

# vegetables - fresh market



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## INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR HARVEST - SPRING QUARTER APRIL 1, 1974

Prospective acres for harvest for 14 fresh market vegetables during the spring quarter of 1974 (April, May and June) are placed at 238,240 acres, 5 percent less than the 250,800 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1973. Potential production for these 14 crops based on average yields per acre for recent years, is projected at 37.2 million cwt. This would be 5 percent less than the 1973 spring quarter output of 39.0 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 (cantaloup, honeydew melon and watermelon) in the spring quarter of 1974 is estimated at 110,000 acres, 2 percent below the 1973 spring quarter total of 112,400 acres. A projection of average yields per acre for recent years for these crops would indicate a potential production of 13.4 million cwt., down 9 percent from the spring quarter a year earlier.

Prospective acreage of asparagus for harvest in 1974 is estimated at 112,790 acres down 2 percent from 1973. The 1974 acreage of strawberries for harvest in the spring seasonal group of States is set at 39,410 acres, nearly the same as last year.

The second forecast of the spring onion crop for Texas is placed at 3,675,000 cwt., 18 percent more than the 1973 crop but unchanged from the March 1 forecast. Estimates for all spring crop onions States will be published on May 8, 1974

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

CROP REPORTING BOARD

Vg 2-1 (4-74)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Prospective acreage for harvest and indicated production, by  
crops, Spring Quarter 1/, United States, 1974 with comparisons

Crop	Spring Acreage 1/			Spring Production		
	Harvested		For	1972	1973	Indicated 1974 2/
	1972	1973	harvest 1974			
	Acres			1,000 cwt.		
Winter	194,140	174,230	193,470	31,094	31,076	32,403
Spring:						
Snap Beans	23,950	23,900	24,200	867	775	847
Broccoli 3/	11,500	12,300	12,500	1,093	800	1,038
Cabbage 3/	23,740	25,650	23,080	4,293	4,595	4,108
Carrots 3/	15,900	18,700	17,800	3,877	3,766	4,058
Cauliflower 3/	4,200	3,900	4,600	509	273	446
Celery 3/	8,300	9,100	8,900	3,978	4,302	4,121
Sweet Corn	42,200	39,100	34,100	3,812	4,143	3,137
Cucumbers	18,500	16,500	16,800	1,799	1,559	1,529
Eggplant	750	650	600	154	156	122
Escarole	2,140	2,180	2,310	271	339	314
Lettuce	50,200	51,200	50,700	12,415	12,494	12,371
Green Peppers 3/	9,100	10,100	9,700	905	1,053	912
Spinach	2,040	2,320	2,750	134	157	182
Tomatoes	34,300	35,200	30,200	4,790	4,567	3,986
Total 14 Vegetables	246,820	250,800	238,240	38,897	38,979	37,171
Cantaloups	31,200	26,500	21,500	3,527	3,417	2,623
Honeydew Melons	1,800	2,400	2,100	153	336	252
Watermelons	116,300	83,500	86,400	12,069	11,001	10,541
Total melons	149,300	112,400	110,000	15,749	14,754	13,416
Total Spring-Crop	396,120	363,200	348,240	54,646	53,733	50,587

1/ April, May, and June.

2/ Based on average yield per acre.

3/ Includes fresh market and processing.

Acreage intentions by specified planting periods and prospective acreage for harvest,  
Spring Quarter 1/, by States, 1974 with comparisons

Crop and State	Acreage planted and to be planted for specified planting periods			Spring Acreage 1/			
	Planting period	Year of planting		Intended	1972	1973	For harvest
		1972	1973	1974			1974
		Acres					
<b>Cabbage 2/:</b>							
Arizona	: Aug.-Dec.	1,200	1,000	1,200	540	490	580
California	: Nov.-Feb.	3,300	3,300	3,100	3,300	3,300	3,100
Florida	: Sept.-Mar.	19,100	18,300	19,600	5,400	5,800	5,500
Georgia	: Dec.-July	2,900	3,200	3,300	2,200	2,500	2,600
Louisiana	: Aug.-Feb.	2,300	1,900	1,600	1,000	700	600
Maryland	: Mar.-June	680	680	680	190	200	200
Mississippi	: Jan.-Feb.	700	800	900	700	800	900
Missouri	: Mar.-Sept.	800	730	800	360	550	600
New Jersey	: Mar.-Aug.	4,500	4,700	4,700	700	800	800
North Carolina	: Jan.-Mar.	2,700	2,400	2,300	2,700	2,400	2,300
Ohio	: Feb.-Apr.	420	450	450	400	450	450
South Carolina	: Dec.-Jan.	950	1,100	1,200	850	1,000	1,100
Tennessee	: Feb.-Apr.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	960	1,000
Texas	: Apr.-Jan.	19,500	21,500	20,000	3,400	4,700	2,600
Virginia	: Feb.-Aug.	2,100	1,900	1,900	1,000	1,000	750
Group Total		62,150	62,960	62,730	23,740	25,650	23,080
<b>Cantaloups:</b>							
Arizona	: Jan.-Apr.	10,550	8,700	8,300	9,900	6,900	5,600
California-Desert	: Dec.-Mar.	11,300	9,100	7,400	11,300	9,100	7,400
Texas	: Jan.-Mar.	13,200	11,000	9,300	10,000	10,500	8,500
Group Total		35,050	28,800	25,000	31,200	26,500	21,500
<b>Celery 2/:</b>							
California-S. Coast	: July-Apr.	8,300	9,300	9,900	3,800	4,200	4,200
-other	: Jan.-Sept.	8,800	9,800	8,900	600	600	500
Florida	: Aug.-Apr.	12,600	12,700	12,300	3,900	4,300	4,200
Group Total		29,700	31,800	31,100	8,300	9,100	8,900
<b>Escarole:</b>							
Florida	: Aug.-Mar.	9,200	8,100	8,000	1,700	1,600	1,600
New Jersey	: Mar.-Aug.	1,300	1,300	1,400	310	380	510
Ohio	: Apr.-Sept.	1,100	1,200	1,200	130	200	200
Group Total		11,600	10,600	10,600	2,140	2,180	2,310
<b>Honeydew Melons:</b>							
Texas	: Jan.-Mar.	2,700	2,400	2,300	1,800	2,400	2,100
<b>Tomatoes:</b>							
Alabama	: Apr.-July	8,700	10,000	10,500	2,600	2,000	3,100
Arkansas	: Apr.-May	3,900	2,900	3,500	1,900	400	1,000
California-Desert	: Nov.-Jan.	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
-other	: Feb.-July	28,800	28,800	25,700	2,900	1,700	1,800
Florida	: July-Apr.	44,400	46,700	35,500	12,600	17,600	12,300
Georgia	: Mar.-Apr.	3,400	3,500	4,000	1,400	900	1,400
Louisiana	: Mar.-Apr.	900	800	1,000	800	700	900
South Carolina	: Mar.-Apr.	8,600	8,700	7,700	6,200	5,800	5,100
Texas-Rio Grande	: Dec.-Mar.	3,500	3,000	1,700	2,600	2,500	1,400
Other	: Mar.-June	4,800	6,000	4,500	1,300	1,600	1,200
Group Total		109,000	112,400	96,100	34,300	35,200	30,200
<b>Watermelons:</b>							
Alabama	: Mar.-June	14,500	14,400	14,400	3,500	600	2,900
Arizona	: Jan.-Mar.	4,500	4,300	3,200	3,300	0	1,500
California-Desert	: Nov.-Mar.	4,300	5,500	3,800	4,300	3,800	3,800
Florida	: Nov.-Mar.	61,200	54,700	50,500	56,100	48,700	46,400
Georgia	: Feb.-May	38,000	33,500	32,500	4,300	400	4,800
Texas	: Jan.-June	75,000	65,000	55,000	44,800	30,000	27,000
Group Total		197,500	177,400	159,400	116,300	83,500	86,400

See footnotes on page 5.

Prospective acreage for harvest, Spring Quarter 1/. by States, 1974  
with comparisons

Crop and State	Spring acreage 1/			1974
	Harvested		For harvest	acres for harvest as percent of
	1972	1973	1974	1973
	Acres			Percent
Snap Beans 3/:				
Alabama	900	450	950	211
California	700	600	700	117
Florida	10,800	11,800	11,700	99
Georgia	2,800	2,000	1,800	90
Louisiana	1,100	600	500	83
Maryland	500	550	550	100
New Jersey	500	600	700	117
North Carolina	2,100	3,200	3,400	106
South Carolina	3,100	2,800	2,500	89
Virginia	1,450	1,300	1,400	108
Group Total	23,950	23,900	24,200	101
Broccoli 2/ 3/:				
California	11,500	12,300	12,500	102
Carrots 2/ 3/:				
Arizona	2,600	2,300	1,600	70
California - Desert	4,000	4,600	5,600	122
California - Other	4,700	4,800	4,000	83
Texas - other	4,600	7,000	6,600	94
Group Total	15,900	18,700	17,800	95
Cauliflower 2/ 3/:				
California	4,200	3,900	4,600	118
Sweet Corn 3/:				
Alabama	2,500	1,300	1,800	138
California	4,600	5,100	3,200	63
Florida	30,200	29,900	26,300	88
Texas	4,900	2,800	2,800	100
Group Total	42,200	39,100	34,100	87
Cucumbers 3/:				
California	1,000	800	800	100
Florida	7,800	7,000	6,800	97
North Carolina	1,600	1,800	2,300	128
South Carolina	4,400	4,200	4,100	98
Texas	3,700	2,700	2,800	104
Group Total	18,500	16,500	16,800	102
Eggplant 3/:				
Florida	750	650	600	92
Lettuce 3/:				
Arizona - Yuma	0	2,900	0	0
Other	10,500	9,500	6,600	69
California - other	35,000	33,900	38,800	114
Florida	1,500	1,600	2,000	125
New Jersey	1,700	1,700	1,700	100
New Mexico	1,300	1,200	1,300	108
New York	200	400	300	75
Group Total	50,200	51,200	50,700	99
Green Peppers 2/ 3/:				
California	800	500	500	100
Florida	5,100	6,600	5,900	89
Louisiana	1,400	1,400	1,300	93
Texas	1,800	1,600	2,000	125
Group Total	9,100	10,100	9,700	96
Spinach 3/:				
California	410	400	500	125
Maryland & Virginia	1,130	1,400	1,700	121
New Jersey	500	520	550	106
Group Total	2,040	2,320	2,750	119

See footnotes on page 5.

Acreage and estimated production reported to date, 1974 with comparisons

Crop and State	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested	For harv-		1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974
	1972	1973	est 1974						
	Acres			Cwt.			1,000 cwt.		
Asparagus <sup>2/</sup> :									
California	45,700	45,000	44,100	34	28		1,554	1,260	
Illinois	9,400	8,700	8,200	15	12		141	104	
Massachusetts	500	500	470	23	22		12	11	Sept. 9
Michigan	14,500	15,400	16,600	15	16		218	246	
New Jersey	13,800	10,400	8,300	13	12		179	125	
Oregon	1,100	1,300	1,300	25	21		27	27	
Washington	21,700	22,000	22,200	27	28		586	616	
Other States <sup>4/</sup>	12,370	12,080	11,620	14	13		174	156	
United States	119,070	115,380	112,790	24	22		2,891	2,545	
Onions <sup>2/</sup> :									
Spring									
Arizona	1,500	1,600		430	480		645	768	May 8
California	5,700	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		223	204		5,501	5,400	
Strawberries <sup>2/</sup>									
Winter	1,600	1,400	1,300	125	135	125	200	189	163
Spring:									
Arkansas	1,300	1,300	1,200	25	22		33	29	
California	7,800	8,100	8,900	365	395	380	2,847	3,200	3,382
Illinois	1,100	1,000	950	35	32		39	32	
Indiana	700	650	700	34	29		24	19	June 8
Kentucky	700	600	600	34	28		24	17	
Louisiana	1,200	1,100	1,000	60	55	60	72	61	60
Maryland	570	550	600	30	31		17	17	
Massachusetts	250	250	250	40	40		10	10	
Michigan	4,000	3,400	3,100	53	44		212	150	
Missouri	630	600	480	33	32		21	19	
New Jersey	1,200	1,100	1,100	38	42		46	46	
New York	1,300	1,100	1,000	24	40		31	44	
North Carolina	2,100	2,100	2,100	9	32		19	67	June 8
Ohio	1,700	1,400	1,400	33	30		56	42	
Oklahoma	650	650	650	37	39		24	25	
Oregon	8,600	7,800	8,000	63	62		542	484	
Pennsylvania	1,300	1,300	1,300	31	32		40	42	
Tennessee	860	860	730	29	17		25	15	
Texas <sup>5/</sup>	300	0	0	30	0		9	0	
Virginia	750	600	450	23	19		17	11	
Washington	3,800	3,600	3,600	64	60		243	216	
Wisconsin	1,400	1,400	1,300	23	27		32	38	
Total Spring	42,210	39,460	39,410	104	116		4,383	4,584	
United States	43,810	40,860	40,710	105	117		4,583	4,773	

<sup>1/</sup> April, May and June.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes fresh market and processing.

<sup>3/</sup> Acreage intentions for specific periods are not estimated nationally.

<sup>4/</sup> Mostly for processing; includes Arkansas, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

<sup>5/</sup> Estimates discontinued in 1973.

ASPARAGUS: Prospective acreage for harvest is estimated at 112,790 compared with 115,380 acres in 1973. In Illinois, the crop appears to have survived the winter in good condition. Soil moisture supplies are adequate to surplus. A decrease in this year's acreage is expected. Moisture in Iowa has been favorable but due to the cool weather the crop has made little or no progress. Yields are expected to be less this year due to some reported shortage of fertilizer. Michigan's growers are looking forward to another large acreage increase. Mild winter weather allowed good moisture percolation and only light crown damage. In New Jersey, high production costs and low yields are coupled with serious disease problems to sharply reduce estimated acreage for harvest this year. Soil moisture supplies appear to be adequate in Ohio and beds should respond rapidly as temperatures increase seasonally. Fields in Oregon and Washington are in excellent condition and soil moisture is good at this time.

SNAP BEANS: The prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter of 1974 is placed at 24,200 acres, 1 percent more than the 23,900 acres harvested in 1973. Based on historic average yields, this crop is expected to provide 847,000 cwt. which would be 9 percent more than the 1973 spring crop. A mild winter in Alabama with periods of open weather allowed good progress toward land preparation and planting. In southern counties growers finished planting by the end of March. Continued wet weather since the third week in March delayed planting in north Alabama. In California, the weather during the growing season was favorable. Late plantings for spring harvest were completed by the end of March. Supplies should be available from early acreage by the end of April from the South Coast, and about mid-May in the Central Coast.

In Florida, the Southeast area (Pompano and Dade County) is supplying a good volume of bush beans as a continuation of winter harvest. Dade County pole bean movement is expected to remain fairly steady through April, then decline seasonally. Supplies should peak in late April. The Central, North and West areas should be in production by May 1. Light supplies should be available until the end of June.

Planting in Louisiana began about mid-March and should be completed by mid-April. Very little planting activity has occurred in North Carolina, however, conditions are favorable as moisture is adequate and temperatures moderate. Planting in South Carolina has made good progress. Soil moisture is adequate to excessive in low lying areas. Most growers began planting around March 15 and seeding is expected to continue through to April 15.

BROCCOLI: Prospective acres for harvest during the 1974 spring quarter for California is placed at 12,500 acres, 2 percent more than the 12,300 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1973. Production is projected at 1,038,000 cwt. which would be 30 percent more than the low yielding 1973 crop. The spring broccoli crop is progressing well as a result of favorable growing conditions. Shipments should continue strong from the central coast through April, and then decline gradually through June as the warm summer approaches.

CABBAGE: Prospective acreage for harvest during the 1974 spring quarter is placed at 23,080 acres, 10 percent less than the 25,650 acres harvested during the same quarter in 1973. Based on historic average yields, this acreage is expected to provide 4,108,000 cwt. which would be 11 percent less than the 1973 spring crop. Harvest in Arizona continued at a fairly steady rate during March. Supplies are expected to be available until May or early June. Planting for later harvest was completed in early March. In California crop growth and development was very favorable during February and March. Supplies this spring are expected to be at a normal level. Most of the spring marketings will come from the South Coast, with some additional supplies from the Central Coast. In Florida, harvest is active in all areas. The Hastings area is currently furnishing the largest volume. Increasing supplies from the North Central area are offsetting declines from the West Central. Louisiana's reduction in acreage for harvest was due to excessive rainfall. A light harvest of spring crop has now begun in most areas. North Carolina's spring crop appears to be off to a good start. Moisture supplies have been adequate and temperatures generally moderate. If favorable conditions continue record yields may be realized. An extreme cold snap during March 20-22 in Ohio caused considerable damage to early plantings of cabbage in the southeastern part of the State. Temperatures were as low as 10° and retarded early transplanted cabbage. Setting of plants had resumed by the end of March in some of the areas following the cold temperatures. Moisture supplies appear to be adequate. In South Carolina, planting began in January. Unseasonably mild winter has resulted in high crop conditions.

**CANTALOUPE:** The 1974 prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter is estimated at 21,500 acres, 19 percent less than the 26,500 acres harvested in 1973. Production from this acreage is projected at 2,623,000 cwt., which would be 23 percent less than the comparable period of last year. In Arizona plantings went smoothly, however, some limited re-planting was necessary in the central areas due to frost damage. Planting for later harvest will continue into April. Harvest is expected to begin in the western areas by early May and continue into July. Harvest in the central areas is expected to begin in early June and continue into July.

In California's Desert area, the crop is progressing well, as weather has been very favorable to date. First shipments are expected by mid-May. Peak production is expected in June, with a limited supply extending into early July.

Planting is completed in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and the crop is making good progress with harvest expected to get under way in early May. In the Winter Garden area planting is now underway but not yet completed.

**CARROTS:** The 1974 prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter is estimated at 17,800 acres, 5 percent less than the 18,700 acres harvested in 1973. Projected 1974 spring production based on average yields is placed at 4,058,000 cwt., 8 percent more than 3,766,000 cwt., from the low yielding spring crop. Harvest in Arizona has been relatively steady since the first of January but has not reached maximum volume. Harvest is expected to peak later in the spring with supplies available into June. Supplies are moving from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys of California in moderate volume. Conditions have generally been good for growth and development of the crop. Digging will continue active through April and May and end in June. Plantings in the San Joaquin Valley were completed on schedule. Some interruptions of planting occurred in the central coast. Salinas harvest should start about May 10. Major digging in the San Joaquin Valley is not expected to begin until mid-May. Digging will remain active on the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas through May. In Laredo harvest of carrots for processing is expected to begin in early April. Supplies should remain available from the San Antonio Winter Garden area into May.

**CAULIFLOWER:** In California, the prospective acres for harvest during the 1974 spring quarter is placed at 4,600 acres, 18 percent more than the 3,900 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1973. Spring crop production is expected to be 446,000 cwt. based on historic average yields. This would be 63 percent more than last year's low yielding crop. Good supplies are expected to be available from all producing areas through April. Supplies from the Santa Maria-Oceano and South Coast areas are expected to remain at moderate levels through May. Growing conditions have been favorable throughout the State, and good quality produce has been reported in all areas.

**CELERY:** Prospective acres for harvest during the 1974 spring quarter is estimated at 8,900 acres compared with 9,100 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1973. Production of 4,121,000 cwt. is anticipated based on average yields. This would be 4 percent less than the same period of 1973. The South Coast area of California will supply most of the celery harvested in that State during the spring quarter. Shipments will originate mainly from the Oxnard area. Orange County will also furnish some production. Cutting in the Central Coast area of California should start during May and increase during the remainder of the spring quarter. Peak volume, however, is not reached until October and November. In Florida, good volume is available in all areas. Harvest is slightly below a year earlier but quality continues good. The bulk of production is now coming from the Everglades. Supplies should continue in good volume through April, declining seasonally through May and June.

**SWEET CORN:** Prospective acres for harvest during the spring quarter is placed at 34,100 acres, 13 percent less than the 39,100 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1973. Production from this crop is expected to be 3,137,000 cwt. based on average yields. This would be 24 percent less than the high yielding spring 1973 crop. A mild winter with extended dry periods in Alabama allowed growers in the major producing Baldwin county to prepare their land and plant early. In the other parts of the state planting began around April 1 and will continue into July.

California's crop is at a normal stage of growth. All spring acreage has been planted. First shipments are expected in early May from the Desert area, with the Kern County harvest following in June.

In Florida, the Pompano and Dade County areas are furnishing moderate supplies. Supplies from the Everglades are increasing and should reach peak volume in May. Planting is about complete in the Zellwood area which should provide most of the June supplies. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, the crop is currently making good progress. Harvest is expected to get under way around mid-May. Some fields were replanted in the Coastal Bend area due to heavy rains.

CUCUMBERS: Acres for harvest during the 1974 spring quarter is placed at 16,800 acres, 2 percent more than the 16,500 acres harvested in the spring of 1973. This acreage is expected to provide 1,529,000 cwt. for spring quarter production based on average yields--2 percent less than in the comparable period of 1973. In California, favorable weather during February and March pushed crop growth and development. Supplies this spring are expected to exceed a year earlier when the crop was late. Harvest is underway in the South Coast, and is expected to begin by mid-May in the San Joaquin Valley.

In Florida, picking is complete for older vines damaged by cold weather in February. In the southwest Florida area supplies are light but are gradually increasing. Good volume is expected by mid-April, with peak movement in May as all areas move into production. Younger crops are in good condition. Volume movement is expected from Pompano in April. Plant condition is good to very good.

Planting in North Carolina is expected to get underway slightly ahead of normal. Most of the production area has had ample moisture. In South Carolina planting and land preparation is active. Moisture conditions have been adequate to excessive, especially in low lying areas.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, the crop is in good condition and harvest is expected to get underway in mid-April. In the Coastal Bend area picking should start in mid- or late April. Some wind burn and yellowing has been noted in a few fields. The San Antonio-Winter-Garden area is expected to start harvest in late April or early May.

EGGPLANT: In Florida, spring acreage for harvest is estimated at 600 acres compared with 650 acres last year. Based on average yield expectations, production is projected at 122,000 cwt., 22 percent less than the high yield obtained with the 1973 spring crop. Supplies should increase during April. The seasonal decline in volume in May from Pompano and other southern areas should be more than offset by increased harvest in the central districts and northward. The bulk of the June volume should be from loadings in the North area. Additional volume from small acreages in West Florida should continue into July.

ESCAROLE: Acres for harvest during the 1974 spring quarter is placed at 2,310 acres, 6 percent more than the 2,180 acres harvested in the spring quarter of 1973. Based on average yields, production is expected to total 314,000 cwt., 7 percent less than the 1973 crop. In Florida, harvest continued in full swing in the Everglades, with additional supplies available from the Zellwood and West Central areas. Volume is expected to increase slightly in the North Central area. Growers have been cutting younger plantings to maintain quality. Considerable acreage is being passed over. In Ohio, planting is underway. Generally soils are free of frost and with a few warm days planting should proceed rapidly. In New Jersey, transplanting has been interrupted because of wet field conditions.

LETTUCE: Spring quarter prospective acreage for harvest in 1974 is placed at 50,700 acres, 1 percent less than the 51,200 acres harvested during the spring quarter of 1973. Projected 1974 spring production, based on average yields, totals 12,371,000 cwt., also 1 percent below the 1973 spring production. Planting of lettuce went smoothly under ideal weather conditions in Arizona. Harvest began in the central areas the first week in March and supplies are expected to be available into late May or early June. Harvest in the eastern or "high country" areas is expected to begin in April and be completed by mid-to-late May. Overall quality is very good. Planting of the spring lettuce crop in California went fairly well with only minor interruptions from rain. The crop is making good development. Harvest is now underway in the south coast and San Joaquin Valley and will begin shortly in the Santa Maria-Guadalupe area. At Salinas cutting will begin about mid-April with good volume expected the first week of May. In Florida, all varieties are being harvested in volume. In the Everglades, Romaine and Iceberg supplies are steady. Quality and head size are good. Good volume of Romaine is available. Iceberg supplies are declining at Zellwood.



**HONEYDEW MELONS:** The 1974 spring quarter prospective acreage in Texas is estimated at 2,100 acres, 12 percent less than the 2,400 acres harvested in the spring quarter of 1973. Production for the spring crop is projected at 252,000 cwt., 25 percent less than the 1973 spring crop. The crop is currently making good progress in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas where the majority of the 1974 crop will be grown. Only a small acreage will be planted in the Winter Garden area. No acreage is planned in the Laredo area this year. Harvest should get underway in early May with supplies available into July.

**ONIONS:** The Texas spring crop is estimated at 3,675,000 cwt., 18 percent more than the 1973 crop of 3,120,000 cwt but the same as the March 1 forecast.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley onion harvest gained momentum during the month of March. Yields from first fields were extremely good. Sizes vary considerably with boilers being harvested next to jumbos from many fields. A few fields have shown some blight damage. Overall, crop prospects still remain good. Supplies should continue to increase in April with peak movement occurring from mid-April to early May. Later onions are making good growth and should yield heavier.

At Laredo, onions made good growth during the month of March as warm, dry weather prevailed. Under cutting is now underway in fields with shipments expected to begin in early April. Yields and quality of the crop appears excellent.

In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area, onions made good progress during March. Winds caused damage to some fields. Weed control is a problem in a few fields. Harvest is expected to get underway in late April or early May.

In the Coastal Bend area harvest should get underway in mid-April. Onions have made satisfactory growth but warmer weather is needed to help size the crop.

Texas Spring Onions: Acreage, yield, and production by 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	14,000	2/16,300	174	161	175	2,486	2,399	2,853
Laredo	500	600	500	200	265	250	100	159	125
Winter Garden 3/	2,700	4,000	2/4,200	144	141	166	389	562	697
Total all areas	17,500	19,500	21,000	170	160	175	2,975	3,120	3,675

1/ Preliminary 2/ Includes 1,500 acres of late onion varieties that will be harvested after July 1. 3/ Includes San Antonio and Eagle Pass, and Coastal Bend areas.

**GREEN PEPPERS:** The 1974 spring quarter acreage for harvest is placed at 9,700 acres, down 4 percent from the 10,100 acres harvested in the spring quarter of 1973. Production for the 1974 spring crop, based on average yields, is placed at 912,000 cwt., 13 percent less than 1973 spring production.

The California's crop for spring harvest is generally making good progress. Planting for the spring quarter is now complete. First harvest mainly from Southern California will occur during the first part of May.

In Florida, the Southeast and Southwest areas are furnishing volume supplies through most of April. North Central, North and West Florida should supply the bulk of May and June production. Harvest normally extends into July.

The Louisiana pepper area has been rather dry. However, recent rains should help alleviate the dry condition. The bulk of the acreage has been transplanted. Some plants were already in the field when the February 26 freeze occurred. In Texas, the majority of the spring crop will be grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Only a small acreage will be planted in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area this year. Harvest should get underway late April or early May. Very little mosaic damage has occurred to date.

SPINACH: Prospective acres for harvest during the 1974 spring quarter is placed at 2,750 acres, 19 percent more than harvested during the spring quarter of 1973. The 1974 spring production, based on average yields, is projected at 182,000 cwt., 16 percent more than the 1973 spring crop. Favorable weather during February and March advanced crop development in California. Spring quarter supplies this year are expected to be a little above normal. Production during the spring months will originate mostly from the South Coast, with additional limited supplies coming from the Central Coast. In New Jersey harvest is expected to get underway in early April.

STRAWBERRIES: The 1974 acreage for harvest in the spring seasonal group of States is estimated at 39,410 acres, about the same as the 39,460 acres harvested in 1973. Strawberry harvest in southern California started in early February in the south coast area. Cold weather in mid-March delayed the crop and peak production is now expected by mid-April. The Central Coast districts were also set back about one week. The Santa Maria-Oceano area peak is expected in mid-May, with the Salinas-Watsonville, and San Francisco Bay areas following in late May. The season is progressing normally in the San Joaquin Valley. Fields are in good condition in all areas of the State. High production is expected this year with continued favorable weather.

Arkansas strawberry plants look good, although some freeze damage occurred in White County. The Illinois strawberry crop has survived the winter in good condition. No freeze damage has occurred thus far. Soil moisture supplies are adequate to surplus. The Indiana strawberry crop was in good condition until near-zero temperatures hit on the 24th and 25th of March. Most growers believe the plants will recover at this stage and hope to have a good crop unless further damage occurs. In Louisiana, harvest started earlier than normal this year. Demand for berries has been excellent and the quality of the crop has been good. There was an excessive amount of rain in the strawberry production area during the last week of March. It is difficult to assess the damage to the crop at this time. In Michigan, the crop is in good condition. Winter snows melted directly into unfrozen ground providing excellent soil moisture condition. The commercial acreage of strawberries in North Carolina is in only fair condition. The earlier warm weather resulted in good growth but the cold snap in late March hurt the crop. Harvest is expected to get underway one to two weeks earlier this season. Ohio's mild and open winter, have left strawberry beds in good condition. Chickweed could be a problem. New beds have not progressed as rapidly as expected. Strawberries in Pennsylvania are in good condition as a result of the unusually mild winter with near normal snow fall. In Washington, winter damage was heavy in a few spots, but most plants look very good at this time. Wet weather has hampered early lifting of strawberries for transplanting, but operations are now on schedule. Cool temperatures have limited early growth. In Wisconsin, poor conditions during planting last spring caused a slight reduction in acreage. In the northern half of the State, plants are still dormant with snow cover up to 6 inches in some areas.

TOMATOES: The 1974 spring quarter acreage for harvest is placed at 30,200 acres, 14 percent less than the 35,200 acres harvested during the 1973 spring quarter. Production for the 1974 spring crop is projected at 3,986,000 cwt. based on average yields. This is 13 percent less than the 1973 spring crop. Planting in Alabama is slightly ahead of last year in Geneva and Houston counties. The northern area will begin setting plants around mid-April and will continue planting for production on into the early fall. A few tomatoes in Arkansas have been set out in Bradley County.

In California, development of early tomato plantings has been favorable in the South Coast areas. Planting in the Upper San Joaquin Valley was interrupted at times by rains, but this has not been as serious this year as a year earlier. Early movement is not expected until late May from either the South Coast or San Joaquin Valley. Development of the California Desert crop has been very favorable. Picking should start toward the end of this month, but will not be very active until June.

Supplies from Florida are expected to be steady in April. All areas should be in production in May with the southern districts declining seasonally. The Palmetto-Ruskin deal is expected to be the dominant source of supply in late May-early June. A small acreage in the North Central area will provide supplemental volume.

Transplanting reached a peak in South Carolina during the week ending March 23. With the unseasonably warm weather, tomato plants have matured early forcing some growers to transplant in spite of possible future cold weather. Spring tomatoes are making good growth in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Picking of some early fields will get underway in mid-April.

WATERMELONS: Prospective acreage for harvest during the 1974 spring quarter is estimated at 86,400 acres, 3 percent more than the 83,500 acres harvested during the same quarter in 1973. Production for the 1974 spring crop, based on average yields, is projected at 10,541,000 cwt., 4 percent less than the 1973 spring crop. A mild winter in Alabama allowed a few producers to plant a little earlier than usual. The earliest fields should be ready for marketing in early June. Planting of watermelons was virtually complete by the end of March in Arizona. Early growth and vine development has been good. Harvest is expected to begin in May, peak in late June and be complete in late July or August. In California planting conditions have been very favorable thus far. The harvest is expected to begin in late May in the Imperial Valley, followed by the Palo Verde District in early June.

In Florida, harvest is expected to begin in early April in the southwest areas. Supplies are expected to be light until mid-April. Fruit set and size is good. In the west central area, plants are making good growth with harvest expected to start by mid-May. Harvest should peak in June as the progress moves northward. In South Carolina weather has been generally favorable for planting.

Planting is complete in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Most acreage has also been planted in the Coastal Bend and Winter Garden areas. Lack of soil moisture has reduced acreage somewhat in these two large producing areas. First supplies are expected to become available in May.

