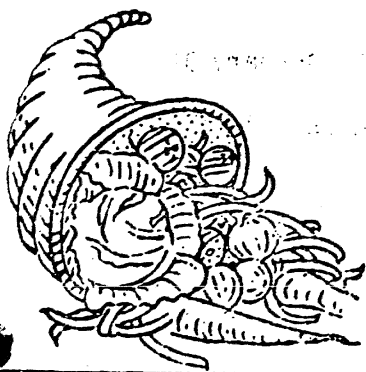
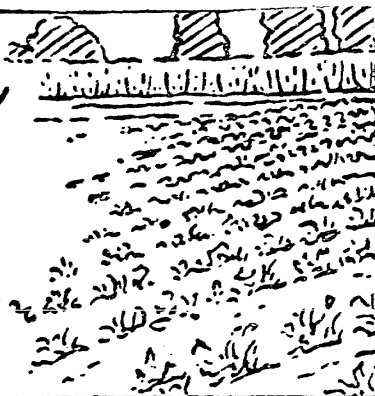


TC-55: 101



# Commercial Vegetables

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
CROP REPORTING BOARD



Washington, D. C.



January 10, 1955

## COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET ACREAGE AND INDICATED PRODUCTION JANUARY 1, 1955

Conditions on January 1 indicated that the production of winter vegetables in the 1955 season, at 1.48 million tons, will be 5 percent below production in 1954 but about equal to average production in the years 1949-53, the Crop Reporting Board announced today. Significantly smaller crops forecast for cabbage, celery, tomatoes, sweet corn, snap beans, and broccoli are the most important factors contributing to the reduction in production from last year. Smaller crops than in 1954 of artichokes, beets, cucumbers, escarole, kale, and green peas are also indicated for this year. Increased production over last year is reported for winter crops of lima beans, carrots, cauliflower, eggplant, lettuce, green peppers, shallots, and spinach. In general, this year's lighter production compared to 1954 is attributable to yields which are lower than the rather high yields obtained last year under better than average winter weather.

The preliminary acreage estimated for 1955 early spring onions at 38,000 acres is a reduction of 4 percent from the acreage harvested last year. Growers intentions to plant indicate an acreage of late spring onions about equal to last year but late spring watermelon acreage is expected to be down about 4 percent. The intended acreage of late spring potatoes, which provides volume supplies in May, June and early July, is 14 percent larger than the acreage last year.

During December temperatures in Florida averaged below normal and the coldest period occurred December 21 and 22. Freezing and near-freezing temperatures resulted in a moderate loss in acreage but reduced yields on several crops. Hardy crops generally were only slowed by low temperatures but romaine and Boston lettuce suffered some damage in cold locations. Heaviest loss occurred in snap beans, sweet corn and cucumbers. January production for most crops will be curtailed. Weather was warm in late December enabling crops to begin to recover. In Texas, temperatures were favorable for vegetables in southern producing districts in spite of a few mornings of light frost at inland points and most crops made excellent progress. Surface moisture is currently deficient in the dry-farmed areas but sub-soil moisture appears adequate. Sufficient water is available for irrigating in vegetable areas. In California and Arizona, low temperatures late in December slowed the growth and development of all vegetable crops and reduced supplies currently coming from those States.

VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

TC-55: 101 January 10, 1955

Summary of Acreage and Indicated Production Reported to Date 1955, with Comparisons.

Seasonal Group And State	ACREAGE					PRODUCTION (Equiv. tons)				
	5-year average		Ind. 1955			5-year average		Ind. 1955		
	1949-53	1954	Acres	% of av. '54	% of '54	1949-53	1954	Tons	% of av. '54	% of '54
WINTER:	Acres	Acres	Acres	%	%	Tons	Tons	Tons	%	%
Artichokes	7,580	9,000	8,300	109	92	14,700	18,000	16,600	113	92
Lima Beans	780	400	650	83	162	1,100	500	700	64	140
Snap Beans	29,620	23,600	23,500	79	100	44,000	42,500	38,800	88	91
Beets	5,540	6,000	5,500	99	92	18,900	21,000	20,000	106	95
Broccoli	8,850	8,050	6,750	76	84	18,800	18,200	13,900	74	76
Cabbage <sup>3/</sup>	47,380	46,300	41,200	87	89	346,500	331,800	281,000	81	85
Carrots	42,070	35,900	39,700	94	111	258,700	226,200	239,100	92	106
Cauliflower	3,580	5,100	5,710	159	112	17,900	23,900	26,000	145	109
Celery	9,820	9,990	9,150	93	92	201,600	226,600	207,600	103	92
Sweet Corn	4,040	9,900	8,600	213	87	12,900	40,800	32,200	250	79
Cucumbers	1,660	2,200	2,800	169	127	6,600	7,700	6,700	102	87
Eggplant	730	800	800	110	100	5,000	6,000	6,300	126	105
Escarole	4,020	4,500	4,500	112	100	24,700	30,650	29,500	119	96
Kale	2,920	3,000	2,700	92	90	10,500	9,450	7,900	75	84
Lettuce	60,040	61,500	63,400	106	103	355,600	396,400	399,800	112	101
Green Peas	2,710	1,000	500	18	50	2,200	900	400	18	44
Green Peppers	3,560	4,500	4,600	129	102	18,600	21,600	22,100	119	102
Shallots	3,100	2,800	3,300	106	118	4,200	3,800	5,300	126	139
Spinach	25,040	19,900	21,600	86	109	42,100	34,400	39,700	94	115
Tomatoes	13,660	17,400	16,500	121	95	69,600	96,800	83,100	119	86
TOTAL WINTER:	276,700	271,840	269,760	97	99	1,474,200	1,557,200	1,476,700	100	95

1/ Equivalent tons based on approximate net weight of unit used in estimating yield and production.

2/ Group averages are simple averages of annual data.

3/ Includes processing.

Acreage and Indicated Production Reported to Date, 1955 with Comparisons

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	5-YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53	1954	Ind. 1955	5-YR. AV. 49-53	1954	Ind. 1955	5-YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53	1954	Ind. 1955
ARTICHOKES:									
Winter: 2/	7,580	9,000	8,300	97	100	100	737	900	830
ASPARAGUS 3/:			Prospective						
Spring 2/	131,060	143,700	149,130	81	71		10,539	10,230	Mar. 10
LIMA BEANS:			Prelim.						
Winter:									
Florida.....	780	400	650	90	75	70	72	30	46
ALL STATES.....	21,110	17,600		78	77		1,657	1,351	
SNAP BEANS:									
Winter:									
Florida.....	29,620	23,600	23,500	100	120	110	2,933	2,832	2,585
ALL STATES.....	175,220	158,500		104	113		18,228	17,899	
BEETS:									
Winter:									
Texas.....	5,540	6,000	5,500	132	135	140	727	810	770
ALL STATES.....	8,700	8,960		190	180		1,638	1,617	
BROCCOLI:									
Winter:									
Arizona.....	890	600	450	111	110	120	95	66	54
South Carolina.....	480	650	600	87	30	60	45	20	36
Texas.....	7,480	6,800	5,700	100	115	100	756	782	570
Group total.....	8,850	8,050	6,750	100	108	98	895	868	660
ALL STATES.....	40,350	38,650		115	121		4,662	4,663	
CABBAGE: 3/									
Winter:									
Arizona.....	1,220	1,100	500	12.3	12.0	12.0	15,000	13,200	6,000
Texas.....	24,900	25,500	24,000	4.5	5.2	4.5	111,600	132,600	108,000
California.....	3,620	4,000	3,200	10.7	10.0	10.0	38,500	40,000	32,000
Florida.....	17,640	15,700	13,500	10.2	9.2	10.0	181,400	146,000	135,000
Group total.....	47,380	46,300	41,200	7.42	7.17	6.82	346,500	331,800	281,000
ALL STATES.....	166,140	159,360	Prospective						
EARLY SPRING 2/	20,940	19,800	18,300	6.24	5.93		129,400	117,500	Apr. 11
Total above.....	68,320	66,100	59,500	7.07	6.80		475,900	449,300	
ALL STATES.....	166,140	159,360		8.38	8.44		1,390,560	1,344,800	
CARROTS:									
Winter 2/	42,070	35,900	39,700	252	252	241	10,350	9,050	9,565
ALL STATES.....	85,070	80,050		361	387		30,506	31,006	

See footnotes on page 7.

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	5-YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53	1954	Ind. 1955	5-YR. AV. 49-53	1954	Ind. 1955	5-YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53	1954	Ind. 1955
CAULIFLOWER:	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES Prelim.	- Crates (1½ bu.)			- 1,000 crates -		
Winter:									
Arizona.....	1,120	500	210	341	350	350	366	175	74
Texas.....	1,420	3,500	4,500	188	225	225	269	788	1,012
Florida.....	1,040	1,100	1,000	318	300	320	332	330	320
Group total...	3,580	5,100	5,710	270	254	246	966	1,293	1,406
ALL STATES.....	31,090	27,750		404	361		12,541	10,010	
CELERY:				- Crates (50 lb.)					
Winter:									
California.....	3,540	3,800	3,600	772	865	850	2,725	3,287	3,060
Florida.....	5,980	5,900	5,300	632	690	700	3,799	4,071	3,710
Arizona.....	300	290	250	643	675	600	197	196	150
Group total...	9,820	9,990	9,150	682	756	756	6,720	7,554	6,920
ALL STATES.....	37,040	36,630		621	681		22,962	24,937	
SWEET CORN:				- Units (5 doz. ears)			- 1,000 units - (5 doz. ears)		
Winter:									
Florida.....	4,040	9,900	8,600	127	165	150	518	1,634	1,290
ALL STATES.....	216,400	225,100		106	110		22,870	24,856	
CUCUMBERS:				- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Florida.....	1,660	2,200	2,800	156	145	100	275	319	280
ALL STATES.....	48,940	52,250		146	156		7,139	8,129	
EGGPLANT:									
Winter:									
Florida.....	730	800	800	411	450	475	302	360	380
ALL STATES.....	5,090	4,900		284	306		1,437	1,492	
ESCAROLE:									
Winter 2/.....	4,020	4,500	4,500	488	545	525	1,976	2,452	2,362
KALE:									
Winter:									
Virginia.....	2,920	3,000	2,700	401	350	325	1,172	1,050	878

See footnotes on page 7.

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	5-YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53	1954	Ind. 1955	5-YR. AV. 49-53	1954	Ind. 1955	5-YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53	1954	Ind. 1955
LETTUCE:	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES Prelim.	- Crates 4-6 doz.			- 1,000 crates -		
Winter:									
Arizona, Yuma.....	15,300	12,800	11,000	181	175	200	2,744	2,240	2,200
California.....	32,900	33,600	34,500	184	200	200	6,032	6,720	6,900
Texas.....	9,520	12,600	14,500	117	155	125	1,044	1,953	1,812
Florida.....	2,320	2,500	3,400	144	165	150	338	412	510
Group total...	60,040	61,500	63,400	171	184	180	10,159	11,325	11,422
ALL STATES.....	211,620	206,150		179	196		37,818	40,492	
ONIONS:				- Sacks 50 lb.			- 1,000 sacks -		
Early Spring:									
Texas.....	34,740	39,500	38,000	123	110		3,688	4,345	Mar. 10
			Prospective						
Late Spring:									
California.....	5,160	4,300	4,000	542	560		2,749	2,408	
Arizona.....	1,210	1,400	1,000	612	460		774	644	
Louisiana.....	340	-	-	75	-		32	-	May 10
Georgia.....	1,040	1,200	900	162	125		174	150	
Texas.....	10,120	7,900	8,800	88	100		881	790	
Group total...	17,870	14,800	14,700	261	270		4,611	3,992	
Total above.....	52,610	54,300	52,700	161	154		8,292	8,337	
ALL STATES.....	121,880	115,720		352	364		42,720	42,092	
GREEN PEAS:			Prelim.	- Bushels			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:									
Florida.....	210	-	-	38	-	-	13	-	-
Texas.....	1,580	1,000	500	56	60	60	89	60	30
California.....	920	-	-	31	-	-	44	-	-
Group total...	2,710	1,000	500	57	60	60	146	60	30
ALL STATES.....	21,220	14,630		105	27		2,188	1,422	
GREEN PEPPERS:									
Winter:									
Florida.....	3,560	4,500	4,600	428	385	385	1,491	1,732	1,771
ALL STATES.....	39,310	49,100		240	227		9,406	11,124	

See footnotes on page 7.

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	10-YEAR AVERAGE	1954	Ind. 1955	10-YR. AV.	1954	Ind. 1955	10-YEAR AVERAGE	1954	Ind. 1955
	1944-53			44-53			1944-53		
COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES:	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels -		
Winter:			Prelim.						
Texas.....	920	600	500	58	55	55	54	33	28
Florida.....	10,620	11,600	12,400	212	305	280	2,246	3,538	3,472
Group total..	11,540	12,200	12,900	200	293	271	2,300	3,571	3,500
Early Spring 2/	25,220	23,000	23,300	165	275		3,990	6,320	
Late Spring:			Prospect tive						
California....	69,700	57,000	70,000	400	400		27,770	22,800	
Louisiana.....	11,680	5,500	4,100	75	100		798	550	
Mississippi....	2,060	600	600	87	110		181	66	
Alabama.....	22,100	19,700	24,000	138	180		3,023	3,546	
Georgia.....	1,250	600	550	123	115		147	69	May 10
South Carolina	9,500	7,000	7,000	151	190		1,396	1,330	
Arizona.....	4,100	4,000	4,000	370	365		1,518	1,460	
Texas.....	5,320	4,200	3,800	70	70		368	294	
Oklahoma.....	1,180	500	500	119	190		140	95	
Arkansas.....	3,480	1,500	1,300	86	95		304	142	
Tennessee.....	3,830	1,600	1,700	115	150		446	240	
North Carolina	25,850	13,500	14,000	194	250		4,954	3,375	
Group total..	160,040	115,700	131,550	262	294		41,044	33,967	
Total above	196,800	150,900	167,750	246	291		47,334	43,858	
ALL STATES.....	295,180	210,100		235	266		67,526	55,886	
SHALLOTS:	5-yr. av. 1/ 1949-53		Prelim.	5-yr. av. 1/ 49-53	- Barrels -		5-yr. av. 1/ 1949-53	- 1,000 barrels	
Winter 2/.....	3,100	2,800	3,300	27	27	32	85	76	106
Spring:									
Louisiana.....	1,980	1,900	2,100	27	27		56	51	Feb. 10
Total.....	5,080	4,700	5,400	27	27		140	127	
SPINACH:				- Bushels -			- 1,000 bushels		
Winter:									
California....	2,720	2,200	2,300	596	550	550	1,625	1,210	1,265
Louisiana.....	360			52			24		
Texas.....	20,120	16,500	17,500	117	125	140	2,305	2,062	2,450
South Carolina	690	500	500	165	150	180	123	75	90
Mississippi....	1,150	700	1,300	109	125	130	126	88	169
Group total..	25,040	19,900	21,600	171	173	184	4,203	3,435	3,974
ALL STATES.....	48,150	39,050		235	236		11,249	9,212	

See footnotes on page 7.

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	5- YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53 <sup>1/</sup>	1954	Ind. 1955	5-YR. AV. 49-53 <sup>1/</sup>	1954	Ind. 1955	5- YEAR AVERAGE 1949-53 <sup>1/</sup>	1954	Ind. 1955
STRAWBERRIES: <sup>3/</sup>	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES Prelim.	-	Crates 2 1/2 qt.	-	-	1,000 crates	-
Winter:									
Florida.....	4,640	2,800	3,800 Prospect- tive	65	60	70	304	168	266
Spring <sup>2/</sup> .....	121,120	106,500	105,300	90	110		10,782	11,706	
ALL STATES.....	125,760	109,300	109,100	89	109		11,086	11,874	
TOMATOES:			Prelim.	-	Bushels	-	-	1,000 bushels	-
Winter:									
Florida, south	13,660	17,400	16,500	192	210	190	2,625	3,654	3,135
ALL STATES.....	233,800	250,000		146	146		34,096	36,435	
WATERMELONS:			Prospect- tive	-	Melons	-	-	1,000 melons	-
Late Spring:									
Florida.....	69,800	98,000	95,000	291	335		20,382	32,830	
California.....	8,180	8,800	7,800	712	710		5,763	6,248	May 10
Group total....	77,980	106,800	102,800	336	366		26,145	39,078	
ALL STATES.....	381,350	453,350		264	262		100,229	118,909	

<sup>1/</sup> Group averages (including All States) are simple averages of annual data.

<sup>2/</sup> Data are from previous releases.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes processing.

LIMA BEANS: The Florida winter crop is forecast at 46,000 bushels, an increase of 53 percent from last year's production resulting from an increased acreage planted this year. The 1955 crop is expected to be 36 percent smaller than average, however. Cold weather in December lowered yield prospects by causing plants to drop bloom and by retarding the growth of pods. Production during January, particularly in the last half of the month, will be most noticeably affected.

SNAP BEANS: The first production forecast for the winter crop in Florida is for a crop of 2,585,000 bushels - - 9 percent below last year's production and 12 percent below average. Most of the reduction in size of crop from that of 1954 is accounted for by a lower average yield. The average condition of the Florida crop is reported as good, but current production is being restricted by the effects of the cold weather of December 21 and 22. A very small loss of winter acreage is reported for the Everglades and lower East Coast area, but the recent low temperatures caused considerable shedding of bloom and pin beans which will result in reduced volume during early January. However, temperatures the last week of December were favorable for growth and, if warm weather continues, production will increase rapidly. The main source of supply at present is the Pompano section with limited quantities coming from the Everglades and Homestead sections.

BEETS: The forecast of production for 1955 winter beets in Texas remains unchanged at 770,000 bushels, 5 percent less than the 1954 crop but 6 percent above average. Supplies are available in all irrigated sections of south Texas and production will continue in volume through March. Quality from current harvests is good. Although some straight cars are being shipped, the bulk of the crop is moving in mixed loads.

BROCCOLI: Winter broccoli production during the 1955 season, forecast at 660,000 crates, is expected to be 24 percent less than last year and 26 percent below average. Reduced acreage in Arizona and Texas is primarily responsible for this year's small crop but yields in Texas are expected to be below those of 1954. A light movement of broccoli is continuing from Arizona where harvest was slowed by cold weather in late December. Cutting will continue during January but supplies are not apt to show an increase of significant proportion since this year's crop is a small one. A light movement of broccoli from the Lower Valley and Winter Garden areas of Texas began in December and a fairly active harvest is expected there beginning in early January. Most of the crop will be moved in mixed cars, as usual. The crop in Texas is reported to be in satisfactory condition. Broccoli in South Carolina is in fair to good condition. Planting was delayed and plant growth retarded by dry weather and high temperatures during the fall. Moderate supplies are now available in the Beaufort area. In addition to broccoli from the winter group of States, supplies are also available from late planted fall fields in coastal sections of California. Recent cold weather slowed broccoli harvest there and supplies are currently light. Broccoli is also now available from California's Imperial Valley which is included in spring season estimates.

CABBAGE: The 1955 winter cabbage crop forecast is unchanged from a month ago at 281,000 tons, 15 percent less than produced last year and 19 percent smaller than average. This year's indicated production is only slightly above the estimated 272,800 tons marketed from the 1954 winter crop (about 18 percent of the crop was not sold because of market conditions). Economic factors appear to have been largely responsible for this year's reduced acreage resulting in smaller production.



CABBAGE CONT'D: In California, supplies are adequate for the requirements of local markets but very little cabbage is being shipped. It is not likely that there will be any sustained active shipping from there during the winter season since the Imperial Valley acreage was cut sharply this year. Following a period of active harvest stimulated by favorable market conditions during December, movement of cabbage from Arizona has declined. Supplies will be available from late fields during January but movement will be governed by demand for cabbage during that month. About 60 percent of the crop had been cut by January 1. Movement of cabbage from the Lower Valley of Texas is a little behind that to this date last season because of the delay in field work following September and October rains. December weather was favorable for development of the crop and quality of current harvests is exceptionally good. Good growing conditions are expected to result in a heavier than usual volume during January and February and daily movement is expected to continue to increase. More late season acreage for March cutting will be available than in 1954. Movement of supplies from the Winter Garden district is ahead of last year. This year's acreage in the Coastal Bend is limited largely to irrigated tracts around Mathis which were planted for late harvest. Florida's cabbage crop is in good condition. Recent cold weather slowed growth but did no damage to the crop. Harvest is in progress in the principal producing areas and supplies are increasing but movement is running behind last year's schedule. Most active period of harvest will probably begin in late January.

In New York State stocks of Danish cabbage in storage are estimated at 40,000 tons, about 1/3 smaller than stocks on hand there a year ago. This year's holdings represent 26 percent of the 1954 production of Danish cabbage estimated for New York State.

CAULIFLOWER: Prospective production in the three winter producing States (Arizona, Texas, and Florida) is now estimated at 1,406,000 crates. This is an increase of 31 percent over the December forecast resulting from a larger production indicated in Texas and Florida. Higher average yields are anticipated in Texas than estimated a month ago, and a greater acreage for harvest is indicated as a result of more complete acreage data for the new producing sections at Quemado and in the Winter Garden. The higher production in Florida results from improved yield prospects during December. In Arizona, where the crop is later than usual because of recent cold weather, harvest had not yet begun by January 1. However, no serious freeze damage is reported. Texas crops are reported to be in good condition in all areas. By mid-December, movement was active from all districts including new areas of production in the Big Wells section of the Winter Garden and the Quemado section near Eagle Pass. Harvest was very active in late December and supplies will be plentiful during January. Although harvest of the crop is behind schedule in Florida, yield prospects are good and by mid-January harvesting should become fairly general.

CELERY: Celery production in winter producing areas at an indicated 6,920,000 crates in 1955 is 8 percent less than produced last year but 3 percent above average. A reduced acreage is responsible for this year's smaller production. Harvest of California's winter crop became active in December and daily production in January will run above December levels unless cold weather continues. Low temperatures have retarded growth and development but apparently have not caused any significant damage to winter celery which is grown in warm sections in Southern California. Freezing temperatures set back the small Arizona crop which is not yet in production.

CELERY CONT'D. Florida winter celery was not damaged significantly by cold weather in December and the crop is in good to very good condition in all except a few scattered cold locations. Yields are running above those obtained last year to this date which has enabled movement through December to remain close to last year's levels in spite of a smaller acreage this year. California's late fall celery crop is in the clean-up stage and supplies will decline rapidly from districts in Central and Northern California during January. Quality of remaining supplies was adversely affected by freezing temperatures in late December.

SWEET CORN: Florida's winter sweet corn crop is forecast at 1,290,000 units (5-dozen ears), approximately one-fifth smaller than last year's record crop but about two and one half times larger than the 5-year average. If this production is realized, it would be the second largest crop produced from winter acreage. Less acreage for harvest and a lower expected yield both contribute to a smaller indicated production than harvested last year. Production prospects for early winter corn were materially reduced in the Everglades by the recent cold weather, the most damaging temperatures occurring December 21-22. Several hundred acres intended for January harvest were lost. Most of the younger plantings escaped with minor damage but some replanting of this acreage will be necessary. Condition of the crop is good in the Fort Myers-Immokalee area where an increased acreage for winter harvest has been planted. This section will be the principal source of supply during January, February, and March. Winter acreage along the lower East Coast is less than a year ago and is in generally good condition. A very light harvest is in progress but harvest should become more active by mid-January.

CUCUMBERS: This year's winter cucumber crop in Florida is forecast at 280,000 bushels, 12 percent less than produced in the winter season last year but about equal to average. This year's smaller indicated crop is the result of damage caused by low temperatures during December. Loss of acreage was negligible but vines were stunted and there was considerable shedding of blooms and small fruit. The current yield forecast is one-third below last year and average. Culling of present supplies is heavy. Production during the early winter period will be light but more normal yields on late season fields can be obtained if January weather is favorable.

EGGPLANT: Florida's winter eggplant crop is now expected to produce 380,000 bushels, slightly more than last year's production and one-fourth larger than average. The winter acreage, located in South Florida, is reported to be in fair to good condition after having been retarded by low temperatures in December. Cold weather has slowed harvest but supplies will likely increase during January. Pompano and Fort Myers are the principal sources of supply during the winter months.

KALE: Indicated production in Virginia at 878,000 bushels remains unchanged from the November forecast. A production of this size is about one-sixth under last year's crop and a fourth lower than average. Low yield expectations, resulting mainly from lack of moisture early in the season and a reduced acreage are both contributing factors to this year's small crop. Harvest was fairly active in November and December and ample supplies should continue to be available until April.

LETTUCE: Production of lettuce in the winter producing sections is forecast at 11,422,000 crates for 1955 which is 1 percent more than produced in these sections last year and 12 percent above average. In California, cold weather in late December retarded lettuce development but caused no damage. Shipments are currently being restricted by low temperatures but are close to usual levels for this date. Any rise in temperatures during January will result in heavier production and daily shipments most likely will increase as the month progresses. Production from the early winter acreage at Blythe is declining and there will be a gap in shipments from that district until the late winter acreage reaches maturity in February. At Yuma, Arizona, daily production is declining seasonally as cool weather is restricting cutting on acreage scheduled for current harvest. Movement from that section in January will be considerably below that recorded in December. In Texas, conditions during December were generally favorable for the development of winter lettuce in the Lower Valley. However, because early acreage was planted behind usual schedules, shipments to date from that section have been less than last year. Production is expected to increase substantially in early January and remain at fairly high levels during February. Freezing temperatures in the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass sections slowed the development of lettuce but no serious damage occurred. Shipments from these sections and Laredo are running ahead of last year to this date and, while harvest will continue active there during January, it may be slowed in this period as temperatures decline seasonally. In Florida, damage to lettuce was confined to fields nearing maturity in coldest locations. Boston and romaine at Zellwood, Sanford and the Everglades appear to have been most adversely affected. Damage and slowing of growth caused production to decline in the last half of December and supplies are expected to be restricted, at least through the first half of January.

ONIONS: The preliminary 1955 acreage of Early Spring onions in South Texas at 38,000 acres is 4 percent less than the 39,500 acres harvested last year but is 9 percent larger than average. The acreage finally planted fell below intentions primarily because growers in poorly drained locations of Lower Valley were unable to set and seed onion acreage on schedule following heavy rains in September and October. Field work was interrupted and seed beds were lost. Much of the Lower Valley acreage was planted in the west end of the Valley where better drainage permitted field operations to continue. At Raymondville an increase in irrigated acreage did not offset a reduction in dry - farmed onions. Earliest fields there are irrigated and the bulk of the non-irrigated acreage was not planted until after mid-October. In the Coastal Bend there is less early acreage and harvest is expected to be later than in other recent years. Surface moisture is deficient in this section but adequate sub-soil moisture is permitting plants to make good root growth. The smaller Laredo acreage was planted on schedule. There was an increase in seeded acreage there this year. The increase in acreage in the Winter Garden area took place around Crystal City, Carrizo Springs, and Big Wells and less acreage was planted in the Batesville-Uvalde section. Late acreage is still being planted in this area. Transplanting and seeding of onions is later than usual at Eagle Pass and Del Rio. In all sections an increase in the use of hybrid varieties has been noted. Water for irrigation is adequate. Below are the preliminary 1955 and revised 1954 acreages by areas.

ONIONS CONT'D:

## TEXAS EARLY SPRING ONION ACREAGE

Area	1954	1955
	Harvested Acreage	Preliminary Acreage
Raymondville (Willacy Co.)	7,000	7,400
Lower Valley	2,500	1,600
Coastal Bend	22,500	21,000
Laredo	2,600	2,000
Winter Garden	3,000	4,000
Eagle Pass	1,000	1,000
Wilson-Karnes	500	500
Others	400	500
Total	<u>39,500</u>	<u>38,000</u>

The intended acreage of late spring onions is estimated at 14,700 acres, about equal to the 14,800 acres harvested last year but 18 percent below average. Reductions in acreage from last year are expected in California, Arizona and Georgia but are offset by the larger acreage than in 1954 indicated for Texas. In California, onion acreage has been reduced sharply in the early producing Imperial Valley. An increase in acreage has been recorded in Kern County and the early Stockton acreage is expected to be about equal to last year. Acreage in less important sections is expected to show little change from that harvested last year. Wet weather has delayed transplanting at Stockton but weather has been favorable for onions in other sections. Growers in Arizona have cut their acreage back again this year. The major part of the increased acreage indicated for Texas is expected to occur in the North Texas areas. However, expansion of the Panhandle deal is continuing and a substantial acreage of irrigated onions is being planted there. Planting in North Texas non-irrigated areas may be delayed by moisture conditions which are unsatisfactory for transplanting. This operation normally begins in early January. In Georgia, larger growers have planted less acreage this year and many small growers have dropped out. Acreage is in need of moisture in some areas.

GREEN PEAS: The winter crop in Texas is forecast at 30,000 bushels - - no change from the December estimate. A crop of this size would be the smallest of record due to a sharp reduction in acreage. This year's acreage is limited to scattered plantings in areas around San Antonio and Houston. Generally favorable weather was reported in December in these sections. A light harvest began about mid-December and supplies are expected to be available through January.

GREEN PEPPERS: The first estimate of winter production in Florida is for a crop of 1,771,000 bushels - - 2 percent above last year and nearly a fifth larger than average. The condition of the crop in south Florida is quite variable. While damage from the recent cold weather (December 21-22) was very light, the effects of early November rains are still evident in the Pompano section. However, much of this set-back has been overcome, and maturity appears to be a little more advanced than normal for this time of year. While acreage for winter harvest in the Pompano section is about the same as in 1954, a slight increase is indicated for the Fort Myers-Immokalee area.

EARLY COMMERCIAL POTATOES: The winter crop of early commercial potatoes is placed at 3,500,000 bushels, 2 percent below last year but 52 percent above average. In Florida the acreage is slightly above a year ago. Digging is underway in the Everglades, where one of the best crop in recent years is being harvested. Outlook for the Fort Myers-Immokalee area is good and harvest in this area is expected to be quite general around mid-January. In Dade County section, minor frost damage occurred during late December, but the crop has generally made good progress to date. Harvest is expected to start in early February. In Texas, weather conditions have been favorable for the development of the small potato acreage. Light harvest started the last half of December with most of the crop expected to be dug during the early part of January.

The prospective acreage of late spring commercial potatoes is placed at 131,550 acres, 15,850 above the acreage planted in 1954 but 28,490 acres below average. Sizeable increases were indicated in California and Alabama, where large reduction in acreage occurred a year earlier. North Carolina and Tennessee are expecting small increases over a year ago; South Carolina, Arizona, Mississippi and Oklahoma indicate no change; while in Louisiana, Georgia, Texas and Arkansas the acreage is expected to be below 1954.

Total prospective acreage for spring harvest in 1955 (early and late spring combined) is 131,550 acres, 14 percent more than in 1954 but 18 percent below average.

SHALLOTS: A total of 2,100 acres of spring shallots is indicated at this time in Louisiana. This is an increase of about 11 percent over last year's acreage and about 6 percent above average. Unfavorable market conditions for the winter crop is expected to force growers to transplant rather than market some of their remaining winter acreage. Transplanting of the spring crop has been delayed by rainy weather but sufficient time is left in the planting season for the acreage reported to be set.

SPINACH: Production prospects in the four winter producing States have improved about 1 percent since the November forecast and the January forecast indicates a crop of 3,974,000 bushels, 15 percent more than last year but 6 percent below average. In California, where harvest is in progress, yield prospects remain unchanged from the November estimate. Prospective production remained unchanged in Texas although growth was retarded by near freezing temperatures in December. Fairly active movement is expected during January and February from plantings in the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass sections. Development of the crop around Austin has been slow, but movement is expected from this area in early January. Compared to November, higher crop condition and yields are reported for South Carolina, where spinach has been moving in light volume since early December. Heavier marketings are expected during January. In Mississippi, where the crop is estimated to be a third greater than average, very little production is expected before February.

STRAWBERRIES: Florida's 1955 winter strawberry crop is expected to produce 266,000 crates, about one and one-half times the quantity produced last year. An expanded acreage and wide-spread use of new high producing varieties are factors responsible for the larger crop indicated this year. Recent low temperatures resulted in loss of bloom in colder locations and retarded progress of all beds. A light harvest is in progress but, because of cold weather, active picking is not expected to begin until mid-January.

TOMATOES: The first production forecast of the winter crop in Florida places production at 3,135,000 bushels, a reduction of about 14 percent from last year's production but nearly a fifth larger than average. Less acreage and lower expected yields both contribute to a decline in production from a year ago. Prospects for the crop in south Florida were excellent prior to the cold weather of December 21-22. While practically no acreage was lost, there was considerable shedding of bloom and small fruit. This is expected to result in lighter production during January and early February. As usual, the bulk of the acreage for winter harvest is in Dade County with Fort Myers-Immokalee area ranking next. In addition, there are scattered plantings in the Palm Beach-Stuart area of the lower East Coast.

WATERMELONS: The intended acreage of late spring watermelons in Florida and California at 102,800 acres is a reduction of about 4 percent from the acreage for harvest last year but is one-third larger than average. Last year's relatively poor return for early melons resulting from apparently excessive supplies appears to be chiefly responsible for the cut in acreage. Planting began in South Florida in early December and is active there now. Re-planting was general in earliest fields following the recent cold snap there. Rodents have damaged some acreage to the point that re-planting has been necessary. Some acreage has been seeded in Central Florida but planting of the bulk of the acreage there will occur in January. The bulk of the reduction in California's acreage is expected to be made at Blythe. The Imperial Valley acreage will probably be only slightly below last year's. Covered acreage has been planted and open acreage will be seeded during the next three months.