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Vegetables

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Fresh Vegetable Harvested Acreage Unchanged From Last Year Spring Onion Planted Acreage Down 15 Percent Strawberry Planted Acreage Up 3 Percent

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the winter quarter is forecast at 179,200 acres. This is unchanged from 2006 but 3 percent below 2005. Acreage declined for snap beans, carrots, celery, head lettuce, spinach, and tomatoes. Acreage increased for broccoli, cabbage, and sweet corn. Cauliflower and bell peppers remain the same.

Area planted for spring onions, at 34,600 acres, is down 15 percent from both 2006 and 2005. Georgia and Texas decreased planted acreage from 2006, while Arizona and California acreage remain unchanged.

Strawberry area planted for major States (California, Florida, and Oregon) in 2007 is forecast at 47,900 acres, up 3 percent from 2006 and 7 percent from 2005 in the same States.

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**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Season and
Crop, Major States, 2005-2006 and Forecasted Area 2007
(Domestic Units)**

| Crop and Season | Area | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | Harvested | | For Harvest 2007 |
| | 2005 | 2006 | |
| | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> |
| Snap Beans | 12,500 | 13,200 | 12,400 |
| Broccoli ¹ | 27,000 | 28,500 | 30,000 |
| Cabbage | 12,600 | 10,600 | 10,800 |
| Carrots | 19,500 | 21,200 | 20,300 |
| Cauliflower ¹ | 8,500 | 9,000 | 9,000 |
| Celery ¹ | 7,500 | 7,200 | 6,800 |
| Sweet Corn | 7,800 | 3,600 | 7,000 |
| Head Lettuce | 67,600 | 66,600 | 65,000 |
| Bell Pepper ¹ | 6,300 | 6,100 | 6,100 |
| Spinach | 2,100 | 2,200 | 1,800 |
| Tomatoes | 12,500 | 11,000 | 10,000 |
| Total Winter Crop | 183,900 | 179,200 | 179,200 |

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables: Area Harvested by Season and
Crop, Major States, 2005-2006 and Forecasted Area 2007
(Metric Units)**

| Crop and Season | Area | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | Harvested | | For Harvest 2007 |
| | 2005 | 2006 | |
| | <i>Hectares</i> | <i>Hectares</i> | <i>Hectares</i> |
| Snap Beans | 5,060 | 5,340 | 5,020 |
| Broccoli ¹ | 10,930 | 11,530 | 12,140 |
| Cabbage | 5,100 | 4,290 | 4,370 |
| Carrots | 7,890 | 8,580 | 8,220 |
| Cauliflower ¹ | 3,440 | 3,640 | 3,640 |
| Celery ¹ | 3,040 | 2,910 | 2,750 |
| Sweet Corn | 3,160 | 1,460 | 2,830 |
| Head Lettuce | 27,360 | 26,950 | 26,300 |
| Bell Pepper ¹ | 2,550 | 2,470 | 2,470 |
| Spinach | 850 | 890 | 730 |
| Tomatoes | 5,060 | 4,450 | 4,050 |
| Total Winter Crop ² | 74,420 | 72,520 | 72,520 |

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, 2005-2006 and Forecasted Area 2007**

| Crop and State | Usual Harvest Period | Area | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| | | Harvested | | For Harvest 2007 |
| | | 2005 | 2006 | |
| | | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> |
| Snap Beans FL | Jan-Mar | 12,500 | 13,200 | 12,400 |
| Broccoli ¹ CA | Jan-Mar | 27,000 | 28,500 | 30,000 |
| Cabbage FL | Jan-Mar | 5,000 | 3,900 | 4,300 |
| TX | Dec-Mar | 7,600 | 6,700 | 6,500 |
| Total | | 12,600 | 10,600 | 10,800 |
| Carrots CA | Jan-Mar | 18,000 | 20,000 | 19,300 |
| TX | Dec-Mar | 1,500 | 1,200 | 1,000 |
| Total | | 19,500 | 21,200 | 20,300 |
| Cauliflower ¹ CA | Jan-Mar | 8,500 | 9,000 | 9,000 |
| Celery ¹ CA | Jan-Mar | 7,500 | 7,200 | 6,800 |
| Sweet Corn FL | Jan-Mar | 7,800 | 3,600 | 7,000 |
| Head Lettuce AZ - Western | Nov-Apr | 49,600 | 47,600 | 46,000 |
| CA | Jan-Mar | 18,000 | 19,000 | 19,000 |
| Total | | 67,600 | 66,600 | 65,000 |
| Bell Pepper ¹ FL | Jan-Mar | 6,300 | 6,100 | 6,100 |
| Spinach TX | Dec-Mar | 2,100 | 2,200 | 1,800 |
| Tomatoes FL | Jan-Mar | 12,500 | 11,000 | 10,000 |

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

**Onions and Strawberries for Fresh Market: Area Planted and Harvested
by Crop, Season, and Total, 2005-2006 and Forecasted Area 2007**

| Crop, Season, and State | Planted Area | | | Harvested Area | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2005 | 2006 | For Harvest 2007 |
| | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> |
| Onions ¹ | | | | | | |
| Spring | | | | | | |
| AZ ² | 2,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 2,000 | 1,000 | |
| CA ² | 8,200 | 8,100 | 8,100 | 8,000 | 7,900 | |
| GA | 13,500 | 14,000 | 13,500 | 10,500 | 10,500 | 13,000 |
| TX | 17,000 | 17,700 | 12,000 | 15,500 | 15,200 | 10,300 |
| Total ² | 40,700 | 40,800 | 34,600 | 36,000 | 34,600 | |
| Strawberries ³ | | | | | | |
| CA | 34,300 | 35,800 | 37,000 | 34,300 | 35,800 | 37,000 |
| FL | 7,300 | 7,400 | 7,600 | 7,300 | 7,300 | 7,500 |
| OR | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,300 | 2,200 | 2,100 | 2,100 |
| Major States Total | 44,700 | 46,300 | 47,900 | 43,800 | 45,200 | 46,600 |

¹ Primarily fresh market.

² 2007 harvested acreage published April 3, 2007.

³ Includes fresh market and processing.

Snap Beans: Florida area for harvest is forecast at 12,400 acres, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below 2005. Mild weather conditions during October through December allowed growers to plant the snap bean crop on schedule.

Broccoli: California harvested area is forecast at 30,000 acres, up 5 percent from 2006 and 11 percent above 2005. Planting was delayed due to a freeze in early December. Growers were able to resume planting by mid-December as temperatures increased. No major pests or disease problems were reported.

Cabbage: Winter acreage for harvest is forecast at 10,800 acres, 2 percent above 2006 but down 14 percent from 2005. In Florida, mostly mild conditions during October through December allowed planting to proceed on schedule. Light harvest started by mid-December. In Texas, heavy rainfall in the Lower Valley during September caused flooding and seed washouts that kept the cabbage crop from getting a good start. Some fields had to be transplanted instead of grown from seed.

Carrots: Winter harvested area is forecast at 20,300 acres, down 4 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. The California crop is growing well with very few problems. High demand for baby carrots continues.

Cauliflower: California acreage is forecast at 9,000 acres, unchanged from last year but 6 percent greater than 2005. Planting was delayed due to a freeze in early December. Growers were able to resume planting by mid-December as temperatures increased. No major pests or disease problems were reported.

Celery: The winter celery crop for harvest in California is forecast at 6,800 acres, down 6 percent from last year and 9 percent below the year before. The winter celery crop is in good condition with no pest or disease problems reported.

Sweet Corn: Florida harvested area is forecast at 7,000 acres, 94 percent above last year's freeze damaged crop but 10 percent below 2005. Mostly favorable conditions during October, November, and December permitted planting and harvesting of the sweet corn crop to stay on schedule.

Head Lettuce: Area for harvest is forecast at 65,000 acres, down 2 percent from last year and 4 percent below the year before. In Florida, the growing and harvest season has been significantly affected by below average and freezing temperatures. These temperatures resulted in delayed harvest with the crop suffering from frost damage, epidermal peeling, and smaller head sizes. In California, lettuce fields are in various stages of growth. Growers had to treat their crop to control insects. There are concerns that mildew may affect the crop by causing smaller head sizes, lower yields, and reduced quality.

Onions: Growers intend to plant 34,600 acres of spring onions for 2007, down 15 percent from both 2006 and 2005. In Arizona, planting began in December. 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 46 percent complete as of the first week of December. November was drier than normal and December has had normal rainfall.

No disease problems have been reported and plants are in good condition. Planting was delayed in South Texas by 22 inches of rainfall in September. However, the crop is progressing well.

Bell Peppers: Winter acreage in Florida is forecast at 6,100 acres, unchanged from last year but 3 percent below 2005. Mostly clear and mild conditions from October through December allowed planting to progress on schedule.

Spinach: Harvested area of winter spinach in Texas is forecast at 1,800 acres, a decrease of 18 percent from 2006 and 14 percent below the 2005 crop. Harvest started by early December.

Strawberries: Planted acreage for the major States (California, Florida, and Oregon) is forecast at 47,900 acres, up 3 percent from 2006 and 7 percent above 2005 in those same States. In California, warm weather throughout the coastal berry growing region provided good conditions for planting. Following a record year, growers are anticipating another good year for the strawberry crop. In Florida, producers began transplanting at the end of September with virtually all planting completed by the end of October. Cooler temperatures at the end of October through November increased the quality of the berry crop. However, very warm temperatures for most of December adversely affected berry quality. Light harvesting started in early November with a moderate amount available for the Thanksgiving Day market. Picking increased steadily as more acreage reached maturity in December. Labor shortages and weather conditions in Oregon continue to be a concern for some growers. However, producers are optimistic about this year's crop.

Tomatoes: Florida winter tomato acreage is forecast at 10,000 acres, down 9 percent from 2006 and 20 percent below 2005. Growers were able to keep planting on schedule due to mostly mild weather conditions during October, November, and December.

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