



Vegetables

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Fresh Vegetable Harvested Acreage Up Less Than 1 Percent

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the fall quarter is forecast at 163,900 acres, up less than 1 percent from last year. Acreage increased for snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, head lettuce, and bell peppers while acreage decreased for carrots, celery, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Acreage for cauliflower and cucumbers remained the same. Area forecasted for melon harvest is 16,400 acres, up 28 percent from last year. Cantaloup harvested area is forecast at 11,600 acres, up 38 percent from 2003. Honeydew harvested area is forecast at 4,800 acres, up 9 percent from last fall.

Summer Storage Onion Production Up 11 Percent

Summer storage onion production is forecast at 54.9 million hundredweight, up 11 percent from last year. Storage onion harvested area is forecast at 109,250 acres, up 2 percent from 2003. California production, at 11.8 million hundredweight, is 5 percent below 2003. Harvested area is expected to be 27,500 acres, down 11 percent from last year.

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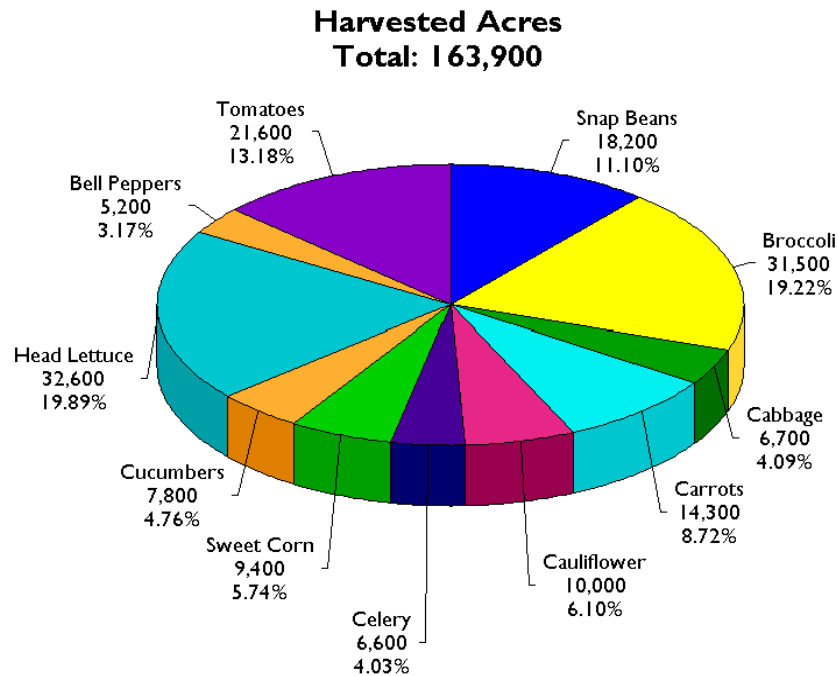
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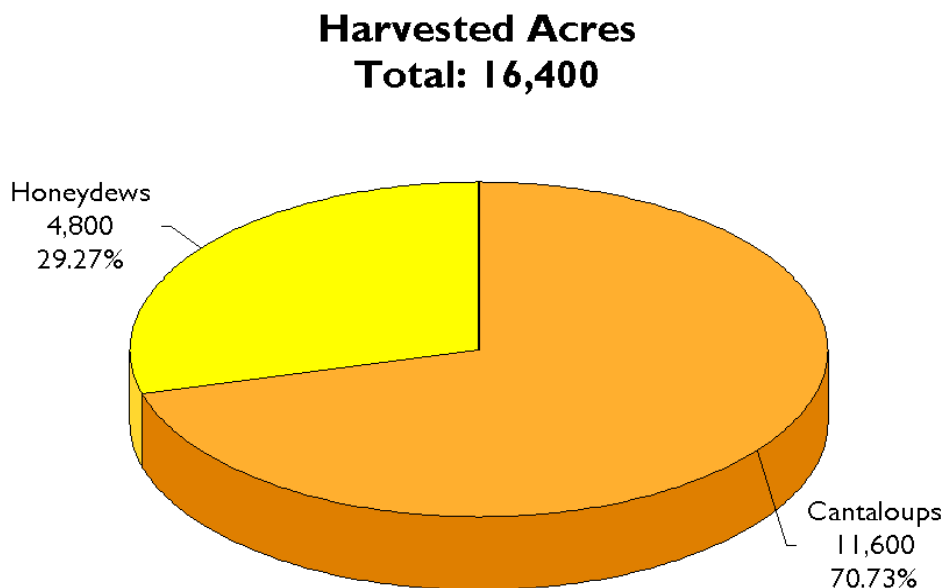
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Fall Season Fresh Market Vegetables: 2004



Fall Season Melons: 2004



**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Season,
and Crop, Major States, 2002-2003 and Forecasted Area 2004
(Domestic Units)**

Season and Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2004
	2002	2003	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Winter	177,600	176,500	181,400
Spring	297,900	301,200	306,100
Summer	437,600	436,400	434,000
Fall			
Snap Beans	17,700	17,800	18,200
Broccoli ¹	27,000	29,000	31,500
Cabbage	6,900	6,500	6,700
Carrots	15,700	14,700	14,300
Cauliflower ¹	10,000	10,000	10,000
Celery ¹	6,700	6,900	6,600
Sweet Corn	9,300	9,800	9,400
Cucumbers	8,100	7,800	7,800
Head Lettuce	31,100	32,500	32,600
Bell Peppers ¹	5,300	4,700	5,200
Tomatoes	23,000	23,800	21,600
Total 11 Vegetables	160,800	163,500	163,900
Cantaloups	8,200	8,400	11,600
Honeydew Melons	4,200	4,400	4,800
Watermelons ²	1,000		
Total 3 Melons	13,400	12,800	16,400
Total Fall Crop	174,200	176,300	180,300

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² Seasonal forecast for AZ discontinued in 2003. Estimate to be published in the "*Vegetables 2004 Summary*".

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Season,
and Crop, Major States, 2002-2003 and Forecasted Area 2004**
(Metric Units)

Season and Crop	Area		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2004
	2002	2003	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Winter	71,870	71,430	73,410
Spring	120,560	121,890	123,880
Summer	177,090	176,610	175,640
Fall			
Snap Beans	7,160	7,200	7,370
Broccoli ¹	10,930	11,740	12,750
Cabbage	2,790	2,630	2,710
Carrots	6,350	5,950	5,790
Cauliflower ¹	4,050	4,050	4,050
Celery ¹	2,710	2,790	2,670
Sweet Corn	3,760	3,970	3,800
Cucumbers	3,280	3,160	3,160
Head Lettuce	12,590	13,150	13,190
Bell Peppers ¹	2,140	1,900	2,100
Tomatoes	9,310	9,630	8,740
Total 11 Vegetables ²	65,070	66,170	66,330
Cantaloups	3,320	3,400	4,690
Honeydew Melons	1,700	1,780	1,940
Watermelons ³	400		
Total 3 Melons ²	5,420	5,180	6,640
Total Fall Crop ²	70,500	71,350	72,970

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² Totals may not add due to rounding.

³ Seasonal forecast for AZ discontinued in 2003. Estimate to be published in the "Vegetables 2004 Summary".

**Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Crop,
State, and Total, Fall Season, 2002-2003 and Forecasted Area 2004**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area		
		Harvested		For Harvest 2004
		2002	2003	
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Snap Beans				
FL	Oct-Dec	9,200	10,000	10,000
GA	Oct-Dec	5,000	5,000	5,000
NJ	Sep-Oct	1,600	900	1,600
VA	Sep-Oct	1,900	1,900	1,600
Total		17,700	17,800	18,200
Broccoli ¹				
CA	Oct-Dec	27,000	29,000	31,500
Cabbage				
FL	Oct-Dec	500	500	500
GA	Oct-Dec	4,900	4,700	4,200
NJ	Sep-Nov	500	400	500
TX	Sep-Nov	1,000	900	1,500
Total		6,900	6,500	6,700
Cantaloups				
AZ	Oct-Dec	4,600	5,000	8,300
CA	Oct-Dec	3,600	3,400	3,300
Total		8,200	8,400	11,600
Carrots				
CA	Oct-Dec	15,500	14,500	14,000
TX	Sep-Nov	200	200	300
Total		15,700	14,700	14,300
Cauliflower ¹				
CA	Oct-Dec	10,000	10,000	10,000
Celery ¹				
CA	Oct-Dec	6,700	6,900	6,600
Sweet Corn				
CA	Oct-Dec	4,400	5,000	4,900
FL	Oct-Dec	4,900	4,800	4,500
Total		9,300	9,800	9,400

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, 2002-2003 and Forecasted Area 2004 (continued)**

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area		
		Harvested		For Harvest 2004
		2002	2003	
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Cucumbers				
FL	Oct-Dec	4,800	4,700	4,500
SC	Oct-Dec	800	700	1,100
TX	Sep-Nov	1,400	1,100	1,000
VA	Sep-Oct	1,100	1,300	1,200
Total		8,100	7,800	7,800
Honeydews				
AZ	Oct-Dec	800	1,000	1,700
CA	Oct-Dec	3,400	3,400	3,100
Total		4,200	4,400	4,800
Head Lettuce				
AZ - Other ²	Oct-Dec	300	200	
CA	Oct-Dec	30,500	32,000	32,000
NJ ²	Sep-Nov	300	300	
Other States ³				600
Total		31,100	32,500	32,600
Bell Peppers ¹				
FL	Oct-Dec	4,900	4,500	4,900
TX	Sep-Nov	400	200	300
Total		5,300	4,700	5,200
Tomatoes				
CA	Oct-Dec	9,500	9,600	9,600
FL	Oct-Dec	13,500	14,200	12,000
Total		23,000	23,800	21,600
Watermelons				
AZ ⁴	Oct-Dec	1,000		

¹ Includes fresh market and processing.

² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

³ 2004 - AZ and NJ.

⁴ Seasonal forecast discontinued in 2003. Estimate to be published in the "Vegetables 2004 Summary".

Snap Beans: Fall fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 18,200 acres, up 2 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2002. Dade County, Florida snap beans escaped damage from the many hurricanes that have swept through the State this season. Georgia growers experienced wet and windy conditions resulting from Tropical Storm Frances and Hurricane Ivan. These storms damaged crops, slowed harvest, and delayed other field work throughout the vegetable growing areas. The New Jersey crop was planted early this year. Sufficient rainfall during August has benefitted the crop and good yields are expected. In Virginia, excessive rainfall from hurricanes and tropical storms has prevented growers from tending their fields in a timely manner.

Broccoli: California's area for fall harvest is forecast at 31,500 acres, 9 percent above last year and 17 percent more than 2002. Cool weather has been favorable for the crop. Conditions were good during planting and no major pest or disease problems have been reported. Growers have stepped up production in response to increased broccoli consumption stemming from the popularity of the latest low-carbohydrate and low-fat diets.

Cabbage: Fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 6,700 acres, up 3 percent from last year but 3 percent below two years earlier. Florida's vegetable growers were spared significant damage from hurricanes this season since they had not yet begun planting. Land preparation was disrupted and some plastic film damaged. Growers expect to repair the damage and begin planting by early October. Harvest of Georgia cabbage was slowed by two consecutive storms that brought heavy rains, strong winds, and tornados through the growing areas during September. In New Jersey, growing conditions varied throughout the State. In the northwest, flooding caused heavy crop loss while other parts of the State had more favorable conditions. In Texas, planting has just finished and the crop is beginning to emerge. Rainfall has been beneficial this season.

Cantaloups: Fall cantaloup area for harvest is forecast at 11,600 acres, up 38 percent from 2003 and 41 percent above two years ago. The Arizona cantaloup fall crop was planted on schedule and harvest is expected to begin on time. Western regions expect harvest to begin by October 1 and central regions are expected to follow close behind. No quality issues have been reported. The California crop is progressing well under favorable conditions. Quality is good and no major insect or disease problems have been reported. However, supply gluts and low prices have plagued California cantaloup growers this season.

Carrots: Area for fresh market harvest is forecast at 14,300 acres, down 3 percent from last year and 9 percent below 2002. Growing conditions for the California crop have been favorable. Baby carrots continue to be in high demand and packaging options are expanding to follow the trend. Texas growers report recently planted carrot acreage is doing well and moisture from recent rainfall has been adequate.

Cauliflower: Area for fall harvest in California is forecast at 10,000 acres, unchanged from both last year and 2002. California's fall crop development is normal with no pest or disease problems reported. Weather conditions have been favorable for cauliflower development.

Celery: California's fall area for harvest is forecast at 6,600 acres, down 4 percent from 2003 and 1 percent below 2002. Fall season celery is in good condition with no pest or disease problems reported.

Sweet Corn: Fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 9,400 acres, down 4 percent from last year but 1 percent above 2002. California's crop is in good condition with no insect or disease problems reported. In Florida, from late August until the present time, windy, stormy weather caused by tropical systems crossing the State prevented growers from planting all intended acres and damaged earlier planted fields. Many producers are currently delaying planting due to the threat of more tropical storms headed for the State.

Cucumbers: Area for fall harvest is forecast at 7,800 acres, unchanged from last year but 4 percent lower than 2002. Land preparation in Florida was disrupted by severe wind and rain from hurricanes and tropical storms crossing the State. Plastic film had been ripped up and prepared rows flattened, but growers expect to repair the damage and begin planting by early October. South Carolina's fall acreage for 2004 has increased significantly. It is believed this increase is to make up for decreased acreage during the spring season when wet weather disrupted planting. South Carolina growing areas also received heavy precipitation from the hurricanes and tropical storms that made land fall along the east coast. The Texas cucumber crop is doing well as growers get ready for harvest. Recent rains have caused minimal disease problems. The progress of Virginia's crop has been slowed by frequent storms and hurricanes which have plagued the east coast this season. Wet field conditions have increased disease pressure and made it difficult for growers to treat the problem.

Honeydews: Fresh market area for fall harvest is forecast at 4,800 acres, up 9 percent from last year and 14 percent above 2002. Arizona's harvest is expected to begin by October 1 in the western regions of the State and the central areas will begin shortly afterward. The California crop is progressing well under favorable growing conditions. Very good quality is reported. The supply glut and low prices affecting other melons have not been a problem for honeydews. Lower acreage in California this season has kept supplies more in line with demand.

Head Lettuce: Area for fall harvest is forecast at 32,600 acres, up less than 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. Planting in California is ongoing in many areas. Good crop development is reported in the San Joaquin Valley. Along the Central Coast, warm late summer weather accelerated growth. This, combined with lackluster demand led to poor markets for the summer season. The resulting low prices raised some doubts as to the profitability of planting lettuce for fall harvest. New Jersey growers report good quality for the fall crop.

Bell Peppers: Fall area for harvest is forecast at 5,200 acres, up 11 percent from 2003 but 2 percent less than 2002. In Florida, incessant tropical systems have undone land preparations and halted planting activity. Growers should have time to repair the damage once the threat of additional storms has abated. In Texas, the crop is doing well. The peppers are still small and have about 20 more days until harvest begins.

Tomatoes: Fresh market area for fall harvest is forecast at 21,600 acres, 9 percent below last year and down 6 percent from 2002. California growers planted fresh market tomatoes as the summer harvest was winding down. Fields have received insecticide treatment as needed. A recent cold snap in the San Joaquin Valley slowed crop development but no significant problems have been noted. The market for California's fresh market tomatoes has improved dramatically following the hurricanes in Florida which have curtailed production in the East. In Florida, the Quincy area was hit by Tropical Storm Bonnie in August and, to a lesser extent, Hurricane Ivan in mid-September. Most acreage in the Immokalee area received rain and wind from the remnants of Ivan but escaped damage from Hurricane Frances. Acreage in Florida's East Coast growing areas received severe damage from Hurricane Frances with losses currently being assessed.

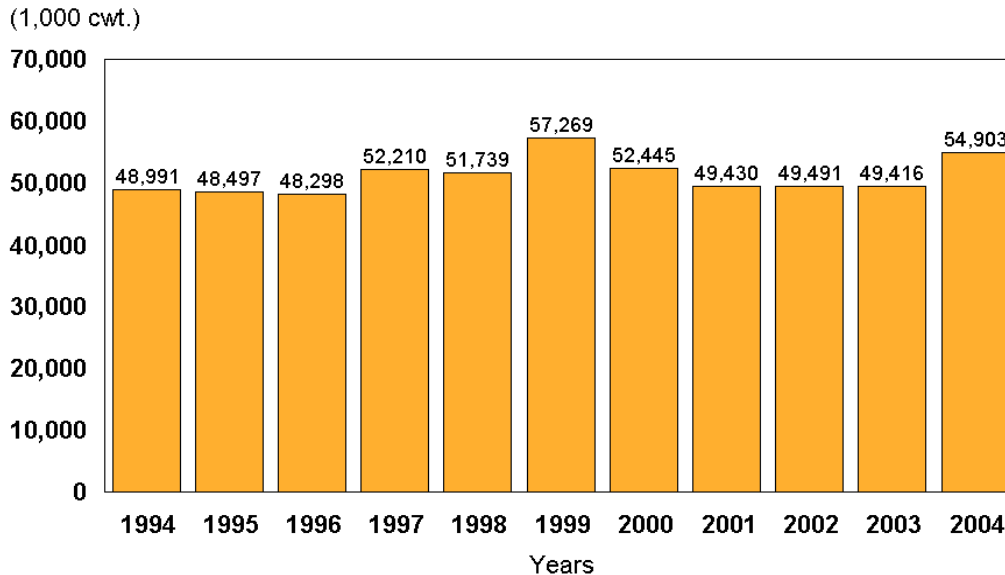
**Onions: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Season,
State, and United States, 2002-2003 and Forecasted 2004**

Season and State	Area			Yield per Acre		
	Harvested		For Harvest 2004	2002	2003	2004
	2002	2003				
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>
Spring	33,700	31,200	35,300	284	304	323
Summer						
Non-Storage	21,800	21,700	22,400	495	512	448
Storage						
CA ¹	28,200	30,800	27,500	410	405	430
CO	11,000	9,600	11,500	400	385	450
ID	9,800	9,800	10,800	640	600	700
MI	3,900	3,600	3,700	230	320	300
MN	250	210	150	310	310	300
NY	12,300	11,900	12,000	230	320	400
OH	470	380	400	260	320	350
OR						
Malheur	12,000	12,200	13,000	650	590	600
Other	7,300	6,900	8,000	530	470	520
UT	2,100	1,800	1,300	500	460	500
WA	18,000	18,000	19,000	560	570	580
WI	1,900	2,000	1,900	280	345	325
Total	107,220	107,190	109,250	462	461	503
Summer	129,020	128,890	131,650	467	470	493
US	162,720	160,090	166,950	429	437	457
Production						
	2002		2003	2004		
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>		
Spring	9,561		9,496	11,387		
Summer						
Non-Storage	10,792		11,113	10,036		
Storage						
CA ¹	11,562		12,474	11,825		
CO	4,400		3,696	5,175		
ID	6,272		5,880	7,560		
MI	897		1,152	1,110		
MN	78		65	45		
NY	2,829		3,808	4,800		
OH	122		122	140		
OR						
Malheur	7,800		7,198	7,800		
Other	3,869		3,243	4,160		
UT	1,050		828	650		
WA	10,080		10,260	11,020		
WI	532		690	618		
Total	49,491		49,416	54,903		
Summer	60,283		60,529	64,939		
US	69,844		70,025	76,326		

¹ Primarily for dehydrated and other processing.

Storage Onion Production

United States, 1994-2004



Summer Storage Onion Production Up 11 Percent

Summer storage onion production is forecast at 54.9 million hundredweight (cwt), up 11 percent from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 109,250 acres, up 2 percent from 2003. The yield is up 42 cwt from last year at 503 cwt per acre. The California crop was planted with no major problems reported. Ideal growing conditions persisted throughout the season with light insect and disease pressure. Quality and yield were very good this year. Weather in the Colorado onion growing areas has been ideal. Yield has hit a record high this year due to adequate irrigation water and minimal hail. In Idaho, onion harvest is progressing ahead of schedule. Yield is up 100 cwt from last year due to timely rains and relatively disease free fields. Bulb size is above average. Michigan's onion growers expect lower yields from this year's crop. The downy mildew problems of last year persisted via overwintered spores which thrived in the wet and cold conditions of this past spring in Michigan. However, preventative fungicide sprays limited the disease for some growers. Minnesota harvest is expected to begin around October 7 for acreage that has not been damaged or submerged by heavy rains. In New York, the onion crop received enough summer rainfall that irrigation was not needed. In mid-August, however, a hail storm damaged acreage in Orange County, the largest onion producing area in the State. It is too early to determine the extent of the damage. Early September brought 4 to 5 inches of rainfall to the area as the remnants of Hurricane Ivan passed over New York. Despite the rain and hail, growers are expecting high yields and growers in the northern regions report this year's crop as the best ever. Ohio growers have experienced above average precipitation and temperatures close to normal. Growers report the increased rainfall has benefitted this year's crop. Oregon's harvest is in full swing and should finish by October 8 in Malheur County. Harvest ended about September 26 in all other counties in the State. Reservoir levels have been adequate throughout the growing season. Rainfall during the week of September 19 slowed onion harvest but was otherwise welcomed by growers. In Utah, water shortages are a continuing problem as the State suffers through the sixth year of drought. Growers have reduced acreage due to the water shortage. Bulb sizes range from good to smaller than normal. Washington onion growers are still harvesting. There were some occurrences of Iris Yellow Spot Virus and powdery mildew, however, this did not lower yield expectations. Wisconsin growers expect lower yields due to excessive moisture early in the season. Some acreage was flooded and downy mildew has been reported due to the cool and wet conditions during development.

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USDA Data Users' Meeting

October 18, 2004

Hampton Inn & Suites

Chicago, Illinois

(312) 832-0330

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will be organizing an open forum for data users. The purpose will be to provide updates on pending changes in the various statistical and information programs and seek comments and input from data users. Other USDA agencies to be represented will include the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Economic Research Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the World Agricultural Outlook Board. The Foreign Trade Division from the Census Bureau will also be included in the meeting.

For registration details or additional information for the Data Users' Meeting, see the NASS homepage at www.usda.gov/nass/ or contact Karlyn McCutcheon (NASS) at (202) 690-8141 or at karlyn_mccutcheon@nass.usda.gov.

This Data Users' Meeting precedes an Industry Outlook meeting that will be held at the same location on October 19, 2004. 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 contact Jim Robb (Livestock and Marketing Information Center) at (720) 544-2941 or at robb@lmic.info.