last year. Based on historic average yields production is expected to total 4,208,000 cwt., 4 percent less than the high yielding 1972 crop.

In New York, harvest is nearing completion in all areas. Light supplies should be available into early October or until a killing frost occurs. Harvest of Indiana's crop is later than normal. Quality has been good and yields are above average over most of the State. In Florida, growers have indicated a sharp reduction in plantings for the entire 1973-74 season. A greater portion of the acreage is expected to be staked, with the use of plastic mulch also continuing to increase. Light picking from earliest fall planting should begin about mid-October with good volume expected during November and December, and continuing into the winter quarter.

Alabama's tomato crop is about 2-3 weeks late and harvest therefore is running later than usual. Heavy rains in Texas during September have caused some early plantings to be lost. Spraying is underway in many fields to fight diseases which have become prevalent since fields have been unusually wet. Rains have caused poor growing conditions and may delay the start of harvest by two weeks or more. Harvest of California's fall tomato crop is currently in good volume from the Central Coast and San Joaquin Valley. The South Coast should furnish a good production during October and November -- with declining movement in December. Prospects for fall supplies are good in all major districts.