TC-54: 1201

Commercial Vegetables

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
CROP REPORTING BOARD

Washington, D. C.

AMS

December 10, 1954

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET ACREAGE AND INDICATED PRODUCTION DECEMBER 1, 1954

1955 CROPS

As of December 1 the production of winter vegetables for fresh market during the 1955 season was expected to be 4 percent less than in 1954 and 2 percent below average, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Significantly smaller crops than those produced in 1954 are indicated for winter artichokes, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kale, and green peas. Heavier winter crops of lima beans, carrots, lettuce, shallots, and spinach are expected.

In Florida and other southeastern States temperatures the first half of November were below normal and frost caused minor damage early in the month. However, warmer weather the last half of the month enabled vegetables to make satisfactory progress during that period. Most vegetables in Florida have made good progress to date and the development of some crops is ahead of a normal schedule. Continued dry weather has had an adverse effect on late fall and early spring vegetables in other Southeastern States. November weather favored the growth and development of vegetables in South Texas enabling fields planted late or delayed by earlier adverse weather to make excellent progress. However, re-planting made necessary by high temperatures and delayed planting due to heavy rains are expected to delay volume production of this year's winter vegetable crops in Texas. In Arizona and Southern California November temperatures were above normal enabling winter vegetables in those areas to make rapid growth.

Summary of Acreage and Indicated Production Reported to Date, 1955 with Comparisons

Seasonal group and crop	ACREAGE					PRODUCTION (Equiv. Tons) 1/				
	5-year average 1949-53 2/	1954	Ind. 1955			5-year average 1949-53 2/	1954	Ind. 1955		
			Acres	% of av.	% of '54			Tons	% of av.	% of '54
	Acres	Acres	Acres	%	%	Tons	Tons	Tons	%	%
WINTER:										
Artichokes	7,580	9,000	8,300	109	92	14,700	18,000	16,600	113	92
Lima Beans	780	400	650	83	162	1,200	500	800	67	160
Beets	5,540	6,000	5,500	99	92	18,900	21,100	20,000	106	95
Broccoli	8,850	8,050	6,750	76	84	18,800	18,200	14,100	75	77
Cabbage 3/	47,380	46,300	41,200	87	89	346,500	331,800	281,000	81	85
Carrots	42,070	35,900	39,700	94	111	258,800	226,200	239,100	92	106
Cauliflower	3,580	5,100	4,710	132	92	17,900	23,900	19,900	111	83
Celery	9,820	9,990	9,150	93	92	201,600	226,600	208,400	103	92
Escarole	4,020	4,500	4,500	112	100	24,700	30,600	29,500	119	96
Kale	2,920	3,000	2,700	92	90	10,500	9,400	7,900	75	84
Lettuce	60,040	61,500	63,200	105	103	355,600	396,400	405,500	114	102
Green Peas	2,710	1,000	500	18	50	2,200	900	400	18	44
Green Peppers	3,560	4,500	4,800	135	107	---	---	---	---	---
Shallots	3,100	2,800	3,300	106	118	4,200	3,800	5,300	126	139
Spinach	25,040	20,000	21,600	86	108	42,000	34,200	39,300	94	115
Total Winter to date:										
Acre. & Prod.	223,430	213,540	211,760	95	99	1,317,600	1,341,600	1,287,800	98	96
Acreage	226,990	218,040	216,560	95	99					

1/ Equivalent tons based on approximate net weight of unit used in estimating yield and production.

2/ Group averages are simple averages of annual data.

3/ Includes processing.

Acreage and Indicated Production Reported to Date, 1955 with Comparisons

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	5- YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53 1/	1954	Ind. 1955	5-YR. AV. 49-53 1/	1954	Ind. 1955	5- YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53 1/	1954	Ind. 1955
ARTICHOKES:	ACRES	ACRES	Prelim. ACRES	- Boxes 40 lb. -			- 1,000 boxes -		
Winter:									
California	7,580	9,000	8,300	97	100	100	737	900	830
ASPARAGUS 3/:			Prospective	- Crates 30 lb. -			- 1,000 crates -		
Spring 2/	131,100	142,330	149,130	81	73		10,539	10,356	
LIMA BEANS:			Prelim.	- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Florida	780	400	650	90	75	75	72	30	49
BEETS:									
Winter 2/	5,540	6,000	5,500	132	135	140	727	810	770
BROCCOLI: 3/				- Crates 42 lb. -			- 1,000 crates -		
Winter:									
Arizona	890	600	450	111	120	120	95	66	54
South Carolina	480	650	600	87	30	80	45	20	48
Texas	7,480	6,800	5,700	100	115	100	756	782	570
Group total	8,850	8,050	6,750	100	108	100	895	868	672
CABBAGE 3/:				- Tons -			- Tons -		
Winter:									
Arizona	1,220	1,100	500	12.3	12.0	12.0	15,000	13,200	6,000
Texas	24,900	25,500	24,000	4.5	5.2	4.5	111,600	132,600	108,000
California	3,620	4,000	3,200	10.7	10.0	10.0	38,500	40,000	32,000
Florida	17,640	15,700	13,500	10.3	9.3	10.0	181,400	146,000	135,000
Group total	47,380	46,300	41,200	7.42	7.17	6.82	346,500	331,800	281,000
			Prospective						
Early Spring:									
Louisiana	4,180	3,700	3,400	4.7	4.0		20,300	14,800	
Alabama	1,120	1,000	900	5.6	5.5		6,300	5,500	
Georgia, South	5,800	5,200	4,200	5.6	6.0		32,600	31,200	
South Carolina	1,820	2,400	2,400	7.6	4.0		13,800	9,600	Apr. 11
California	2,840	3,000	3,000	10.6	9.8		30,400	29,400	
Mississippi	5,180	4,500	4,400	5.1	6.0		26,000	27,000	
Group total	20,940	19,800	18,300	6.24	5.93		129,400	117,500	
Total above	68,320	66,100	59,500	7.07	6.80		475,900	449,300	
CARROTS: 3/			Prelim.	- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Arizona	3,440	1,600	2,100	353	400	400	1,204	640	840
Texas	27,800	28,000	31,000	170	180	175	4,743	5,040	5,425
California	10,240	6,300	6,600	432	535	500	4,353	3,370	3,300
Louisiana	490	- - -	- - -	49	- - -	- - -	30	- - -	- - -
Florida	100	- - -	- - -	40	- - -	- - -	20	- - -	- - -
Group total	42,070	35,900	39,700	252	252	241	10,350	9,050	9,565

See footnotes on page 5.

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	5- YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53 1/	1954	Ind. 1955	5-YR. AV. 49-53 1/	1954	Ind. 1955	5- YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53 1/	1954	Ind. 1955
CAULIFLOWER: 3/	ACRES	ACRES	Prelim. ACRES	- Crates (1½ bu.) -			- 1,000 crates -		
Winter:									
Arizona	1,120	500	210	341	350	350	366	175	74
Texas	1,420	3,500	3,500	188	225	200	269	788	700
Florida	1,040	1,100	1,000	318	300	300	332	330	300
Group total	3,580	5,100	4,710	270	254	228	966	1,293	1,074
CELERY:				- Crates 60 lb. -			- 1,000 crates -		
Winter:									
California	3,540	3,800	3,600	772	865	850	2,725	3,287	3,060
Florida	5,980	5,900	5,300	632	690	700	3,799	4,071	3,710
Arizona	300	290	250	643	675	700	197	196	175
Group total	9,820	9,990	9,150	682	756	759	6,720	7,554	6,945
ESCAROLE:				- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Florida	4,020	4,500	4,500	438	545	525	1,976	2,452	2,362
KALE:									
Winter: 2/	2,920	3,000	2,700	401	350	325	1,172	1,050	878
LETTUCE:				- Crates (4-6 doz)-			- 1,000 crates -		
Winter:									
Arizona, Yuma	15,300	12,300	11,000	181	175	200	2,744	2,240	2,200
California	32,900	33,600	34,500	184	200	200	6,032	6,720	6,900
Texas	9,520	12,600	14,500	117	155	135	1,044	1,953	1,958
Florida	2,320	2,500	3,200	144	165	165	338	412	528
Group total	60,040	61,500	63,200	171	184	183	10,159	11,325	11,586
ONIONS:			Prospective	- Sacks (50 lb.) -			- 1,000 sacks -		
Early Spring 2/	34,740	39,500	40,600	123	105		3,688	4,148	Apr.11
GREEN PEAS:			Prelim.	- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Florida	210	- - -	- - -	38	- - -	- - -	13	- - -	- - -
Texas	1,580	1,000	500	56	60	60	89	60	30
California	920	- - -	- - -	31	- - -	- - -	44	- - -	- - -
Group total	2,710	1,000	500	57	60	60	146	60	30
GREEN PEPPERS:									
Winter:									
Florida	3,560	4,300	4,800	428	385		1,491	1,732	Jan. 10

See footnotes on page 5.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET — TC-54: 12-1 December 10, 1954

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1944-53 1/	1954	Ind. 1955	10-YR. AV. 44-53 1/	1954	Ind. 1955	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1944-53 1/	1954	Ind. 1955
COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES:	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES Prelim.	- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Texas	920	600	500	58	55	55	54	33	28
Florida	10,620	11,600	12,400	212	305	270	2,246	3,538	3,348
Group total	11,540	12,200	12,900	200	293	262	2,300	3,571	3,376
Early Spring:			Prospective						
Florida	17,080	20,800	22,000	193	295		3,301	6,144	
Hastings	12,550	17,000	18,500	206	310		2,649	5,270	
Other	4,530	3,800	3,500	151	230		652	874	Apr. 11
Texas	8,140	2,200	1,300	81	80		689	176	
Group total	25,220	23,000	23,300	165	275		3,990	6,320	
Total above	36,760	35,200	36,200	176	281		6,290	9,891	
	5-year average 1949-53 1/			5-yr. av. 49-53 1/			5-year average 1949-53 1/		
SHALLOTS:			Prelim.	- Barrels -			- 1,000 barrels -		
Winter:									
Louisiana	3,100	2,800	3,300	27	27	32	85	76	106
SPINACH:				- Bushels -			- 1,000 crates -		
Winter: 2/	25,040	20,000	21,600	171	171	182	4,203	3,421	3,933
STRAWBERRIES: 3/				- Crates 24 qt -			- 1,000 crates -		
Winter:									
Florida	4,640	2,800	4,000	65	60		304	168	Jan. 10
			Prospective						
Spring: 2/	121,120	106,350	105,300	90	108		10,782	11,460	
ALL STATES	125,760	109,150	108,800	89	107		11,086	11,628	

1/ Group averages (including All States) are simple averages of annual data for the group.

2/ Data from previous releases.

3/ Includes processing.

ARTICHOKES: California's winter artichoke crop is forecast at 830,000 boxes, a reduction of 8 percent from last year but 13 percent larger than average. The reduction in acreage of this crop is responsible for smaller prospective production. Although early season harvest of artichokes was active during the fall months, production is now declining as bud development has been slowed by increasingly cooler weather. Supplies will remain light until late February or early March when active harvest will again begin.

LIMA BEANS: Florida's winter lima bean crop is forecast at 49,000 bushels, 63 percent more than was produced last year but 32 percent below average. An increase in acreage is responsible for the heavier production indicated for this year. Condition of the crop is reported to be good and a light harvest is being made at the present time. The bulk of the current supplies are baby limas (or butter beans) which account for about 25 percent of the acreage, but harvest of the larger acreage of the Fordhook variety will become active during December.

BROCCOLI: The 1955 winter broccoli crop is forecast at 672,000 crates, 23 percent below production in the 1954 winter season and 25 pereent smaller than average. A reduced acreage and a lighter prospective yield in Texas is largely responsible for the decline in production indicated for 1955. In Texas, broccoli acreage in the Lower Valley has been reduced materially and the Laredo section is reported to be out of the broccoli deal for the coming season. About a normal acreage is planted in the Eagle Pass and San Antonio areas. Harvest of broccoli in Lower Valley is expected to begin about mid-December but volume is not anticipated until January. Eagle Pass is expected to begin to cut broccoli in late December. Some broccoli is expected from the San Antonio area in December but most of the supplies will be used locally. Harvest of the summer acreage of broccoli in the Phoenix, Arizona area has begun and supplies from this district are expected to increase during December. Broccoli in South Carolina is reported to be in good condition but is later than usual because of dry weather. Harvest is expected to start there in early December. At the present time the bulk of the Nation's broccoli supplies are originating from California where harvesting of the 1954 fall crop is continuing.

CABBAGE: The 1955 winter cabbage crop is expected to produce 281,000 tons, a reduction of 15 percent from last year and 19 percent below average. However, the production indicated for 1955 is about equal to the quantity marketed from the 1954 winter crop. About 18 percent of 1954 winter production was not sold. The reduction in prospective supplies of winter cabbage in prospect for 1955 is the result of a cut in acreage in all producing States and relatively light yields expected in Texas.

Some winter cabbage is being harvested for local markets in coastal sections of southern California but no carlot supplies are originating from that State at this time. The reduction in acreage in California is attributed to a sharp cut in plantings in Imperial Valley which is frequently a source of carlot supplies during the winter months. This year's acreage is the smallest planted there in many years. The acreage of cabbage planted in Arizona was also sharply reduced. Harvest has begun on early fields in Arizona and limited supplies should continue to be available during the winter months. The acreage of winter cabbage planted in Texas has been reduced only moderately from the 1954 level. Although the bulk of the acreage has been planted in Texas, seeding of acreage for late season harvest is expected to continue through most of December. It appears at the present time that supplies of late season cabbage may be heavier than usual in Texas. During the fall planting season, heavy rains interrupted field work and damaged cabbage in some fields, but

CABBAGE (Cont'd): during November favorable weather permitted more advanced crops to make excellent growth. Light supplieshave been available from the Winter Garden since early November with most of the cabbage from this section moving by truck. Harvest of cabbage began in the Lower Valley in mid-November and production will increase during December. In Florida approximately 60 percent of the winter cabbage acreage had been set or seeded by December 1. This is a smaller proportion of the crop than is usually planted by this date and the delay is the result of difficulty encountered in establishing seed beds in late summer and early fall months. However, the condition of cabbage planted to date is good. A light harvest began in late November and a gradual increase is expected during December, but it will be January before harvest becomes active.

Reports from early spring cabbage States indicate that about 18,300 acres will be available for harvest during that season in 1955. This is 8 percent less acreage than harvested in 1954 and 13 percent smaller than average. In Louisiana most plants have been set and while the crop is in good condition, it would benefit from additional moisture. Dry weather is partially responsible for prospective reduction in cabbage acreage in Georgia this year and insufficient moisture is delaying transplanting to the field. Seed beds in South Carolina developed satisfactorily in spite of dry weather and a substantial acreage of early spring cabbage has already been set in that State. Planting of early spring cabbage is continuing in California's south coastal areas. In Mississippi, 1955 spring cabbage acreage is expected to be about the same as last year in the principal Copiah County area but other less important counties are expected to reduce their acreage. The reductions in acreage indicated for the early spring States are partially associated with unsatisfactory market conditions that prevailed in the 1954 season.

CARROTS: The 1955 winter carrot crop is expected to produce 9,565,000 bushels, 6 percent above last year but 8 percent below average. An increase in acreage in all States is responsible for the increase in production over 1954. Moderate acreage increases indicated for Arizona and California in 1955 still leave the acreage in these two States well below the average for the years 1949-53. The increase in this year's acreage in Texas is a continuation of the upward trend in carrot production in that State. Carrots in California have made satisfactory progress to date and harvest is expected to begin on schedule during December in the principal producing Imperial Valley. The level of production in California during the next three months will be influenced by availability of supplies from Texas during that period as well as prevailing weather. Harvest of early season carrots is underway at both Phoenix and Yuma in Arizona, and although some increase in supplies may be expected in December, the daily volume originating from this ideal is not expected to be large. High temperatures and heavy rains during the fall months were detrimental to carrots in Texas. Warm weather in Lower Valley forced many growers to plant two or three times before getting satisfactory stands. Heavy rains in September and early October increased weed growth and some fields had to be abandoned and replanted. Favorable weather during November enabled all acreage to make satisfactory growth. However, because of inability of growers to establish early fields satisfactorily, the supply of early season carrots from Lower Valley will be much lighter than usual. Planting there continued active during November and a larger acreage than usual for late season harvest is indicated. Carrots in the Winter Garden area were planted about the usual time and although some replanting was necessary because of hot weather, planting in this area is generally on schedule. Harvest in this area is expected to be fairly active during December. At the present time, the bulk of the Nation's carrot supplies is originating from California's late fall crop grown largely in the coastal areas and from storage stocks in north central and northeastern States.

CAULIFLOWER: The 1955 winter cauliflower crop is forecast at 1,074,000 crates, 17 percent less than was produced during the same season last year but 11 percent more than average. A decrease in acreage in Arizona and Florida and the lighter yield in prospect for Texas are responsible for the reduction in production from the 1954 level. Arizona's winter cauliflower crop is reported to be making satisfactory progress. Harvest of this acreage will be most active during January and February. In Texas, cauliflower is a little late in all sections. At Eagle Pass seed beds were lost during floods in June and the area was without water for irrigation for about three weeks at that time. The crop in this area is in very good condition but the harvest season is about two weeks later than usual. Cutting of cauliflower there was expected to begin in early December and become active during the second week. The Winter Garden crop was planted about the usual time but has not developed satisfactorily to date. A light harvest is underway in this section and production is expected to fall below usual levels unless the crop shows some improvement. Transplanting of the Lower Valley crop was delayed by September and October rains. Growing conditions during November were favorable in this area, however. Limited early acreage will be cut in December but most fields will not be available for harvest until January. In Florida, although the first fields were injured by high temperatures which made some replanting necessary, the winter cauliflower crop generally has made fair to good progress. Harvest of cauliflower in Florida is expected to begin about December 15. Currently cauliflower supplies are available from fall producing areas in California and New York.

CELERY: As a result of a reduction in acreage, celery production during the 1955 winter season is expected to be 8 percent less than in the same season in 1954, but 3 percent more than average. In California a reduction in acreage has occurred in the principal winter producing San Diego area. Winter celery there is reported to be in good condition with very little disease in evidence. Cutting of earliest fields began in mid-November andproduction will increase steadily during December. Although conditions were unfavorable for the planting of celery early in the season in Florida, most of the acreage is reported to be in good condition at this time. Transplanting during November was accomplished under favorable weather conditions. Harvesting of early acreage at Zellwood was active during November and about 55 percent of the crop there had been cut by December 1. Harvest in the Everglades was expected to become active by December 6. At Sarasota celery harvest is expected to start the week of December 13. Production of celery will not become heavy in Florida until January. Reports on acreage of celery planted to date in Florida indicate that this year's plantings are continuing to lag behind those of last year. Harvest of California's late fall crop of celery will continue active particularly during the pre-Christmas shipping period in early December. Production of that crop will decline rapidly after mid-December and the bulk of the supplies will then be originating from winter producing areas.

ESCAROLE: Florida's winter escarole crop is forecast at 2,362,000 bushels, slightly below last year's production but 20 percent above average. Progress is reported to be good. Harvest began in November and increasing supplies are indicated for December. Seeding and transplanting of acreage for later harvest continues on a normal schedule.

LETTUCE: The 1955 winter lettuce crop is forecast at 11,586,000 crates which is two percent larger than the crop produced during this season last year and 14 percent above average. In California, harvest of winter lettuce began about November 15 in the Blythe area and earliest fields in the Imperial Valley were cut on November 22. Production has been increasing steadily in that State since those dates and will become heavier during December. However, it will probably be

LETTUCE (Cont'd): the last half of the month before the principal producing Imperial Valley gets into heavy production. Conditions to date have been favorable for the development of the crop in California. Harvesting of lettuce at Yuma, Arizona is becoming increasingly active and production is expected to expand during December. Favorable weather in late October and during November permitted growers in the Lower Valley of Texas to plant a larger acreage of lettuce than was anticipated in the November report. Some fields that were lost as a result of heavy rains early in the fall and which were expected to be abandoned, were replanted. Early fields in the Lower Valley were damaged by high temperatures and heavy rains and those early fields which survived show generally light stands. Late plantings are generally in good condition. Supplies from the Lower Valley will be lighter than usual during December but production during January and February is expected to be heavy. Progress of the early acreage in the Winter Garden has been satisfactory and movement during December is expected to be active. Lettuce acreage at Laredo was planted a little late and earliest fields are not expected to furnish supplies until around mid-December. Harvest at Eagle Pass began earlier than usual this year and this area is expected to provide fairly good volume during December. Some late season acreage is now being planted for March harvest in the Winter Garden. In Florida the lettuce crop is now making good progress. Harvest has begun in the Everglades, Webster, and the Sanford-Zellwood areas. Cutting is expected to begin in the Manatee-Ruskin area in mid-December. Out-of-State shipments from Florida consist largely of Boston and Romaine. Iceberg supplies are being consumed locally.

GREEN PEAS: The 1955 winter crop of peas in Texas is not expected to exceed 30,000 bushels, 50 percent of last year's production and about one-fifth of average. No commercial acreage of peas was planted in the Lower Valley of Texas this fall and this year's acreage consists largely of plantings for local markets in the San Antonio and Houston areas. These peas are expected to be harvested during December and January.

GREEN PEPPERS: The 1955 acreage of green peppers for winter harvest in Florida is expected to total 4,600 acres, an increase of 7 percent over last year and 35 percent above average. While the crop is in good condition in the Immokalee-Fort Myers area, the acreage in the important Pompano section is in poor to fair condition as a result of heavy November rains. Some of the acreage in this section had to be replanted andother fields were retarded by heavy rains and flooding.

COMMERCIAL EARLY POTATOES: The production of commercial early potatoes for winter harvest in Texas and Florida is indicated at 3,376,000 bushels, 5 percent below last year but 47 percent above average. In Florida the acreage planted to the winter crop was 12,400 acres, 800 acres above the 1954 crop. The increase in acreage in the Palm Beach-Vero Beach area and in the Fort Myers sections more than offset the decline indicated in Dade County. Harvest in the Everglades will start in late December. The crop is generally making good development, although some replanting has been necessary in the upper end of Dade County due to excessive rains. The Texas winter crop at 500 acres was planted about the usual time. Stands are poor in some fields in the east endof the Valley. Growing conditions were favorable during late October and November. Harvest is expected to start about mid-December.

Intentions-to-plant report for the early spring crop in Florida and Texas indicates 23,300 acres, 300 acres above the 1954 crop but 1,920 acres below average. In Florida, the prospective acreage at 22,000 is up 1,200 acres from the 1954 crop while Texas is showing a decline from 2,200 acres planted in 1954 to 1,300 for intentions for the 1955 crop.

SHALLOTS: The Louisiana shallot crop is currently forecast at 106,000 barrels, 39 percent larger than production last year and 25 percent above average. Some of the early planted acreage in that State was lost as a result of heavy rains and excessive temperatures during the fall. This appears to have eliminated some of the lower producing acreage. Loss of low yielding acreage and recently improved growing conditions, as reflected in optimistic reports from growers on conditions and probable yield, contributed to a substantial increase in prospective average yields. Movement of the crop is slow at present but ample supplies are available.

STRAWBERRIES: Florida's winter strawberry acreage for harvest in the 1955 season is expected to total 4,000 acres which is 43 percent larger than the acreage harvested in 1954 but 14 percent smaller than average. The crop is in fair to good condition at this time. Some patches are producing berries but production during December will be very light. In the important Plant City area there has been a shift in acreage to a new variety known as No. 90, which is reported to be a more vigorous and better yielding strain than those previously grown in that section.