

vegetables - fresh market



Release:
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ACREAGE AND ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF SELECTED COMMERCIAL CROPS March 1, 1974

ASPARAGUS: California's 1974 crop of asparagus is estimated at 44,100 acres compared with 45,000 acres harvested last year. Cutting is underway in the desert areas of Southern California, with some production loss due to high winds and blowing sand. Harvest is just beginning in the San Joaquin-Salinas areas, after being delayed by cold weather. The Sacramento Valley crop is progressing normally. Production prospects are expected to be below normal.

ONIONS: The Texas spring crop is forecast at 3,675,000 cwt., 18 percent more than 1973. Texas acreage for harvest is estimated at 21,000 acres compared with 19,500 acres in 1973. Prospective yield at 175 cwt. is up 9 percent from the 160 cwt. last year.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley the onion crop made excellent growth during January and February as a result of near ideal weather conditions. Most fields have excellent stands with only a few thin stands caused by heavy rains shortly after planting. Some doubles and splits may cut yields on early fields but overall yield is expected to be good.

Light harvest got underway in early fields in mid-February. Supplies are expected to remain light until mid-March when volume shipments should become available. Peak movement should occur in April with light supplies available into June and July from some late varieties.

In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area cold weather and wind in December reduced stands in a few fields. The crop is currently making good progress with harvest to get underway in late April or early May.

In the Coastal Bend harvest is expected to get underway in mid-April. Some fields have thin stands.

At Laredo, the onion crop is making good growth. Cold weather slowed growth of some fields but the crop is in good condition. Harvest is expected to get started in early April.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
Vg 2-1 (3-74) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Acreage and estimated production reported to date,
1974 with comparisons

Crop and State	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested		For harvest:	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974
	1972	1973	1974						
	Acres			cwt.			1,000 cwt.		
ASPARAGUS <u>1/</u>									
California	45,700	45,000	44,100	34	28		1,554	1,260	Sept. 9
ONIONS <u>1/</u>									
Spring:									
Arizona	1,500	1,600	2,000	430	480		645	768	May 8
California	5,700	5,400	5,400	330	280		1,881	1,512	
Texas	17,500	19,500	21,000	170	160	175	2,975	3,120	3,675
Group Total	24,700	26,500	28,400	223	204		5,501	5,400	
STRAWBERRIES <u>1/</u>									
Winter:									
Florida	1,600	1,400	1,300	125	135	125	200	189	163
Spring:									
California	7,800	8,100	8,400	365	395		2,847	3,200	April 8
Louisiana	1,200	1,100	1,000	60	55		72	61	
Group Total	9,000	9,200	9,400	324	354		2,919	3,261	

See footnote on page 3.

Onions 1/: Prospective planted acreage, by States 1974 with comparisons

State and Season	Planted acreage			1974 as percent of 1973 Percent
	1972	1973	1974	
		Acres		
<u>Spring</u>	25,700	27,500	28,900	105
<u>Summer</u>				
Non storage: 2/				
New Jersey	1,600	1,500	1,400	93
New Mexico	3,300	3,000	3,000	100
Texas	5,700	6,800	6,000	88
Washington	600	600	600	100
Group Total	11,200	11,900	11,000	92
Storage: 3/				
California	18,700	22,800	28,000	123
Colorado	5,400	5,200	5,300	102
Idaho & E. Oregon	9,400	10,700	10,500	98
Indiana	1,000	1,000	1,000	100
Michigan	6,700	6,800	7,000	103
Minnesota	1,000	1,000	1,000	100
New York	13,100	13,900	14,200	102
Ohio	600	670	700	104
West Oregon	2,100	2,100	2,200	105
Utah	1,100	1,200	1,500	125
Washington	1,200	1,300	2,200	169
Wisconsin	1,600	1,500	1,500	100
Group Total	61,900	68,170	75,100	110
Total Summer	73,100	80,070	86,100	108
United States	98,800	107,570	115,000	107

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Primarily onions sold without being placed in storage.

3/ Primarily onions sold out of storage.

Texas Spring Onions: Acreage, yield, and production by areas

Areas	Acres for harvest			Yield per acre			Production		
	1972	1973	1974 1/	1972	1973	1974 1/	1972	1973	1974 1/
	Acres			Cwt.			1,000 cwt.		
Rio Grande Valley:	14,300	14,900	2/16,300	174	161	180	2,486	2,399	2,934
Laredo	500	600	500	200	265	250	100	159	125
Winter Garden 3/	2,700	4,000	2/4,200	144	141	147	389	562	616
Total all areas:	17,500	19,500	21,000	170	160	175	2,975	3,120	3,675

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Includes acreage of late onion varieties that will be harvested after July 1.

3/ Includes San Antonio and Eagle Pass, and Coastal Bend areas.

The spring acreage for harvest in Arizona and California is estimated at 7,400 acres compared with 7,000 acres in 1973. Planting of Arizona spring onions is virtually complete. Harvest in the central and western areas is expected to begin early in May with volume movement by early June. Spring onions in California are making normal development. Stands of the early plantings are very good. Harvest is expected to start in the Imperial Valley in April followed by the San Joaquin Valley in late May.

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The 1974 intended acreage of summer onions to be sold primarily for immediate use (nonstorage) is estimated at 11,000 acres planted, compared with 11,900 acres planted the previous year. In New Mexico, early fields are progressing normally. Planting of seeded acreage in South Jersey is expected to get underway as soils dry. In Texas, planting is underway in the Trans-Pecos area where acreage is expected to be about the same as last year. Transplanting has just started on the High Plains where growers also intend to plant about the same acreage as a year ago.

Intended summer onions for storage are estimated at 75,100 acres compared with 68,170 acres planted in 1973. Planting in California is generally on schedule with some districts ahead of normal. Early planted acreage is making good to excellent growth. In Idaho and Eastern Oregon limited field preparation is taking place due to wet soils. Planting is expected to become active during the later part of March, reaching a peak in early April. In Washington soil moisture for early planting is excellent. Temperatures have been above normal, but nights remain cool. Plantings for Utah may be affected by a longer than normal winter and a prolonged snow cover. No field work has started. Growers expect to begin planting around March 15.

STRAWBERRIES: The winter crop in Florida is forecast at 163,000 cwt., 14 percent less than last year. Harvest is in full swing in the Central and Southeast Districts. Additional supplies will be available in late March and April from a small acreage in North Florida. The cold weather in late February is not expected to cause any appreciable production losses.

The spring crop in California and Louisiana is estimated at 9,400 acres for harvest compared with 9,200 acres harvested in 1973. Harvesting of California strawberries began in early February in San Diego County and supplies are increasing. Picking is just beginning in the Oxnard and Santa Maria-Oceano areas. Harvesting in the Salinas area and the San Joaquin Valley should begin in early April. A hard freeze in Louisiana on February 26 slowed shipments. There have been some disease and mite problems, but the crop generally is in excellent condition and ahead of normal. Volume shipments will not begin until late March.