



# NASS

FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D.C.

# Vegetables

---

Released January 9, 2006, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Vegetables* call Jim Smith at (202) 720-2131, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

## **Fresh Vegetable Harvested Acreage Up 2 Percent Spring Onion Planted Acreage Up 2 Percent Strawberry Planted Acreage Up 4 Percent**

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the winter quarter is forecast at 183,900 acres. This is 2 percent above 2005 and 3 percent greater than 2004. Acreage increases for carrots, cauliflower, cabbage, snap beans, spinach, and broccoli more than offset decreases for tomatoes, sweet corn, celery, bell pepper, and head lettuce.

Area planted for spring onions, at 40,600 acres, is up 2 percent from both 2005 and 2004. Georgia and Texas increased planted acreage from 2005, while Arizona and California acreage decreased.

Strawberry area planted for major States (California, Florida, and Oregon) in 2006 is forecast at 46,300 acres, up 4 percent for the same States in 2005 and 6 percent above the same States in 2004.

**Contents**  
**Fresh Market**

	<b>Page</b>
By Crops	
Area .....	3
<b>Harvested Acres of Selected Vegetables and Dual Purpose Crops by State</b>	
Beans, Snap .....	4
Broccoli .....	4
Cabbage .....	4
Carrots .....	4
Cauliflower .....	4
Celery .....	4
Corn, Sweet .....	4
Lettuce, Head .....	4
Peppers, Bell .....	4
Spinach .....	4
Tomatoes .....	4
Planted and Harvested Acres of Onions, Spring .....	5
Planted and Harvested Acres of Strawberries .....	5
Fresh Market Crop Comments .....	6

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Season and  
Crop, Major States, 2004-2005 and Forecasted Area 2006  
(Domestic Units)**

Crop and Season	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2006
	2004	2005	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans	12,000	12,500	13,200
Broccoli <sup>1</sup>	26,500	26,500	27,500
Cabbage	12,500	12,600	13,900
Carrots	21,100	19,500	23,500
Cauliflower <sup>1</sup>	7,500	7,600	9,000
Celery <sup>1</sup>	7,700	7,600	7,200
Sweet Corn	8,400	7,800	7,200
Head Lettuce	61,500	64,600	63,000
Bell Pepper <sup>1</sup>	6,100	6,300	6,200
Spinach	2,000	2,100	2,200
Tomatoes	13,000	12,500	11,000
<b>Total Winter Crop</b>	<b>178,300</b>	<b>179,600</b>	<b>183,900</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes fresh market and processing.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Season and  
Crop, Major States, 2004-2005 and Forecasted Area 2006  
(Metric Units)**

Crop and Season	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2006
	2004	2005	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Snap Beans	4,860	5,060	5,340
Broccoli <sup>1</sup>	10,720	10,720	11,130
Cabbage	5,060	5,100	5,630
Carrots	8,540	7,890	9,510
Cauliflower <sup>1</sup>	3,040	3,080	3,640
Celery <sup>1</sup>	3,120	3,080	2,910
Sweet Corn	3,400	3,160	2,910
Head Lettuce	24,890	26,140	25,500
Bell Pepper <sup>1</sup>	2,470	2,550	2,510
Spinach	810	850	890
Tomatoes	5,260	5,060	4,450
<b>Total Winter Crop <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>72,160</b>	<b>72,680</b>	<b>74,420</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes fresh market and processing.

<sup>2</sup> Total may not add due to rounding.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Crop, State, and  
Total, Winter Season, 2004-2005 and Forecasted Area 2006**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area		
		Harvested		For Harvest 2006
		2004	2005	
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans FL	Jan-Mar	12,000	12,500	13,200
Broccoli <sup>1</sup> CA	Jan-Mar	26,500	26,500	27,500
Cabbage FL	Jan-Mar	5,300	5,000	5,500
TX	Dec-Mar	7,200	7,600	8,400
Total		12,500	12,600	13,900
Carrots CA	Jan-Mar	20,000	18,000	22,000
TX	Dec-Mar	1,100	1,500	1,500
Total		21,100	19,500	23,500
Cauliflower <sup>1</sup> CA	Jan-Mar	7,500	7,600	9,000
Celery <sup>1</sup> CA	Jan-Mar	7,700	7,600	7,200
Sweet Corn FL	Jan-Mar	8,400	7,800	7,200
Head Lettuce AZ - Western	Nov-Apr	46,500	45,600	45,000
CA	Jan-Mar	15,000	19,000	18,000
Total		61,500	64,600	63,000
Bell Pepper <sup>1</sup> FL	Jan-Mar	6,100	6,300	6,200
Spinach TX	Dec-Mar	2,000	2,100	2,200
Tomatoes FL	Jan-Mar	13,000	12,500	11,000

<sup>1</sup> Includes fresh market and processing.

**Onions and Strawberries for Fresh Market: Area Planted and Harvested  
by Crop, Season, and Total, 2004-2005 and Forecasted Area 2006**

Crop, Season, and State	Planted Area			Harvested Area		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	For Harvest 2006
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Onions <sup>1</sup>						
Spring						
AZ <sup>2</sup>	1,600	2,000	1,600	1,600	2,000	
CA <sup>2</sup>	7,300	7,500	7,400	7,100	7,300	
GA	16,500	13,500	14,000	14,500	10,500	13,500
TX	14,500	17,000	17,600	12,500	15,500	16,000
Total <sup>2</sup>	39,900	40,000	40,600	35,700	35,300	
Strawberries <sup>3</sup>						
CA	33,200	34,300	35,800	33,200	34,300	35,800
FL	7,100	7,300	7,400	7,100	7,300	7,400
MI <sup>4</sup>	1,100	1,100		900	1,000	
OR	3,300	3,100	3,100	2,400	2,200	2,100
WA <sup>4</sup>	1,700	1,500		1,700	1,500	
Major States Total	46,400	47,300		45,300	46,300	

<sup>1</sup> Primarily fresh market.

<sup>2</sup> 2006 harvested acreage published April 3, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Includes fresh market and processing.

<sup>4</sup> Seasonal estimates discontinued. Estimates to be published in the *Vegetables 2006 Summary*.

**Snap Beans:** Florida area for harvest is forecast at 13,200 acres, up 6 percent from last year and 10 percent above 2004. Some acreage south of Lake Okeechobee and in the Miami-Dade County area was replanted after damage from Hurricane Wilma. Mostly mild conditions since the hurricane have aided crop growth.

**Broccoli:** California harvested area is forecast at 27,500 acres, 4 percent above both 2005 and 2004. A series of storms passed through Southern California in late December and early January bringing cold temperatures and much rain. Some flooding occurred due to breached levees and overflowing rivers. If conditions improve, favorable yields are possible as growers allocated the most fertile fields to vegetables. No major pest or disease problems have been reported this season.

**Cabbage:** Winter acreage for harvest is forecast at 13,900 acres, 10 percent above 2005 and up 11 percent from 2004. In Florida, Hurricane Wilma slowed planting of the winter crop around Hastings with only minor damage from the storm's wind and rain. Some southern Peninsula acreage was damaged by the hurricane. Harvesting in other central and southern Peninsula areas started by the first of December with producers marketing very light amounts. The Texas crop did well early in the season under perfect growing conditions. Some irrigation was needed as the weather became cool and dry during crop development. The last week of December brought hot weather which the crop did not tolerate as well.

**Carrots:** Winter harvested acreage is forecast at 23,500 acres, up 21 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. The California crop is growing well with very few problems. High demand for baby carrots continues. The Texas carrot crop is progressing well in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area.

**Cauliflower:** California acreage is forecast at 9,000 acres, up 18 percent from 2005 and 20 percent greater than 2004. A series of storms passed through the coastal and southern areas of California in late December and early January bringing cold temperatures and much rain. It is unknown at this time how flooding from the storms will affect the cauliflower crop. No disease or pest problems have developed.

**Celery:** The winter celery crop for harvest in California is forecast at 7,200 acres, down 5 percent from last year and 6 percent below the year before. In Oxnard, the winter celery crop is in good condition. Minimal flooding and damage from the recent rainfall was reported.

**Sweet Corn:** Florida harvested area is forecast at 7,200 acres, 8 percent less than last year and 14 percent below 2004. Hurricane Wilma caused major damage and losses to sweet corn acreage in the Miami-Dade County area in late October. A few growers righted stalks blown over by Wilma's strong winds in the days following the storm. Mostly mild conditions since the storm aided replanting and crop growth. Harvesting began by early October with small amounts available during November and December.

**Head Lettuce:** Area for harvest is forecast at 63,000 acres, down 2 percent from last year but 2 percent above the year before. In Arizona, harvest began two weeks earlier than normal in November because of above average temperatures during the growing season. Quality was good during November. In December, crews had to wait up to six hours on some days to harvest because of ice on the lettuce. This caused variable quality during December. The California desert lettuce

crop is doing well this season. Harvest began earlier than usual. Temperatures began to drop the first week of December, which slowed development and delayed harvest, creating a small supply gap that caused higher lettuce prices.

**Onions:** Growers intend to plant 40,600 acres of spring onions for 2006, up 2 percent from both 2005 and 2004. In Arizona, planting began in January. California onion growers began planting in October. Onion fields have shown good growth in many areas following recent rains and overall good growing conditions. In Georgia, transplanting was 38 percent complete as of the third week of November. November was drier than normal and December has had normal rainfall. No disease problems have been reported and plants are in good condition. Texas growers intend to plant more onions this season. The onion crop is progressing well across the State.

**Bell Peppers:** Winter acreage in Florida is forecast at 6,200 acres, 2 percent below last year but 2 percent above 2004. Bell peppers grown in the southern Peninsula suffered significant damage from Hurricane Wilma in October. Drier weather around Jupiter, Stuart, Immokalee, and Homestead during November helped drain fields saturated by Wilma's rain. Dry weather continued into December which allowed planting and harvesting to progress on schedule.

**Spinach:** Harvested area of winter spinach in Texas is forecast at 2,200 acres, an increase of 5 percent from 2005 and 10 percent more than the 2004 crop. Growers report outstanding quality and good yields for this season's crop.

**Strawberries:** Planted acreage for the major States (California, Florida, and Oregon) is forecast at 46,300 acres, up 4 percent for the same States last year and 6 percent above those same States in 2004. In California, increases in acreage are reported in most major growing areas. December rains helped to strengthen plants, however, a series of storms in late December and early January caused flooding in some areas. Preparation for the Florida winter crop began at the end of September as growers laid plastic and started transplanting. The strawberry crop received no damage from Hurricane Wilma at the end of October, at which time 90 percent of the winter crop had been transplanted. Cool temperatures during November and December boosted berry development but slowed plant growth. Picking began by Thanksgiving. In Oregon, growers are pessimistic about this season's crop. Labor shortages, high labor costs, and mold caused by excess moisture have led to higher abandonment of strawberry acreage this season. Growers may not harvest as much if prices continue to be low.

**Tomatoes:** Florida winter tomato acreage is forecast at 11,000 acres, down 12 percent from 2005 and 15 percent below 2004. Hurricane Wilma caused major damage and losses to the tomato crop in the areas of Immokalee, Jupiter, Stuart, Palmetto-Ruskin, and Miami-Dade during late October. Mostly mild conditions in November and December aided replanting and crop growth with acreage planted after the storm reported in good condition. Growers in the Quincy area extended harvest by almost two months to help close the gap in supplies from the central and southern Peninsula. Producers started picking acreage hurt by Wilma in early January.

## ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

---

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

### INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: **www.nass.usda.gov**.

### E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS Home Page at **www.nass.usda.gov**, under the right navigation, *Receive reports by Email*, click on **National** or **State**. Follow the instructions on the screen.

-----

### PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

**CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)**  
**Other areas, please call 703-605-6220      FAX: 703-605-6900**  
**(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)**

-----

### ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: **nass@nass.usda.gov**.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.