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INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST - SPRING QUARTER APRIL 1, 1976

Prospective acres for harvest for 14 fresh market vegetables during the spring quarter of 1976 (April, May and June) are placed at 245,900 acres, 7 percent more than the 230,200 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1975. Potential production for these 14 crops based on the average yield for the last three years is projected at 40.4 million cwt. This would be 2 percent more than the 1975 spring quarter output of 39.5 million cwt. The 14 crops included in this group are snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, escarole, lettuce, green peppers, spinach and tomatoes.

Melon acreage for harvest including cantaloup, honeydew melons and watermelon in the spring quarter of 1976 is estimated at 119,900 acres, 25 percent above the 1975 spring quarter total of 96,000 acres. A projection of average yields per acre for the past three years for these crops indicates a potential production of 15.8 million cwt., 22 percent more than the spring quarter a year earlier.

Prospective acreage of asparagus for harvest during the 1976 season is estimated at 81,400 acres, down 8 percent from 1975. The 1976 acreage of strawberries for harvest in the spring seasonal group of States is set at 21,900 acres, down 3 percent from the same period last year.

The second forecast of the spring onion crop for Texas is placed at 4,200,000 cwt., 41 percent more than the 1975 crop but down 5 percent from the March 1 forecast. Estimates for all spring crop onion States will be published on May 7, 1976.

This release is the first publication under the recently announced Fresh Market Vegetables program changes to be implemented in 1976. Pages 11 and 12 outline the program changes for each State.

PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST AND INDICATED PRODUCTION, BY
CROPS, SPRING QUARTER 1/, UNITED STATES, 1976 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP	SPRING AREA			SPRING PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST	1974	1975	INDICATED 1976 <u>2</u> /
	1974	1975	1976			
	ACRES			1,000 CWT		
WINTER	196,100	172,580	183,530	34,811	33,715	34,463
SPRING:						
SNAP BEANS	21,500	21,000	22,400	753	732	762
BROCCOLI <u>3</u> /	11,900	13,000	14,800	1,071	1,105	1,184
CABBAGE <u>3</u> /	17,950	17,050	18,400	3,491	3,525	3,625
CARROTS <u>3</u> /	17,100	14,600	17,800	4,539	3,592	4,219
CAULIFLOWER <u>3</u> /	4,600	4,600	5,200	414	414	432
CELERY <u>3</u> /	9,000	8,950	9,600	4,154	4,362	4,550
SWEET CORN	31,100	32,900	39,700	3,477	3,546	4,208
CUCUMBERS	16,900	17,300	17,800	1,629	1,776	1,744
EGGPLANT	750	850	900	180	213	219
ESCAROLE	2,110	1,960	2,060	296	277	301
LETTUCE	47,900	60,100	53,800	12,489	14,508	13,127
GREEN PEPPERS <u>3</u> /	8,200	9,100	10,700	970	1,030	1,241
SPINACH	1,050	1,090	1,240	115	118	138
TOMATOES	28,600	27,700	31,500	4,395	4,280	4,631
<u>TOTAL 14 VEGETABLES</u>	<u>218,660</u>	<u>230,200</u>	<u>245,900</u>	<u>37,973</u>	<u>39,478</u>	<u>40,381</u>
CANTALOUPS	22,400	18,000	24,600	2,957	2,068	3,075
HONEYDEW MELONS	2,100	2,200	3,500	231	286	445
WATERMELONS	81,200	75,800	91,800	10,504	10,610	12,301
TOTAL MELONS	105,700	96,000	119,900	13,692	12,964	15,821
TOTAL SPRING CROP	324,360	326,200	365,800	51,665	52,442	56,202

1/ APRIL, MAY, JUNE.

2/ BASED ON AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE, 1973-75.

3/ FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING ARE BOTH INCLUDED IN ALL OF THE TOTALS FOR THESE CROPS IN THIS REPORT.

AREA INTENTIONS BY SPECIFIED PLANTING PERIODS AND PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST,
SPRING QUARTER, BY STATES, 1976 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP AND STATE	AREA PLANTED AND TO BE PLANTED FOR SPECIFIED PLANTING PERIODS			SPRING AREA HARVESTED			
	PLANTING PERIOD	YEAR OF PLANTING		INTENDED	1974	1975	FOR HARVEST
		1974	1975	1976			1976
ACRES							
CABBAGE:							
CALIF	NOV-FEB	3,000	3,300	3,000	3,000	3,300	3,000
FLA	SEP-MAR	19,600	17,400	18,200	5,400	5,000	5,000
GA	DEC-JUL	3,800	3,800	4,000	2,500	2,400	2,900
N J	MAR-AUG	4,900	5,000	5,300	800	800	800
N C	JAN-MAR	2,400	2,300	2,500	2,200	2,100	2,400
OHIO	FEB-APR	450	500	550	450	450	500
TEX	APR-JAN	21,000	17,300	20,500	3,600	3,000	3,800
SUBTOTAL		55,150	49,600	54,050	17,950	17,050	18,400
MINOR STATES <u>1/</u>		1,970	1,980		1,850	1,880	
DISCONTINUED STATES <u>2/</u>		4,650	4,020		2,510	2,290	
GRAND TOTAL		61,770	55,600		22,310	21,220	
CANTALOUPS:							
ARIZ	JAN-APR	6,900	7,000	7,500	5,500	2,000	6,000
CALIF	DEC-MAR	7,900	7,500	8,200	7,900	7,500	8,200
TEX	JAN-MAR	9,300	9,300	11,100	9,000	8,500	10,400
GROUP TOTAL		24,100	23,800	26,800	22,400	18,000	24,600
CELERY							
CALIF - S COAST	JUL-APR	10,200	10,600	10,100	4,400	4,700	4,800
C COAST	JAN-SEP	8,600	8,050	8,500	500	550	600
FLA	AUG-APR	12,200	11,500	10,500	4,100	3,700	4,200
GROUP TOTAL		31,000	30,150	29,100	9,000	8,950	9,600
ESCAROLE:							
FLA	AUG-MAR	7,900	7,000	6,900	1,400	1,400	1,500
N J	MAR-AUG	1,400	1,500	1,300	510	460	460
OHIO	APR-SEP	1,470	1,150	1,000	200	100	100
GROUP TOTAL		10,770	9,650	9,200	2,110	1,960	2,060
HONEYDEW MELONS:							
TEX	JAN-MAR	2,300	2,300	3,600	2,100	2,200	3,500
TOMATOES:							
ALA	APR-JUL	9,300	8,000	8,500	2,600	2,400	2,500
ARK	APR-MAY	3,000	3,300	3,700	1,600	1,500	1,800
CALIF-DESERT	NOV-JAN	2,000	1,600	1,900	2,000	1,600	1,900
OTHER	FEB-JUL	26,700	25,200	24,400	2,400	500	700
FLA	JUL-APR	35,500	31,700	38,200	11,900	12,000	14,700
S C	MAR-APR	8,200	8,400	8,900	5,500	6,100	6,400
TEX - S TEX	DEC-MAR	1,700	2,700	2,300	1,400	2,300	2,100
OTHER	MAR-JUN	4,500	4,700	5,000	1,200	1,300	1,400
SUBTOTAL		90,900	85,600	92,900	28,600	27,700	31,500
MINOR STATES <u>1/</u>		4,000	3,750		2,300	2,150	
GRAND TOTAL		94,900	89,350		30,900	29,850	
WATERMELONS:							
ALA	MAR-JUN	14,400	13,700	15,000	2,900	2,900	3,700
ARIZ	JAN-MAR	2,100	2,900	2,700	900	100	1,000
CALIF - DESERT	NOV-MAR	3,300	3,900	3,700	2,700	1,800	2,700
FLA	NOV-MAR	50,000	47,000	61,000	44,500	43,600	55,000
GA	FEB-MAY	31,000	32,200	37,000	3,200	3,400	4,400
TEX	JAN-JUN	55,000	55,000	55,000	27,000	24,000	25,000
GROUP TOTAL		155,800	154,700	174,400	81,200	75,800	91,800

1/ INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES WHICH ARE LIMITED TO END-OF-SEASON ESTIMATES ONLY: CABBAGE - S C, TENN, TOMATOES - GA, LA.

2/ INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES TERMINATED WITH PROGRAM CHANGES EFFECTIVE IN 1976: CABBAGE - ARIZ, LA (MD & VA SPRING COMBINED WITH SUMMER QUARTER), MISS AND MO.

PROSPECTIVE AREA FOR HARVEST, SPRING QUARTER, BY STATES, 1976
WITH COMPARISONS

CROP AND STATE	SPRING AREA			1976 AREAS FOR HARVEST AS PERCENT OF 1975 PERCENT
	HARVESTED		FOR	
	1974	1975	HARVEST 1976	
	ACRES			
SNAP BEANS <u>1/</u> :				
CALIF	700	800	900	113
FLA	12,000	11,500	12,200	106
GA	2,200	2,300	2,500	109
N J	700	700	900	129
N C	2,900	2,800	2,900	104
S C	3,000	2,900	3,000	103
SUBTOTAL	21,500	21,000	22,400	107
MINOR STATE <u>2/</u>	720	800		
DISCONTINUED				
STATES <u>3/</u>	600	500		
GRAND TOTAL	22,820	22,300		
BROCCOLI <u>1/</u> :				
CALIF	11,900	13,000	14,800	114
CARROTS <u>1/</u> :				
ARIZ	1,800	1,000	1,400	140
CALIF - DESERT	5,800	5,200	6,300	121
OTHER	4,400	4,800	4,800	100
TEX - S TEX	5,100	3,600	5,300	147
GROUP TOTAL	17,100	14,600	17,800	122
CAULIFLOWER <u>1/</u> :				
CALIF	4,600	4,600	5,200	113
SWEET CORN <u>1/</u> :				
ALA	1,400	1,400	1,200	86
CALIF	3,400	4,800	6,200	129
FLA	26,300	26,700	32,300	121
SUBTOTAL	31,100	32,900	39,700	121
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	2,800	1,700		
GRAND TOTAL	33,900	34,600		
CUCUMBERS <u>1/</u> :				
CALIF	800	800	800	100
FLA	6,900	7,200	7,400	103
N C	2,300	2,500	2,800	112
S C	4,100	4,100	3,900	95
TEX	2,800	2,700	2,900	107
GROUP TOTAL	16,900	17,300	17,800	103
EGGPLANT <u>1/</u> :				
FLA	750	850	900	106
LETTUCE <u>1/</u> :				
ARIZ - YUMA		4,600	1,400	30
OTHER	6,600	6,500	6,000	92
CALIF	36,400	44,000	40,900	93
FLA	1,900	2,100	2,600	124
N J	1,700	1,700	1,800	106
N MEX	1,300	1,200	1,100	92
GROUP TOTAL <u>3/</u>	47,900	60,100	53,800	90
GREEN PEPPERS <u>1/</u> :				
CALIF	700	500	400	80
FLA	5,500	6,600	7,500	114
TEX	2,000	2,000	2,800	140
SUBTOTAL	8,200	9,100	10,700	118
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	1,300	1,400		
GRAND TOTAL	9,500	10,500		
SPINACH <u>1/</u> :				
CALIF	500	500	650	130
N J	550	590	590	100
SUBTOTAL	1,050	1,090	1,240	114
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	1,350	1,450		
GRAND TOTAL	2,400	2,540		

SEE FOOTNOTES ON PAGE 5.

AREA AND ESTIMATED PRODUCTION REPORTED TO DATE, 1976 WITH COMPARISON

CROP AND STATE	AREA			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED		FOR	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	IND 1976
	1974	1975	HARVEST 1976						
	ACRES			CWT.			1,000 CWT.		
ASPARAGUS <u>4/</u> :									
CALIF	44,100	38,200	33,900	29	28		1,279	1,070	
ILL	7,200	6,800	5,600	12	14		86	95	
MICH	17,000	17,800	18,700	15	11		255	196	
N J	6,800	4,600	3,000	13	14		88	64	
WASH	23,400	*21,000	20,200	29	27		679	567	
SUBTOTAL	98,500	88,400	81,400	24	23		2,387	1,992	
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	13,270	13,470		15	10		201	137	
DISCONTINUED STATES <u>3/</u>	720	700		22	17		16	12	
GRAND TOTAL	112,490	102,570		25	21		2,604	2,141	
ONIONS <u>5/</u> :									
SPRING									
ARIZ	2,000	1,400		410	490		820	686	
CALIF	5,400	4,600		335	345		1,809	1,587	
TEX	21,000	17,000	24,000	170	175	175	3,570	2,975	4,200
GROUP TOTAL	28,400	23,000		218	228		6,199	5,248	
STRAWBERRIES <u>4/</u> :									
WINTER	1,300	1,200	1,400	135	165	155	176	198	217
SPRING									
CALIF	8,900	10,000	10,800	430	380	390	3,827	3,800	4,212
MICH	3,100	3,000	2,900	57	55		177	165	
OREG	7,200	6,100	5,200	57	68		410	415	
WASH	3,600	3,400	3,000	63	68		227	231	
SUBTOTAL	22,800	22,500	21,950	204	205		4,641	4,611	
MINOR STATES <u>2/</u>	10,300	10,600		36	38		373	398	
DISCONTINUED STATES <u>3/</u>	5,240	5,480		27	39		142	213	
GROUP TOTAL	38,340	38,580		134	135		5,156	5,222	
U S TOTAL	39,640	39,780		135	136		5,332	5,420	

1/ ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR SPECIFIED PERIODS ARE NOT ESTIMATED NATIONALLY.

2/ SNAP BEANS-ALA; SWEET CORN-TEX; GREEN PEPPERS-LA; SPINACH-MD, VA; ASPARAGUS-DEL, IND, IOWA, MD, MINN, OREG, AND VA; STRAWBERRIES-ARK, LA, N J, N Y, N C, OHIO, PA, AND WIS.

3/ SNAP BEANS-LA, (MD & VA SPRING COMBINED WITH SUMMER QUARTER); LETTUCE-N Y SPRING COMBINED INTO SUMMER QUARTER; ASPARAGUS-MASS, OHIO; STRAWBERRIES-ILL, IND, KY, MD, MASS, MO, OKLA, TENN, AND VA.

4/ INCLUDES FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING.

5/ PRIMARILY FRESH MARKET.

* REVISED.

ASPARAGUS: Prospective acreage for harvest is estimated at 81,400 compared with 88,400 acres in 1975. In New Jersey soil moisture is generally adequate although some local areas are becoming dry. The early harvest is expected to get underway about mid-April.

With a mild winter, the 1976 Illinois asparagus crop survived the winter in good condition however a decrease in this year's acreage is expected. In Michigan, mild winter weather and an adequate supply of moisture in March aided asparagus development. In California, yields have been good and processors are now receiving good volume.

In Washington, adequate soil moisture and late winter weather have been conducive to good production prospects. Cutting will be a few days later than usual due to wet, cold conditions around April 1.

SNAP BEANS: The prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter of 1976 is placed at 22,400 acres, 7 percent more than the 21,000 acres harvested in 1975. Based on a three year average yield, this crop is projected at 762,000 cwt., which would be 4 percent more than the 1975 spring crop.

Early land preparation is now underway in Southern New Jersey. Early planting is expected to begin by mid-April with harvest starting in early June. Spring planting in North Carolina is ahead of normal. Weather has been very favorable so far this year.

In Florida, the southeast area is supplying a steady volume of variable quality beans. Quality is very good to excellent in the Pompano area, but fair to poor in Dade County. Plant condition is fair in the west central area with some wind damage.

In California, the growing season has been favorable for the new spring crop. Normal supplies are expected during May and June. Most of the spring supplies will come from the South Coast with only limited production expected from the other districts.

BROCCOLI: Prospective acres for harvest during the 1976 spring quarter for California is placed at 14,800 acres, 14 percent more than the 13,000 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1975. Production is projected at 1.2 million cwt. which would be 7 percent more than the 1975 crop.

The crop has progressed well with very favorable weather. Harvest and shipment is expected to remain active through April and May with volume declining through June.

CABBAGE: Prospective acreage for harvest during the 1976 spring quarter is placed at 18,400 acres, 8 percent more than the 17,050 acres harvested during the same quarter in 1975. Based on a three year average yield, this acreage is expected to produce 3.6 million cwt. which would be 3 percent more than the 1975 spring crop.

In New Jersey, soils are becoming dry in some areas; however land preparation is well advanced for the early planted acreage. Some transplanting has been completed and activity is expected to increase during early April. Early harvest is expected to begin in early June.

In North Carolina the crop is off to a good start. Soil moisture has been adequate and temperatures warmer than normal. In Florida, harvest is now active in all areas with Hastings and the North Central growing areas providing most of the volume. Supplies should continue well into April before declining. Quality has been variable but is improving on later plantings. Yields are fair, but well below the high yields of a year ago. Transplanting is about complete in all areas.

Plant setting in Ohio started in late February peaking the first two weeks in March, and was finished by April 1. Some freeze damage occurred in late March. Early season weather conditions generally have been more advanced than normal but with some limited moisture conditions.

Harvest is now in the latter stages in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas but supplies are expected to continue through May. Supplies will also be available from the San Antonio-Winter Garden and Trans-Pecos areas during the spring quarter.

In California, plantings for spring harvest have progressed favorable during the winter. Continuous production is expected during the spring quarter, with most supplies originating from the South Coast but supplemented by the Central Coast.

CANTALOUPS: The 1976 prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter is estimated at 24,600 acres, 37 percent more than the 18,000 acres harvested in 1975. Production from this acreage is projected at 3.1 million cwt., which would be 49 percent more than the comparable period of last year.

Spring cantaloups are making good growth in Texas. Harvest is expected to get underway in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas in early May. At Laredo, the crop is making satisfactory progress. In the Winter Garden area, planting is nearing completion with early fields beginning to emerge.

Planting began in January in Arizona and is expected to continue into April. Earlier planted fields are up to good stands. A warm winter accelerated early germination; however, a recent cool spell slowed germination of later plantings and retarded growth. Harvest is expected to begin in May in the Central areas and June in the Western areas. Supplies are expected to be available into July in both areas.

Occasional windstorms in California have caused a few problems. However, growth is very good in the majority of the fields due to the generally favorable weather. Mid-May should see the start of early shipments, with peak production in June, and a sharp reduction in supplies in July.

CARROTS: The 1976 prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter is estimated at 17,800 acres, 22 percent more than the 14,600 acres harvested in 1975. Projected 1976 spring production based on the recent three year average yield is placed at 4.2 million cwt., 17 percent more than the 1975 spring crop. Spring acreage for harvest is above last year in Arizona, the California Desert and South Texas areas.

Carrot digging will remain active in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas through May. Supplies should also remain available from the San Antonio Winter Garden area into May, where cool weather has slowed growth. Arizona carrot harvest is active, but has not yet reached full volume. Harvest is expected to extend well into June with peak digging expected in mid-to-late May.

California Desert carrots are in good supply. Harvesting should remain active through April and May, but will slow in June. California carrot plantings in non-Desert areas are now complete. Some very early planted fields are being harvested now, but production is light. Major harvesting will begin by mid-May and peak activity is expected in June.

CAULIFLOWER: In California, the prospective acreage for harvest during the 1976 spring quarter is placed at 5,200 acres, 13 percent above the 1975 spring quarter total of 4,600 acres. Spring crop production is expected to be 432,000 cwt. based on a three year average yield. This would be 4 percent more than last year's production.

California's crop is in good supply with good demand at this time. General quality is good. Production should hold firm through May and then begin a decline in June.

CELERY: Prospective acres for harvest during the 1976 spring quarter is estimated at 9,600 compared with 8,950 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1975. A production of 4.6 million cwt. is projected based on a three year average yield which would be 4 percent more than the same period of 1975.

In Florida, volume supplies are available from the Everglades and Central areas. Quality is fair to good. Harvest should continue steady through April and decline seasonally through May and June. Transplanting is nearing completion in the Everglades and continues active in the Zellwood area.

In California, most shipments for the spring quarter will be from the South Coast-Oxnard area with some additional production from Orange County. Harvest in the Central Coast will start in June. Peak volume will occur during October and November in the Central district.

SWEET CORN: Prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter is estimated at 39,700 acres, 21 percent more than the 32,900 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1975. Production from this crop is expected to be 4.2 million cwt. based on a three year average yield. This would be 19 percent more than the 1975 crop.

Dade County and the Pompano areas of Florida are providing most of the current volume from that State. Quality and yields are very good. Harvest activity should remain steady until the Everglades spring crop becomes active around mid-April. The crop in the Everglades and Central areas is growing rapidly and prospects indicate a good crop.

Rainfall in Alabama has delayed planting and land preparation during March. Recent warm weather has been favorable for germination. Early stands are good.

Warm, sunny and mild California weather has put the crop ahead of its normal pace this year. Desert sweet corn is expected to begin reaching the market in early May. Kern County is expected to reach production in June.

CUCUMBERS: Acres for harvest during the 1976 spring quarter is placed at 17,800 acres, 3 percent more than the 17,300 acres harvested in spring of 1975. This acreage is expected to provide 1.7 million cwt. for spring quarter production based on a three year average yield--2 percent less than in the comparable period of 1975.

North Carolina plantings are about one week to ten days ahead of normal. Soil moisture is adequate and the weather has generally been favorable.

In Florida, crop condition and growth are very good in southern areas. Light harvest is underway but with low yields. Good volume is expected by mid-April. Wind damaged some fields in central areas where the crop condition is fair to good.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, crop growth is making good progress. Harvest is expected to get underway in mid-April. In the Coastal Bend area, picking should start in mid or late April. The irrigated crop is making good progress, and rains in late March have improved the outlook for the dry-land crop which has been under some stress due to drought conditions. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area, harvest should get underway in late April or early May.

In California, the weather was favorable during the winter months for crop growth and development. Supplies for the spring quarter are expected to be normal with the South Coast harvest now underway. Other districts are not expected to start until mid-May.

EGGPLANT: In Florida, spring acreage for harvest is estimated at 900 acres compared with 850 acres last year. Based on the recent 3 year average yield, production is projected at 219,000 cwt., 3 percent more than the production obtained with the 1975 spring crop.

In Florida, plant condition is very good in the Pompano area. Harvest is increasing and should peak in late April. There has been some wind scarring of fruit. Plant condition is good in the west central area.

ESCAROLE: Acres for harvest during the 1976 spring quarter is placed at 2,060 acres, 5 percent more than the 1,960 acres harvested in the spring quarter of 1975. Based on a three year average yield, production is expected to total 301,000 cwt., 9 percent more than the 1975 crop.

In New Jersey land preparation is well advanced although several areas are somewhat dry. Early transplanting is expected to be active the first week of April. Harvest is expected to begin during late May.

In Florida, harvest continues steady in the Everglades. Cutting should start in the Central area in early April. Good supplies should be available into May, then decline seasonally. Plantings are complete in the Everglades and are nearing completion in the Central area.

Land preparation is underway in the producing areas of Ohio. However, no seeding is expected until about mid-April.

LETTUCE: Spring quarter prospective acreage for harvest in 1976 is placed at 53,800 acres, 10 percent less than the 60,100 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1975. Projected 1976 spring production, based on three year average yields, totals 13.1 million cwt., 10 percent below the 1975 spring production. Spring acreage is significantly lower in Arizona and California.

In New Jersey transplanting and direct seeding is well advanced. Soils are becoming dry in some areas. Early harvest is expected to begin about mid-May.

In Florida, Iceberg and Romaine are in good supply. Light to moderate volume of Boston, bibb and leaf types are available in the Everglades. Light volume is coming from the Central area. Quality is generally good. Plantings are virtually complete in the Everglades and are nearing completion in the Central area.

New Mexico's crop is in excellent condition in all areas. Early harvest is expected to begin in the Mesilla Valley in late April.

Harvest in the Yuma, Arizona area began in November and has continued steadily. Supplies are expected to be available through most of April. Planting outside of the Yuma area was completed in late February. The crop is up to a good stand with limited harvest now underway. Thinning is still active in the Cochise County area with peak harvest expected in late April or early May.

Planting in California was under nearly ideal conditions. Harvest is underway in the Oxnard and Santa Maria areas and just beginning in the Lower San Joaquin Valley. The Salinas area is expected to get underway about April 15.

HONEYDEW MELONS: The 1976 spring quarter prospective acreage in Texas is estimated at 3,500 acres, 59 percent more than the 2,200 acres harvested in the spring quarter of 1975. Production for the spring crop is projected at 445,000 cwt., 56 percent more than the 1975 spring crop.

The crop is making good progress in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas where acreage has been increased sharply this spring. A small crop will be grown in the Laredo area this season. Harvest is expected to get underway in early May with some supplies available into July.

ONIONS: The spring onion crop in Texas is estimated at 4.2 million cwt., 41 percent more than the 1975 crop of 3.0 million cwt. but down 5 percent from the March 1 forecast.

In the Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley, harvest gained momentum in early March and by late March shipments were running near 170 carlot equivalents per day. Yields from early fields have been disappointing because of excessive seedstems. Yields from later fields are expected to improve as growers start harvesting the heavier yielding varieties. Weather has been near ideal with harvest progressing rapidly. Shipments should continue to increase in April with peak movement occurring in mid-April. Supplies will be available in May and June from the later varieties. At Laredo, onions made good growth during March as warm, dry weather prevailed. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden, onions made fair to good growth. Dry weather did necessitate irrigation of most fields. Harvest got underway in March, but volume is expected to remain light until mid-April when moderate supplies should become available.

GREEN PEPPERS: The 1976 spring quarter acreage for harvest is placed at 10,700 acres, up 18 percent from the 9,100 acres harvested in the spring quarter of 1975. Production for the 1976 spring crop, based on average yields, is placed at 1.2 million cwt., 20 percent more than 1975 spring production.

In Florida, the southwest and southeast areas are providing good supplies of good quality. Harvest should increase in early April. In central areas, plants on plastic are in good condition. Older plants are now setting.

The majority of the Texas spring crop will be grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley where harvest is expected to commence around May 1. Only a small acreage will be planted in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area. Planting has been completed in southern California, where the majority of production in that State is centered. Continued good weather is expected to allow harvest to start in late April or early May.

SPINACH: Prospective acres for harvest during the 1976 spring quarter is placed at 1,240 acres, 14 percent more than harvested during the spring quarter of 1975. The 1976 spring production, based on average yield of the past three years is projected at 138,000 cwt., 17 percent more than the 1975 spring crop.

In New Jersey, soil moisture is becoming low in some areas. Early harvest is expected to get underway about mid-April, about 10 days ahead of normal. In California, February and March weather have been favorable for crop growth and development. Normal supplies are expected during the spring quarter. The South Coast will furnish most of the spring production.

STRAWBERRIES: The 1976 acreage for harvest in the spring seasonal group of States is estimated at 21,900 acres, 3 percent less than the 22,500 acres harvested in 1975.

March temperatures in Michigan have been above normal and beneficial to the crop. Soil moisture is good. There was little winter damage. Harvest is expected to begin about the first of June. Picking of California's crop began in early February in the South Coast. Harvest is currently underway in the Santa Maria-Oceano district with good yields expected. The Salinas and San Joaquin Valleys will begin about mid-April.

A very mild winter with normal precipitation in western Oregon has stimulated good plant growth. A larger than normal portion of the acreage is older plantings due to limited new plantings last spring. In Washington, plants came through the very wet, but relatively mild, winter in good condition. Some water damage is evident in low areas but generally plants are making good growth.

TOMATOES: The 1976 spring quarter acreage for harvest is placed at 31,500 acres, 14 percent more than the 27,700 acres harvested during the 1975 spring quarter. Production for the 1976 spring crop is projected at 4.6 million cwt. based on the average yield for the past three years. This is 8 percent more than the 1975 spring crop.

In Florida, production is below normal levels because of the small size of the fruit being harvested. Most of the volume is coming from the Dade County and southwest areas. Volume is steady. The crop is in very good condition in the Palmetto-Ruskin area, which should provide the bulk of May and early June production.

Growers in the southern commercial area in Alabama have been planting actively the last two weeks of March. Heavy rains have delayed progress and planting is just starting in central and northern Alabama. The crop is making good growth in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. A heavy frost did some damage to plant population, but most fields still have adequate stands. Harvest is expected to get underway in late April.

Planting is complete in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area. Some replanting is underway in Central Texas where plants were lost because of freeze damage suffered in March. Field setting is active in both East and North Texas. Planting will get underway on the High Plains in late April or early May. Production from California's Imperial Valley is expected to begin about mid-April, with increasing activity peaking in June.

South Coastal California acreage was planted early and growth is very good. The Central Valley crop is also being planted earlier this year. First supplies are expected mid-May.

WATERMELONS: Prospective acreage for harvest during the 1976 spring quarter is estimated at 91,800 acres, 21 percent more than the 75,800 acres harvested during the same quarter in 1975. Production for the 1976 spring crop, based on the average yield for the past three years, is projected at 12.3 million cwt., 16 percent more than the 1975 spring crop.

In Florida where acreage has been increased sharply this spring, the crop is a little later than usual. Harvest is expected to begin in the Southwest area by mid-April. Fruit set and size on early plantings are fair, but should improve on later plantings. In the West Central areas, plants are making good growth. Harvest is expected to start by mid-May, and progress northward and westward, reaching the peak in June.

Planting has started in Alabama in the extreme southern counties. Planting is complete in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Most acreage has been planted in the Coastal Bend and Winter Garden area where the early fields are vining. Irrigated watermelons are making good progress, but dryland melons are showing stress in many areas from the lack of rainfall. Seeding is underway in East Texas where excessive rainfall has prevented some growers from planting. Planting will get underway in North Texas in April and on the High Plains in May. First supplies are expected to come from South Texas beginning in May.

Planting in Arizona is complete. Early germination was good due to the unusually warm winter, but cool weather retarded germination of later plantings and slowed vine growth. Harvest is expected to begin in May, peak in June, with supplies available through early August.

California plantings are complete in the Imperial and Palo Verde Valleys. Good weather conditions and irrigation has kept the development slightly ahead of schedule. Peak harvest is expected during the first two weeks of June.

Changes in the Statistical Reporting Service Fresh Market Vegetable program were announced by t USDA on April 1, 1976. A major change being implemented with this report is the reclassification of all fresh market vegetable estimates as follows:

1. Major - Includes about 95% of current total U.S. production. State crop forecasts and estimates for these States will continue in the regular program of seasonal reports as usual.
2. Limited - Includes about 5% of current total U.S. production. Crop forecasts and estimates for the States will be limited to only annual estimates in December (by season).
3. Eliminated - Estimates for individual vegetable crops for those States generally producing less than 1 percent of the U.S. total in 1975 or having a value below \$1 million in each State are being terminated.

X = Major

O = Limited

- = Eliminated

	AL	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA	ID	IL	IN	IA	KY	LA	MD	MA	MI
ARTICHOKES				X														
ASPARAGUS				X		O					X	O	O			O	-	X
SNAP BEANS	O			X		-		X	X						-	X	-	X
BROCCOLI		O		X														
BRUSSELS SPROUTS				X														
CABBAGE		-		X	X	-		X	X	O	O	X			-	O	O	X
CANTALOUPS		X		X	O				X			X						O
CARROTS		X		X	O						O					-	X	O
CAULIFLOWER		O		X														O
CELERY				X				X										X
SWEET CORN	X			X	O	X		X			X						X	X
CUCUMBERS				X				X								O		O
EGGPLANT								X										
ESCAROLE								X										
GARLIC				X														
HONEY DEWS		X		X														
LETTUCE		X		X	X	-		X									-	O
ONIONS		X		X	X					X		-						X
GREEN PEPPER				X				X						X	O		-	O
SPINACH				X	X													O
TOMATOES	X		X	X	-	-		X	O		-	X		O	O	O	O	X
WATERMELONS	X	X	O	X			O	X	X			X			-	O		
STRAWBERRIES			O	X				X			-	-		-	O	-	-	X

CONTINUED

	MS	MO	NJ	NM	NY	NC	OH	OK	OR	PA	SC	TN	TX	UT	VA	WA	WI	NH
ARTICHOKES																		
ASPARAGUS			X				-		O						O	X		
SNAP BEANS			X		X	X	O			O	X	X			X			
BROCCOLI									X				O					
BRUSSELS SPROUTS																		
CABBAGE	-	-	X		X	X	X		O	X	O	O	X		X	O	X	
CANTALOUPE							-				O		X					
CARROTS			O		X		O		X				X			X	X	
CAULIFLOWER					X				X				O					
CELERY					X		O										O	
SWEET CORN		-	X		X	X	X		O	X	-		O		O	O		-
CUCUMBERS			X		X	X					X		X		X			
EGGPLANT			X															
ESCAROLE			X				X											
GARLIC																		
HONEY DEWS													X					
LETTUCE			X	X	X		O		-				X			O	O	
ONIONS			X	X	X		X		X				X	X		X	X	
GREEN PEPPER			X			X	O						X					
SPINACH			X										X		O			
TOMATOES		-	X		X	X	O			O	X	X	X		X	-		
WATERMELONS	X	O				X		X			X		X					
STRAWBERRIES		-	O		O	O	O	-	X	O		-			-	X	O	