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Vegetables

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Fresh Vegetable Harvested Area Down 3 Percent From Last Year Spring Onion Planted Acreage Down 5 Percent Strawberry Planted Acreage Up 1 Percent

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the winter quarter is forecast at 173,700 acres, down 3 percent from last year. Acreage declined for broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, head lettuce, bell peppers, and tomatoes. Acreage increased for snap beans and cabbage. Area harvested for spinach remains unchanged.

Area planted for spring onions, at 32,000 acres, is down 5 percent from 2007. Georgia and Texas reduced planted acreage from 2007, while Arizona and California increased planted acreage.

Strawberry area planted for major States (California, Florida, and Oregon) in 2008 is forecast at 47,000 acres, up 1 percent from 2007.

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**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop, Winter Season,
Major States, 2006-2007 and Forecasted Area 2008
(Domestic Units)**

Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2008
	2006	2007	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans	13,200	13,900	14,000
Broccoli ¹	28,500	30,000	28,500
Cabbage	10,600	9,500	12,900
Carrots	21,200	19,100	18,900
Cauliflower ¹	8,500	8,200	8,000
Celery ¹	7,600	7,600	7,300
Sweet Corn	3,600	7,000	6,400
Head Lettuce	67,600	67,400	62,000
Bell Pepper ¹	6,100	6,100	5,800
Spinach	2,200	800	800
Tomatoes	10,000	10,000	9,100
Total Winter Crop	179,100	179,600	173,700

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop, Winter Season,
Major States, 2006-2007 and Forecasted Area 2008
(Metric Units)**

Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2008
	2006	2007	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Snap Beans	5,340	5,630	5,670
Broccoli ¹	11,530	12,140	11,530
Cabbage	4,290	3,840	5,220
Carrots	8,580	7,730	7,650
Cauliflower ¹	3,440	3,320	3,240
Celery ¹	3,080	3,080	2,950
Sweet Corn	1,460	2,830	2,590
Head Lettuce	27,360	27,280	25,090
Bell Pepper ¹	2,470	2,470	2,350
Spinach	890	320	320
Tomatoes	4,050	4,050	3,680
Total Winter Crop ²	72,480	72,680	70,290

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² Total may not add due to rounding.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop, State, and
Total, Winter Season, 2006-2007 and Forecasted Area 2008**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area		
		Harvested		For Harvest 2008
		2006	2007	
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans FL	Jan-Mar	13,200	13,900	14,000
Broccoli ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	28,500	30,000	28,500
Cabbage FL	Jan-Mar	3,900	4,800	5,000
TX	Dec-Mar	6,700	4,700	7,900
Total		10,600	9,500	12,900
Carrots CA	Jan-Mar	20,000	18,200	18,000
TX	Dec-Mar	1,200	900	900
Total		21,200	19,100	18,900
Cauliflower ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	8,500	8,200	8,000
Celery ¹ CA	Jan-Mar	7,600	7,600	7,300
Sweet Corn FL	Jan-Mar	3,600	7,000	6,400
Head Lettuce AZ - Western	Nov-Apr	47,600	45,400	42,000
CA	Jan-Mar	20,000	22,000	20,000
Total		67,600	67,400	62,000
Bell Pepper ¹ FL	Jan-Mar	6,100	6,100	5,800
Spinach TX	Dec-Mar	2,200	800	800
Tomatoes FL	Jan-Mar	10,000	10,000	9,100

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

**Onions and Strawberries for Fresh Market: Area Planted and Harvested
by Crop, Season, and Total, 2006-2007 and Forecasted Area 2008**

Crop, Season, and State	Planted Area			Harvested Area		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	For Harvest 2008
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Onions ¹						
Spring						
AZ ²	1,000	1,200	1,600	1,000	1,200	
CA ²	8,100	7,600	7,900	7,900	7,400	
GA	14,000	12,500	12,000	10,500	12,000	11,500
TX	17,700	12,500	10,500	15,200	10,400	9,000
Total ²	40,800	33,800	32,000	34,600	31,000	
Strawberries ³						
CA	35,800	35,500	35,500	35,800	35,500	35,500
FL	7,400	8,400	8,800	7,300	8,300	8,700
OR	3,100	2,800	2,700	2,100	1,900	1,900
Major States Total	46,300	46,700	47,000	45,200	45,700	46,100

¹ Primarily fresh market.

² 2008 harvested acreage published April 3, 2008.

³ Includes fresh market and processing.

Snap Beans: Florida area for harvest is forecast at 14,000 acres, up 1 percent from last year. Warm, dry weather during October through December allowed growers to plant the snap bean crop on schedule.

Broccoli: California harvested area is forecast at 28,500 acres, down 5 percent from 2007. Unseasonably cool temperatures throughout the State may affect overall plant growth. Preparatory irrigation was required in many areas due to lack of rain.

Cabbage: Winter area for harvest is forecast at 12,900 acres, 36 percent above 2007. In Florida, hot and dry conditions during October through December delayed some plantings. However, most planting was finished by the end of the year.

Carrots: Winter harvested area is forecast at 18,900 acres, down 1 percent from last year. In California, unseasonably cool temperatures throughout the State may affect overall plant growth. Demand for baby carrots remained strong and supply is expected to remain steady. In Texas, planting is on the decline for fresh market carrots due to excessive rainfall.

Cauliflower: California harvested area is forecast at 8,000 acres, down 2 percent from last year. Cooler than normal weather has affected cauliflower growth more than other vegetables.

Celery: The winter celery crop for harvest in California is forecast at 7,300 acres, down 4 percent from last year. The crop was in good condition with no pest or disease problems reported.

Sweet Corn: Florida harvested area is forecast at 6,400 acres, 9 percent below last year. Favorable conditions during October, November, and December allowed planting of the sweet corn crop to proceed on schedule.

Head Lettuce: Area for harvest is forecast at 62,000 acres, down 8 percent from last year. In Arizona, the crop was ahead of schedule due to above average temperatures until mid-December. However, below average and freezing temperatures since then has resulted in harvest delays. In California, lettuce fields are in various stages of growth. Cool temperatures and rainfall delayed plant growth, and freezing temperatures resulted in some blistering and peeling.

Onions: Growers intend to plant 32,000 acres of spring onions for 2008, down 5 percent from 2007. California onion growers began planting in October and continued through mid-December. Onion fields have shown good growth in many areas following recent rains. In Georgia, transplanting was delayed due to dry soils and was only 12 percent complete as of the first week of December. In November and December, rainfall was well below normal. No disease problems have been reported in the plant beds. In Texas, onion planting is down due to growers planting row crops instead of onions.

Bell Peppers: Winter area for harvest in Florida is forecast at 5,800 acres, down 5 percent from last year. Mostly dry and cool conditions from October through December allowed planting to progress on schedule.

Spinach: Harvested area of winter spinach in Texas is forecast at 800 acres, unchanged from 2007 but 64 percent below 2006. Spinach planting has declined in recent years due to reduced demand and the introduction of strict rules for producers growing leafy green vegetables.

Strawberries: Planted area for the major States (California, Florida, and Oregon) is forecast at 47,000 acres, up 1 percent from 2007. In California, transplanting and growing conditions were mostly ideal throughout the State. In Florida, producers began transplanting by early October and irrigated sets due to drought conditions. Warm temperatures during most of November and December hindered berry development. Labor issues in Oregon continue to be a concern for growers.

Tomatoes: Florida winter tomato harvested area is forecast at 9,100 acres, down 9 percent from 2007. Growers were able to keep planting on schedule due to mostly mild weather conditions.

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