



# Vegetables

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## **Fresh Vegetable Harvested Acreage Up 1 Percent**

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the fall quarter is forecast at 164,250 acres, up 1 percent from last year. Acreage increased for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, and sweet corn, while acreage decreased for snap beans, cucumbers, head lettuce, bell peppers, and tomatoes. Acreage for carrots remained the same. Area forecasted for melon harvest is 14,500 acres, up 14 percent from last year's comparable commodities. Cantaloup harvested area is forecast at 10,000 acres, up 18 percent from 2002. Honeydew harvested area is forecast at 4,500 acres, up 7 percent from last fall. Watermelon acreage is not available this season due to the seasonal forecast for Arizona being discontinued in 2003. End of season estimates for watermelons will be published in the January 2004 annual.

## **Summer Storage Onion Production Up 3 Percent**

Summer storage onion production is forecast at 48.5 million hundredweight, up 3 percent from last year. Storage onion harvested area is forecast at 103,680 acres, virtually unchanged from 2002. California production, at 14.0 million hundredweight, is 14 percent higher than 2002. Harvested area is expected to be 33,300 acres, up 10 percent from last year.

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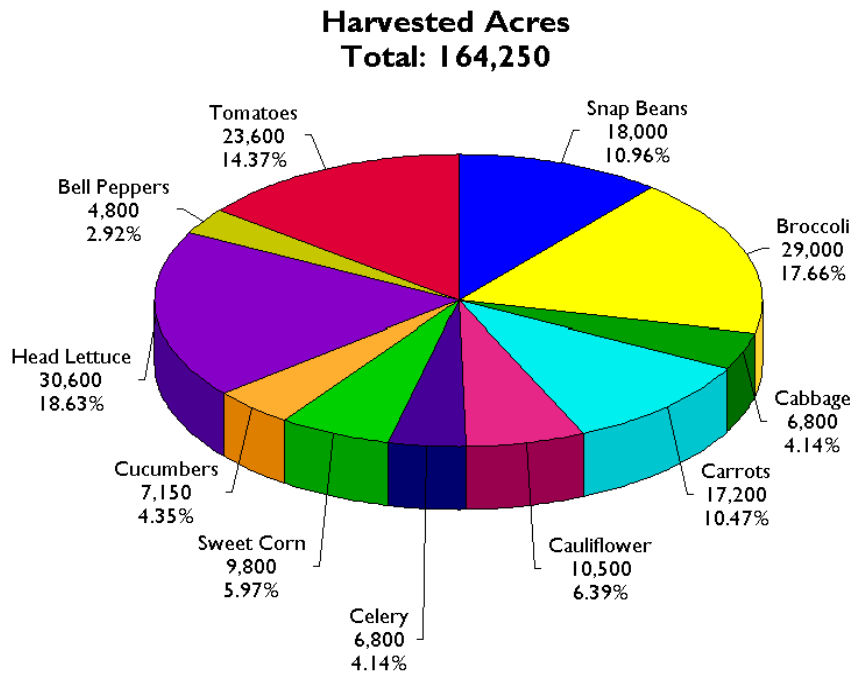
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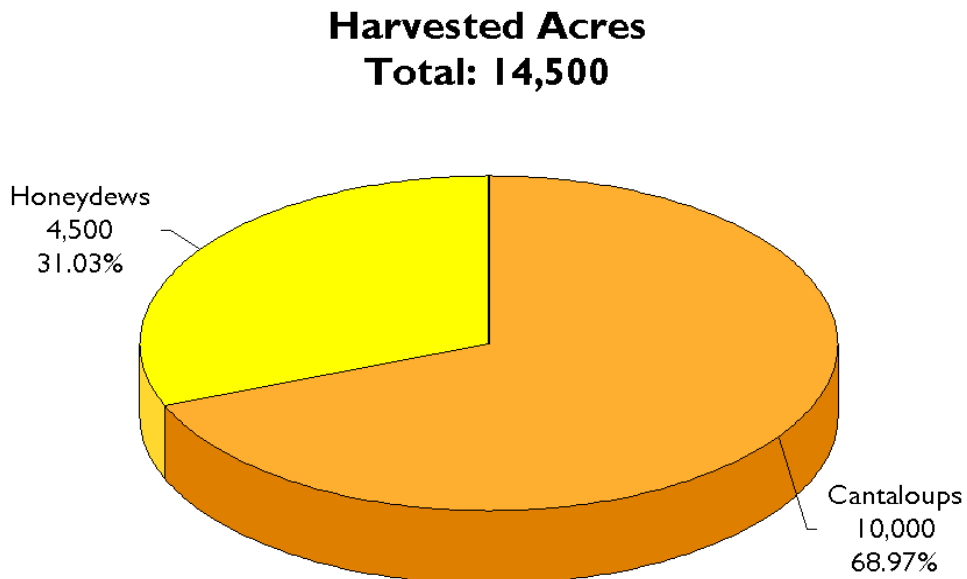
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## Fall Season Fresh Market Vegetables: 2003



## Fall Season Melons: 2003



**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Season,  
and Crop, Major States, 2001-2002 and Forecasted Area 2003  
(Domestic Units)**

Season and Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2003
	2001	2002	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Winter	190,200	178,300	185,200
Spring	304,400	297,200	295,900
Summer	442,200	435,600	432,400
Fall			
Snap Beans	17,300	18,500	18,000
Broccoli <sup>1</sup>	27,500	27,000	29,000
Cabbage	5,900	6,300	6,800
Carrots	19,500	17,200	17,200
Cauliflower <sup>1</sup>	10,000	10,000	10,500
Celery <sup>1</sup>	7,000	6,700	6,800
Sweet Corn	8,700	8,900	9,800
Cucumbers	7,200	7,500	7,150
Eggplant <sup>2</sup>	700		
Escarole/Endive <sup>2</sup>	700		
Head Lettuce	30,800	31,300	30,600
Bell Peppers <sup>1</sup>	5,200	5,200	4,800
Tomatoes	23,700	24,700	23,600
Total 13 Vegetables	164,200	163,300	164,250
Cantaloups	8,400	8,500	10,000
Honeydew Melons	4,300	4,200	4,500
Watermelons <sup>3</sup>	1,000	1,000	
Total 3 Melons	13,700	13,700	14,500
Total Fall Crop	177,900	177,000	178,750

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

<sup>2</sup> Estimates discontinued in 2002.

<sup>3</sup> Seasonal forecast for AZ discontinued in 2003. Estimate to be published in the "*Vegetables 2003 Summary*".

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Season,  
and Crop, Major States, 2001-2002 and Forecasted Area 2003  
(Metric Units)**

Season and Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2003
	2001	2002	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Winter	76,970	72,160	74,950
Spring	123,190	120,270	119,750
Summer	178,950	176,280	174,990
Fall			
Snap Beans	7,000	7,490	7,280
Broccoli <sup>1</sup>	11,130	10,930	11,740
Cabbage	2,390	2,550	2,750
Carrots	7,890	6,960	6,960
Cauliflower <sup>1</sup>	4,050	4,050	4,250
Celery <sup>1</sup>	2,830	2,710	2,750
Sweet Corn	3,520	3,600	3,970
Cucumbers	2,910	3,040	2,890
Eggplant <sup>2</sup>	280		
Escarole/Endive <sup>2</sup>	280		
Head Lettuce	12,460	12,670	12,380
Bell Peppers <sup>1</sup>	2,100	2,100	1,940
Tomatoes	9,590	10,000	9,550
Total 13 Vegetables <sup>3</sup>	66,450	66,090	66,470
Cantaloups	3,400	3,440	4,050
Honeydew Melons	1,740	1,700	1,820
Watermelons <sup>4</sup>	400	400	
Total 3 Melons <sup>3</sup>	5,540	5,540	5,870
Total Fall Crop <sup>3</sup>	71,990	71,630	72,340

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

<sup>2</sup> Estimates discontinued in 2002.

<sup>3</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>4</sup> Seasonal forecast for AZ discontinued in 2003. Estimate to be published in the "Vegetables 2003 Summary".

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Crop,  
State, and Total, Fall Season, 2001-2002 and Forecasted Area 2003**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area		
		Harvested		For Harvest 2003
		2001	2002	
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans				
FL	Oct-Dec	9,000	10,000	10,200
GA	Oct-Dec	4,500	5,000	4,500
NJ	Sep-Oct	1,800	1,600	1,500
VA	Sep-Oct	2,000	1,900	1,800
Total		17,300	18,500	18,000
Broccoli <sup>1</sup>				
CA	Oct-Dec	27,500	27,000	29,000
Cabbage				
FL	Oct-Dec	500	500	500
GA	Oct-Dec	3,500	4,100	4,800
NJ	Sep-Nov	500	500	500
TX	Sep-Nov	1,400	1,200	1,000
Total		5,900	6,300	6,800
Cantaloups				
AZ	Sep-Dec	4,600	4,600	5,200
CA	Oct-Dec	3,800	3,900	4,800
Total		8,400	8,500	10,000
Carrots				
CA	Oct-Dec	19,000	17,000	17,000
TX	Sep-Nov	500	200	200
Total		19,500	17,200	17,200
Cauliflower <sup>1</sup>				
CA	Oct-Dec	10,000	10,000	10,500
Celery <sup>1</sup>				
CA	Oct-Dec	7,000	6,700	6,800
Sweet Corn				
CA	Oct-Dec	3,800	4,000	5,000
FL	Oct-Dec	4,900	4,900	4,800
Total		8,700	8,900	9,800

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Crop, State,  
and Total, Fall Season, 2001-2002 and Forecasted Area 2003 (continued)**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area		
		Harvested		For Harvest 2003
		2001	2002	
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Cucumbers				
FL	Oct-Dec	3,500	3,500	3,500
SC	Oct-Dec	800	800	850
TX	Sep-Nov	1,500	1,400	1,000
VA	Sep-Oct	1,400	1,800	1,800
Total		7,200	7,500	7,150
Eggplant				
FL <sup>2</sup>	Oct-Dec	700		
Escarole/Endive				
FL <sup>2 3</sup>	Oct-Dec			
NJ <sup>2 3</sup>	Sep-Nov			
Total		700		
Honeydews				
AZ	Oct-Dec	800	800	1,000
CA	Oct-Dec	3,500	3,400	3,500
Total		4,300	4,200	4,500
Head Lettuce				
AZ - Other	Oct-May	500	500	400
CA	Oct-Dec	30,000	30,500	30,000
NJ	Sep-Nov	300	300	200
Total		30,800	31,300	30,600
Bell Peppers <sup>1</sup>				
FL	Sep-Dec	4,500	4,900	4,500
TX	Sep-Nov	700	300	300
Total		5,200	5,200	4,800
Tomatoes				
CA	Oct-Dec	9,700	9,200	9,400
FL	Sep-Dec	14,000	15,500	14,200
Total		23,700	24,700	23,600
Watermelons				
AZ <sup>4</sup>	Oct-Dec	1,000	1,000	

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

<sup>2</sup> Estimates discontinued in 2002.

<sup>3</sup> Not published for 2001 to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>4</sup> Seasonal forecast discontinued in 2003. Estimate to be published in the "Vegetables 2003 Summary".

**Snap Beans:** Fall fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 18,000 acres, down 3 percent from last year but 4 percent above 2001. Northern Florida growers are just beginning harvest. Growers in southern Florida began planting the first week of September. Recent rains have slowed progress but no major problems have occurred as a result. Georgia's recent weather has been dry, which is good during harvest, but more rain was needed to improve crop conditions. The New Jersey yields are expected to be lower for the fall crop due to wet conditions in late August and September. In Virginia, growers have dealt with excessive rainfall from mid-July through mid-August. The effects of Hurricane Isabel, which came through the area on September 18, are unknown at this time.

**Broccoli:** California's area for fall harvest is forecast at 29,000 acres, 7 percent above last year and 5 percent more than 2001. The fall crop has progressed well in recent months under warm temperatures. No major pest problems have been reported.

**Cabbage:** Fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 6,800 acres, up 8 percent from last year and 15 percent above two years earlier. Georgia's crop benefitted from hot, sunny weather over the summer, but rain is needed to improve crop conditions. New Jersey's fall crop is expected to have lower yields due to wildlife damage and excessive rainfall. In Texas, the Rio Grande Valley region was recently hit hard by rains and growers have been unable to plant because of standing water in the fields.

**Cantaloups:** Fall cantaloup area for harvest is forecast at 10,000 acres, up 18 percent from 2002 and 19 percent above two years ago. Arizona nights have been cooler than expected which could result in the loss of late planted acres. Maturity has been slowed by the cooler temperatures. Harvest in western Arizona is expected to begin in a couple of weeks. The central region began harvesting around mid-September. The California crop is progressing well under favorable conditions. Quality is good and no major insect or disease problems have been reported.

**Carrots:** Area for fresh market harvest is forecast at 17,200 acres, unchanged from last year but 12 percent below 2001. Growing conditions for the California crop have been excellent. Growers expect good yields and excellent quality for the fall crop. Texas has been delayed by heavy rains which are keeping growers from getting the fall crop planted on schedule.

**Cauliflower:** Area for fall harvest in California is forecast at 10,500 acres, up 5 percent from both last year and 2001. California's fall crop development is normal with no pest or disease problems reported. Warm temperatures have helped the crop progress very well in recent months.

**Celery:** California's fall area for harvest is forecast at 6,800 acres, up 1 percent from 2002 but down 3 percent from 2001. Celery quality from the Salinas Valley is expected to be lower than normal due to hot weather during mid-September which caused pith problems. However, the crop in the central coastal areas of Santa Maria and Oxnard looks good.

**Sweet Corn:** Fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 9,800 acres, up 10 percent from last year and 13 percent above 2001. California's crop is in good condition with no insect or disease problems reported. In Florida, rainy August weather followed by drier conditions during the first half of September aided plant growth. Planting was delayed in some areas, but no significant acreage loss is expected.

**Cucumbers:** Area for fall harvest is forecast at 7,150 acres, 5 percent below last year and 1 percent lower than 2001. Planting in Florida is active in most areas but has been slowed by recent rainfall. Limited harvest is beginning in the northern areas. Growers report the crop is looking good. South Carolina had sufficient rainfall and good temperatures early in the season. However, fall conditions have been drier and growers without irrigation are concerned about quality. The Rio Grande Valley region of Texas had problems during planting because of heavy rains which left standing water and prevented workers from getting into the fields. In Virginia, growers were challenged by excessive rainfall from mid-July to mid-August. The effects of Hurricane Isabel, which came through the area on September 18, are unknown at this time.



**Honeydews:** Fresh market area for fall harvest is forecast at 4,500 acres, up 7 percent from last year and 5 percent above 2001. Arizona temperatures have been cooler which has slowed maturity of the melons. Western Arizona honeydew growers expect harvest to begin in a couple weeks. The California crop is progressing well under favorable growing conditions. Good quality is reported.

**Head Lettuce:** Area for fall harvest is forecast at 30,600 acres, down 2 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. In central Arizona, heavy monsoon activity in the major growing region during August resulted in water sitting in the furrows. The extent of the damage is unknown at this time. California's fall lettuce crop is progressing well. No major pest problems have been reported. New Jersey lost some acreage due to excessive rainfall.

**Bell Peppers:** Fall area for harvest is forecast at 4,800 acres, down 8 percent from both 2002 and 2001. In Florida, rain during August lowered yield prospects on the earliest planted acreage. Drier weather during early and mid-September allowed planting to proceed at a normal pace. In Texas, planting went well in the San Antonio/Winter Garden area. However, excessive rainfall in the Rio Grande Valley has halted fall planting.

**Tomatoes:** Fresh market area for fall harvest is forecast at 23,600 acres, 4 percent below last year and down less than 1 percent from 2001. California growers report steady growth and development of the fall tomato crop with no major problems reported. In Florida, frequent rains during July and August have lowered fruit quality and reduced expected yields. Northern Florida began picking in late September and harvest is expected to begin in the Immokalee and Palmetto-Ruskin areas by mid-October.

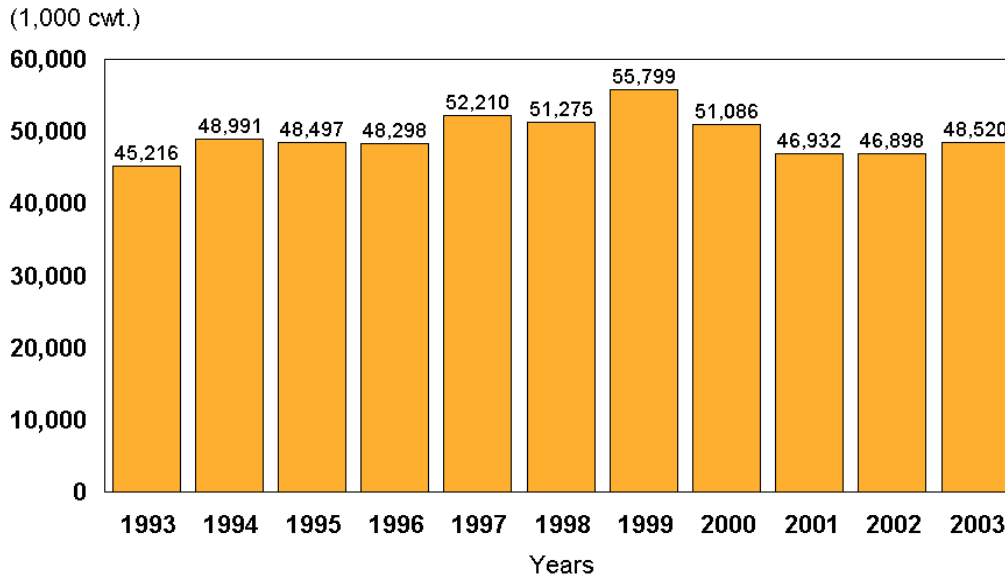
**Onions: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Season,  
State, and United States, 2001-2002 and Forecasted 2003**

Season and State	Area			Yield per Acre		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2003	2001	2002	2003
	2001	2002				
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>
Spring	36,900	34,200	31,500	302	284	304
Summer						
Non-Storage	21,000	22,400	22,500	456	491	508
Storage						
CA <sup>1</sup>	29,800	30,400	33,300	405	405	420
CO	12,000	11,000	9,600	345	400	405
ID	7,800	7,900	8,300	640	640	630
MI	3,700	3,900	3,600	270	230	270
MN	220	250	200	330	310	250
NY	12,800	12,300	11,800	330	230	340
OH	470	470	380	360	260	325
OR						
Malheur	11,300	12,000	11,000	620	650	590
Other	5,700	5,400	6,000	520	530	480
UT	2,100	2,100	1,800	455	500	460
WA	16,000	16,000	16,000	550	560	590
WI	1,800	1,900	1,700	300	280	365
Total	103,690	103,620	103,680	453	453	468
Summer	124,690	126,020	126,180	453	459	475
US	161,590	160,220	157,680	419	422	441
Production						
	2001		2002	2003		
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>		
Spring		11,136	9,705			9,578
Summer						
Non-Storage		9,585	11,008			11,421
Storage						
CA <sup>1</sup>		12,069	12,312			13,986
CO		4,140	4,400			3,888
ID		4,992	5,056			5,229
MI		999	897			972
MN		73	78			50
NY		4,224	2,829			4,012
OH		169	122			124
OR						
Malheur		7,006	7,800			6,490
Other		2,964	2,862			2,880
UT		956	1,050			828
WA		8,800	8,960			9,440
WI		540	532			621
Total		46,932	46,898			48,520
Summer		56,517	57,906			59,941
US		67,653	67,611			69,519

<sup>1</sup> Primarily for dehydrated and other processing.

# Storage Onion Production

## United States, 1993-2003



### Summer Storage Onion Production Up 3 Percent

Summer storage onion production is forecast at 48.5 million hundredweight, up 3 percent from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 103,680 acres, virtually unchanged from 2002. The yield is up 15 cwt from last year at 468 hundredweight per acre. The California crop is mostly progressing well with some areas behind due to cool spring weather. Crop conditions range from normal to good. There were a few reports of decay in some locations. Harvest has progressed well and was complete in some parts of the San Joaquin Valley by mid-September. The processing portion of the storage crop is in good condition. Colorado conditions have been favorable this season. Hail damage was below average and irrigation water supplies were adequate. Harvest continues to progress ahead of schedule under excellent conditions. In Idaho, yields are down and bulb size is smaller due to hot and dry conditions during the growing season. In addition, some acreage was damaged by hail in late July. As of September 22, three quarters of the onion crop has been harvested. Michigan's onion crop progressed well at the beginning of the growing season, however, localized heavy rains during August caused some disease problems. Growers reported good yields and quality as harvest progressed steadily under dry conditions. Minnesota experienced dry weather during August and early September, but recent rains improved soil conditions. Excellent quality and good yields are expected. In New York, onions are maturing late due to excess rain and cool weather during August and September which slowed growth. Quality is good but bulb size is small. Ohio growers have experienced wet weather and cool temperatures. Oregon's harvest is at its peak and should finish by early October. Yields are down due to a severe hail storm during the last week of July causing the complete loss of some fields. In addition, yields have been affected by heat stress and unavailability of water during critical times. Utah's summer was hot and dry which has reduced bulb size and yields. Quality of the crop is good with minimal disease problems reported. Harvest in Washington is progressing. Hot and dry conditions during the summer caused smaller bulb size. Overall quality is average to good. Wisconsin growers report an above average crop despite dry conditions this year. Pest and disease problems are minimal.

The next "*Vegetables*" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 8, 2004.

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## **USDA Data Users' Forum**

**October 20, 2003**

**Holiday Inn Mart Plaza**

**Chicago, Illinois**

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold a public forum for open exchange between Federal agricultural statistics agencies and data users on October 20, 2003. Agency representatives will provide updates on pending changes in the various statistical and information programs and will seek comments from data users. The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board, as well as the U.S. Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division, will also participate in the forum.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Forum, see the NASS homepage at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/) or contact Karlyn McCutcheon of NASS at (202) 690-8141 or at [karlyn\\_mccutcheon@nass.usda.gov](mailto:karlyn_mccutcheon@nass.usda.gov).

This Data Users' Forum precedes an Industry Outlook Meeting that will be held at the same location on October 21, 2003. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss the outlook situation. For more information about the outlook meeting and to register for it, contact the Livestock Marketing Information Center at (720) 544-2941 or (720) 544-2940.