

VEGETABLES — PROCESSING

REFERENCE ROOM

HD
9004
T8
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TC-56: 402

Release: April 10, 1956
3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

PROSPECTIVE PLANTED ACREAGE OF PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL CROPS APRIL 1, 1956

The prospective 1956 planted acreage of 5 vegetables for commercial processing is about 10 percent more than last year, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The 5 vegetables for processing for which intended acreage reports are now available are snap beans, cabbage for kraut (contract acreage only), sweet corn, green peas and winter and early spring spinach. These crops usually account for around 58 percent of the planted acreage of the 11 vegetables for processing covered in regular reports. The indicated changes in planted acreage, compared with last year are: snap beans, 4 percent more; cabbage for kraut (contract only), 28 percent more; sweet corn, 16 percent more; green peas, 6 percent more and winter and early spring spinach 3 percent more. Details by crops and States are given in the attached commodity reports.

Prospective Planted Acreage by Crops, United States, April 1, 1956 with Comparisons

CROP	Average 1945-54 Acres	1955 Acres	1956 Prospective Acres
Beans, Snap.....	130,540	146,010	152,490
Cabbage for Kraut (Contract).....	9,940	7,680	9,820
Corn, Sweet.....	496,100	406,900	469,980
Peas, Green 1/.....	459,340	469,920	499,840
Spinach (Winter and Early Spring)2/.....	14,680	12,800	13,200
TOTALS - Crops for which prospective 1956 planted acreage has been estimated:	1,110,600	1,043,310	1,145,330
Asparagus for Processing.....	84,410	115,070	Dec. 28
Beans, Green Lima.....	99,120	105,050	May 10
Beets for Canning.....	17,090	18,590	April 20
Cabbage for Kraut (Open Market).....	8,420	5,840	Dec. 28
Cucumbers for Pickles.....	144,140	134,020	April 20
Pimientos.....	20,480	26,700	July 10
Spinach (Late Spring and Fall).....	26,250	21,790	June 11 & Nov. 9
Tomatoes.....	412,840	321,720	April 20
TOTALS -			
11 CROPS FOR PAST SEASONS	1,922,450	1,792,090	Dec. 28
1/ From previous release			

2/ Planted acreages comparable with harvested acreages shown in Report TC-56: 303

SNAP BEANS FOR COMMERCIAL PROCESSING
PROSPECTIVE PLANTED ACREAGE
1956, with Comparisons

A prospective increase of 4 percent over last year's snap bean plantings for canning and freezing is indicated for 1956, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Virtually all of the prospective increase is in the acreage for canning. This estimate is based on reports received from processors in late March and early April giving information on the acreage they intend to contract or plant in 1956. The acreage for 1956 is an interpretation of these reports from processors, based on past relationships between such intentions reports and the acreage actually planted.

If these early-season acreage prospects materialize, the 1956 plantings of snap beans for processing will total 152,490 acres. This compares with the revised estimate of 146,010 acres planted in 1955 and the 1945-54 average of 130,540 acres.

Abandonment of planted acreage averaged about 4 percent annually during the past 10 years. If this loss is assumed for 1956, about 146,400 acres would be harvested in 1956. This compares with 138,690 acres harvested in 1955 and the average of 124,750 acres.

Of the 152,490 acres in prospect for processing this year, intentions reports indicate 117,970 acres will be planted for canning and 34,520 acres will be planted for freezing. Last year, of the 146,010 acres planted for processing, 111,560 acres were for canning and 34,450 acres were for freezing.

The purpose of this report is to assist growers and processors generally in making such further changes in their 1956 acreage plans as may appear advisable. The acreage actually planted in 1956 may turn out to be larger or smaller than now indicated because of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply, financial conditions and the effect of this report itself upon processors' actions. The following table shows the acreage in prospect by States at the present time.

SNAP BEANS, Commercial crop for processing: Prospective planted acreage by States, 1956, with comparisons

STATE	Average	1955	Prospective	1956	
	1945-54			As percent of	Average
	1945-54	1955	Prospective	1945-54	1955
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Maine.....	2,780	2,300	2,900	104	126
New York.....	26,980	32,400	34,000	126	105
Pennsylvania.....	4,880	5,200	6,000	123	115
Michigan.....	7,100	6,700	7,000	98	104
Wisconsin.....	12,450	15,700	18,800	151	120
Missouri.....	680	---	---	---	---
Delaware.....	1,960	2,400	2,500	128	104
Maryland.....	11,380	10,600	14,500	127	137
Virginia.....	3,370	5,000	4,500	134	90
North Carolina.....	2,020	2,000	2,000	99	100
South Carolina.....	1,610	800	900	56	112
Georgia.....	740	---	---	---	---
Florida.....	10,270	11,300	10,000	97	88
Tennessee.....	5,140	5,800	5,800	113	100
Mississippi.....	1,670	1,000	700	42	70
Arkansas.....	7,240	3,600	3,600	50	100
Louisiana.....	1,210	1,400	900	74	64
Oklahoma.....	3,590	3,500	3,500	97	100
Texas.....	7,620	11,000	10,000	131	91
Colorado.....	1,460	1,500	1,500	103	100
Utah.....	520	600	500	96	83
Washington.....	2,330	2,100	2,300	99	110
Oregon.....	6,460	10,500	10,500	163	100
California.....	1,750	4,000	3,200	183	80
Other States ^{1/}	5,340	6,610	6,890	129	104
U. S. TOTAL.....	130,540	146,010	152,490	117	104
For freezing..... ^{2/}	35,290	34,450	34,520	---	100
For canning and other processing... ^{2/}	125,280	111,560	117,970	---	106

^{1/} Alabama, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Vermont and Wyoming.

^{2/} 1954 only. Estimates not available for prior years.

CABBAGE FOR SAUERKRAUT (CONTRACT ONLY)
 PROSPECTIVE PLANTED ACREAGE
 1956, with Comparisons

The contract acreage of kraut cabbage in prospect for 1956 is nearly a quarter larger than was planted under contract in 1955 but 4 percent less than the 10-year average, according to the Crop Reporting Board. If these early season prospects materialize, the 1956 contract plantings for kraut will total 9,820 acres compared with 7,680 acres in 1955 and an average of 9,940 acres for the 1945-54 period. These estimates include acreage grown by packers on their own or leased land as well as acreage contracted with growers on either an acreage or a tonnage basis.

Most packers usually purchase a substantial portion of their kraut cabbage requirements on the open market in addition to quantities obtained from their contract acreage. At this time, information is not available regarding the tonnage that kraut packers intend to purchase on the open market in 1956. Last year the equivalent open market acreage represented about 43 percent of the total planted acreage. For the preceding 10-year period, it averaged around 46 percent of the total.

The following table shows the acreage that kraut packers intend to contract and plant this season with comparable data for earlier periods. Since their plans may be modified before plantings are actually made, this report is not an estimate of the contract acreage that will finally be planted in 1956.

UNITED STATES TOTALS

ITEM	CONTRACT ^{1/}		OPEN MARKET	TOTAL	
	Planted	Harvested		Planted and Harvested	Planted
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Average, 1945-54...	9,940	9,300	8,420	18,360	17,710
1955.....	7,680	7,410	5,840	13,520	13,250
1956, Prospective...	9,820	---	---	---	---

^{1/} Contract acreage includes acreage grown by packers on own or leased land, acreage grown under contract with growers, and equivalent acreage for contracted tonnage.

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SWEET CORN FOR COMMERCIAL PROCESSING
PROSPECTIVE PLANTED ACREAGE
1956, with Comparisons

An acreage of sweet corn for processing about 16 percent larger than was planted in 1955 is indicated for 1956, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is based on reports received from processors in late March and early April giving information on the acreage they intend to contract and plant in 1956. The acreage for 1956 is an interpretation of reports from processors and is based on past relationships between such intentions reports and acreage actually planted.

If these early season prospects materialize, the 1956 plantings of sweet corn for canning, freezing and other processing will total 469,980 acres. Last year the planted acreage was 406,900 acres and for the 1945-54 period it averaged 496,100 acres.

Abandonment of planted acreage averaged about 7 percent during the past 10 years. If this loss is assumed for 1956, about 437,100 acres would be harvested in 1956. This compares with 388,570 acres harvested in 1955 and the 10-year average of 463,280 acres.

Of the 469,980 acres in prospect for processing this year, intention reports indicate 407,990 acres will be planted for canning and 61,990 acres will be planted for freezing. These acreages represent increases over 1955 of about 15 percent for canning and 19 percent for freezing.

The purpose of this report is to assist growers and processors generally in making such further changes in their acreage plans as may appear advisable. The acreage actually planted in 1956 may turn out to be larger or smaller than now indicated because of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply, financial conditions and the effect of this report itself upon processors' actions. The following table shows the acreage in prospect by States at the present time.

SWEET CORN, Commercial crop for processing: Prospective planted acreage by States, 1956, with comparisons

STATE	Average	1955	Prospective	1956	
	1945-54			As percent of	Average
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent	Percent
Maine.....	10,240	3,700	5,200	51	140
New Hampshire.....	460	430	500	109	116
Vermont.....	860	670	670	78	100
New York.....	27,090	16,700	21,000	78	126
Pennsylvania.....	12,270	13,000	13,500	110	104
Ohio.....	16,860	7,200	7,900	47	110
Indiana.....	33,260	17,200	20,900	63	122
Illinois.....	67,580	57,400	64,200	95	112
Wisconsin.....	105,480	98,300	118,000	112	120
Minnesota.....	87,130	94,000	102,000	117	109
Iowa.....	34,090	19,600	22,000	65	112
Delaware.....	4,720	3,700	4,700	100	127
Maryland.....	38,070	27,600	30,400	80	110
Idaho.....	9,820	7,500	9,800	100	131
Utah.....	5,420	4,500	4,700	87	104
Washington.....	14,270	10,000	15,100	106	151
Oregon.....	12,560	12,000	16,000	127	133
Other States <u>1/</u>	15,930	13,400	13,410	84	100
U. S. TOTAL.....	496,100	406,900	469,980	95	116
For freezing <u>2/</u>	371,130	52,110	61,990	---	119
For canning and other processing <u>2/3/</u>	435,080	354,790	407,990	---	115

1/ Arkansas, California, Colorado, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Wyoming.

2/ Not shown by States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

3/ 2-year average--1953-54. Estimates not available prior to 1953.