

2017 SEASON VEGETABLE HIGHLIGHTS

Many significant changes were made to the vegetable estimating program beginning in 2016. Based on these changes, vegetables now estimate both fresh and processing utilization. Estimates for 2014 and 2015 were not adjusted to meet new program definitions. Also, cantaloupe estimates for Florida were added for 2016. Since 2012, estimates are based on a calendar year basis.

Value

The 2017 value of production for the published major berries, spring potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons totaled \$1.60 billion, up two percent from the comparable 2016 value of \$1.57 billion. The ranking from the highest to lowest value of the berry, spring potato, vegetables, and watermelon crops are: (1) strawberries, (2) tomatoes, (3) bell peppers, (4) sweet corn, (5) cucumbers, (6) watermelons, (7) spring potatoes, (8) blueberries, (9) snap beans, (10) cabbage, (11) squash, and (12) cantaloupe. The crops that increased in percentage and value were bell peppers (+64%), blueberries (+58%), spring potatoes (+44%), watermelons (+23%), and cucumbers (+16%). Crops that decreased in value and percentage included sweet corn (-1%), squash (-1%), strawberries (-7%), snap beans (-7%), cantaloupe (-13%), cabbage (-15%), and tomatoes (-31%).

Acreage

The harvested acreage for 2017 for the published major berries, potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons totaled 209,500 acres, up six percent from the 198,200 comparable acres harvested the previous year. Crops with increased acreage and percentages included spring potatoes (25%), cucumbers (19%), sweet corn (13%) blueberries (11%) and bell peppers (2%). Crops with less acreage and percentage decreased included squash (-2%), cabbage (-4%), cantaloupe (-4%), and snap beans (-12%). Strawberry, tomatoes, and watermelon harvested acres were unchanged.

Production

Production in 2017 of the published major berries, potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons totaled 46.5 million hundredweight, up from the 40.0 comparable million hundredweight the prior calendar year. Crops with increased percentage and production were blueberries (+37%), cucumbers (+36%), spring potatoes (+33%), tomatoes (+15%) bell peppers (+15%), watermelons (+13%), squash (+11%), strawberries (+10%), sweet corn (+9%), and cabbage (+2%). Commodities with percentage decreases and less production were snap beans (-8%), and cantaloupe (-8%).

Rankings for Acreage

The rankings for harvested acreage for 2017 for the published major berries, potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons were (1) sweet corn 39,000 acres, (2) spring potatoes 28,700 acres, (3) tomatoes 28,000, (4) cucumbers 25,900 acres, (5) snap beans 23,900 acres, (6) watermelons 19,500 acres, (7) bell peppers 13,100 acres, (8) strawberries 10,700 acres, (9) cabbage 7,600 acres, (10) squash 5,700 acres, (11) blueberries 5,200 acres, and (12) cantaloupe 2,200 acres.

Rankings for Production

The rankings for production for 2017 for the published major berries, potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons in 1,000 cwt were (1) tomatoes 8,400.0, (2) watermelons 7,702.5, (3) spring potatoes 7,175.0, (4) sweet corn 5,460.0, (5) cucumbers 5,309.5, (6) bell peppers 4,388.5, (7) cabbage 2,736.0, (8) strawberries 2,407.5, (9) snap beans 1,386.2, (10) squash 741.0, (11) cantaloupe 572.0, and (12) blueberries 200.7.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Planted Acreage is the total acreage which has been planted for harvest during the crop year. Acreage lost and replanted to the same crop in time for harvest in the same quarter is counted only once. Acreage harvested and planted again to the same crop is counted twice.

Harvested Acreage is the acreage partially or completely harvested. Acreage lost before or at maturity through natural or economic causes is not included in the acreage for harvest.

Yield is the average production per harvested acre of merchantable quality harvested and sold or utilized for human consumption.

Production is the quantity actually harvested and sold or utilized for human consumption.

Unit Value for fresh market sales is the equivalent price received, f.o.b. shipping point basis and encompasses all grades and sizes marketed or utilized. Included are packing charges, selling charges, precooling, top ice, or other costs which contribute to the value of the product at shipping point. The value per unit for quantities sold to processors is the average value paid for usable quantities, on a "delivered to plant door" basis. This value includes transportation and other normal costs incident to delivery at plant door.

Total Value is the equivalent value of production sold or utilized based on the unit value. Cullage and other quantities not sold or utilized because of natural or economic factors are excluded.

Other Counties include harvested acreage for all counties for which either published data would result in the disclosure of individual operations or acreage totals for specific commodities of minor importance in the State.

Production And Price Unit - The official USDA vegetable crop estimates are published on a weight basis. For this bulletin, the official estimates for most vegetable crops have been converted to hundredweight. If changes in container weights are necessary, all data pertaining to the production of the commodity in question are revised to maintain comparability between years. The table below gives the net weight used per container and the number of containers per hundredweight for Florida produce.

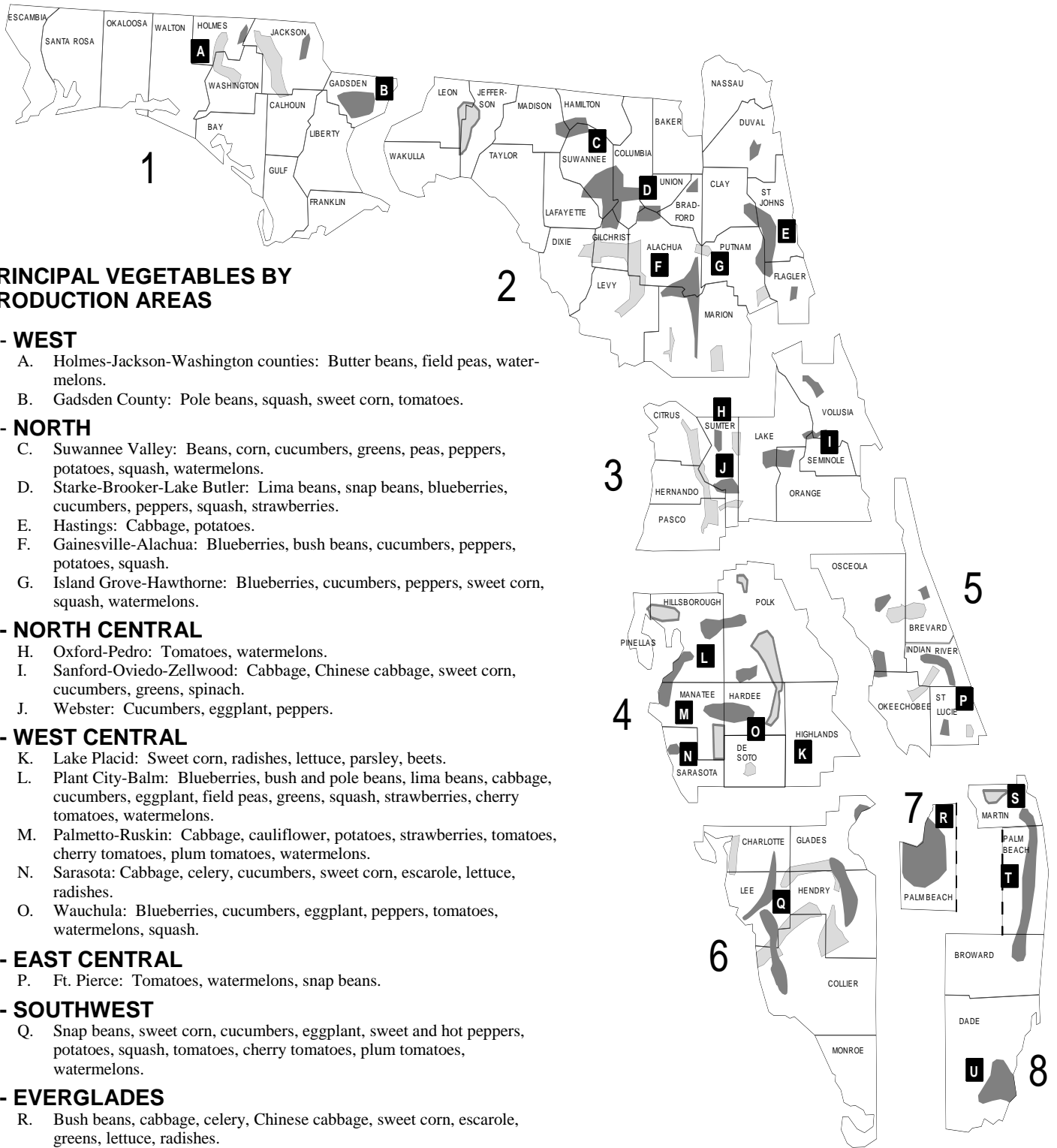
Florida Produce

[Most common unit, estimated net weight, and units per hundredweight, 2017 crop season]

Commodity	Unit	Estimated net weight	Number of units per cwt	Commodity	Unit	Estimated net weight	Number of units per cwt
		(pounds)				(pounds)	
Snap Beans.....	Bushel	30	3.333	Lettuce, Iceberg.....	Carton	50	2.000
Blueberries.....	Flat	11	9.090	Lettuce, Romaine.....	Carton	40	2.500
Cabbage.....	Crate	50	2.000	Lettuce, Leaf.....	Carton	25	4.000
Carrots.....	Sack	48	2.083	Okra.....	Bushel	30	3.333
Cauliflower.....	Carton	25	4.000	Parsley.....	Crate	21	4.762
Celery.....	Crate	60	1.667	Bell Pepper.....	Bushel	28	3.571
Chinese Cabbage.....	Crate	50	2.000	Potatoes.....	Sack	100	1.000
Sweet Corn.....	Crate	42	2.381	Radishes.....	Carton	15	6.667
Cucumbers.....	Bushel	55	1.818	Squash.....	Bushel	42	2.381
Eggplant.....	Bushel	33	3.030	Strawberries.....	Flat	12	8.333
Escarole.....	Crate	25	4.000	Sweet Potatoes.....	Crate	50	2.000
Lettuce, Bibb.....	Carton	10	10.000	Tomatoes.....	Carton	25	4.000
Lettuce, Boston.....	Carton	20	5.000	Watermelons.....	Cwt	100	1.000

CONFIDENTIALITY OF COLLECTED DATA

All information collected from individual agricultural producers is held strictly confidential. Data provided by individual producers or other agricultural firms are used only to compile and publish statistics at the county, State, and national levels. Statistics at the county and State level are not published if they will potentially disclose information about an individual or operation. In addition, all names and addresses obtained by this office are held confidential.



PRINCIPAL VEGETABLES BY PRODUCTION AREAS

1 - WEST

- A. Holmes-Jackson-Washington counties: Butter beans, field peas, watermelons.
- B. Gadsden County: Pole beans, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes.

2 - NORTH

- C. Suwannee Valley: Beans, corn, cucumbers, greens, peas, peppers, potatoes, squash, watermelons.
- D. Starke-Brooker-Lake Butler: Lima beans, snap beans, blueberries, cucumbers, peppers, squash, strawberries.
- E. Hastings: Cabbage, potatoes.
- F. Gainesville-Alachua: Blueberries, bush beans, cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, squash.
- G. Island Grove-Hawthorne: Blueberries, cucumbers, peppers, sweet corn, squash, watermelons.

3 - NORTH CENTRAL

- H. Oxford-Pedro: Tomatoes, watermelons.
- I. Sanford-Oviedo-Zellwood: Cabbage, Chinese cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, greens, spinach.
- J. Webster: Cucumbers, eggplant, peppers.

4 - WEST CENTRAL

- K. Lake Placid: Sweet corn, radishes, lettuce, parsley, beets.
- L. Plant City-Balm: Blueberries, bush and pole beans, lima beans, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, field peas, greens, squash, strawberries, cherry tomatoes, watermelons.
- M. Palmetto-Ruskin: Cabbage, cauliflower, potatoes, strawberries, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, plum tomatoes, watermelons.
- N. Sarasota: Cabbage, celery, cucumbers, sweet corn, escarole, lettuce, radishes.
- O. Wauchula: Blueberries, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, watermelons, squash.

5 - EAST CENTRAL

- P. Ft. Pierce: Tomatoes, watermelons, snap beans.

6 - SOUTHWEST

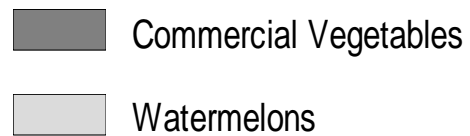
- Q. Snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, sweet and hot peppers, potatoes, squash, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, plum tomatoes, watermelons.

7 - EVERGLADES

- R. Bush beans, cabbage, celery, Chinese cabbage, sweet corn, escarole, greens, lettuce, radishes.

8 - SOUTHEAST

- S. Martin County: Cabbage, potatoes, tomatoes, watermelons.
- T. Pompano: Bush beans, lima beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, sweet and hot peppers, squash, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, plum tomatoes.
- U. Homestead: Bush and pole beans, cabbage, sweet corn, eggplant, okra, pickles, potatoes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, plum tomatoes.



Vegetables, Watermelons, Potatoes, and Berries Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value – Florida: 2016 and 2017

[2015 data is fresh market only. The 2016 data includes fresh market and processing]

Crop	Planted acreage		Harvested acreage		Yield per acre	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(cwt)
Vegetables						
Beans, snap.....	28,200	24,400	27,300	23,900	55.0	58.0
Cabbage.....	8,500	8,000	7,900	7,600	340.0	360.0
Corn, sweet.....	37,600	41,700	34,500	39,000	145.0	140.0
Cucumbers.....	24,300	26,000	21,700	25,900	180.0	205.0
Peppers, bell.....	13,500	13,500	12,900	13,100	295.0	335.0
Squash.....	6,000	5,900	5,800	5,700	115.0	130.0
Tomatoes.....	30,000	29,000	28,000	28,000	260.0	300.0
Total.....	148,100	148,500	138,100	143,200	(X)	(X)
Blueberries.....	(X)	(X)	4,700	5,200	31.1	38.4
Cantaloupe ¹	2,400	2,300	2,300	2,200	270.0	260.0
Potatoes, spring.....	25,000	29,000	22,900	28,700	235.0	250.0
Potatoes, sweet.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Strawberries.....	10,800	10,800	10,700	10,700	205.0	225.0
Watermelons.....	20,000	20,000	19,500	19,500	350.0	395.0
Total, all crops.....	206,300	210,600	198,200	209,500	(X)	(X)
Crop	Production		Value per cwt		Total value	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars per cwt)	(dollars per cwt)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Vegetables						
Beans, snap.....	1,501.5	1,386.2	51.00	51.10	76,530	70,793
Cabbage.....	2,686.0	2,736.0	18.40	15.50	49,422	41,983
Corn, sweet.....	5,002.5	5,460.0	32.00	29.00	160,080	158,340
Cucumbers.....	3,906.0	5,309.5	30.30	25.90	118,167	137,601
Peppers, bell.....	3,805.5	4,388.5	33.10	47.00	125,962	206,260
Squash.....	667.0	741.0	45.10	40.10	30,082	29,713
Tomatoes.....	7,280.0	8,400.0	52.50	31.20	382,200	262,020
Total.....	24,848.5	28,421.2	(X)	(X)	972,443	906,710
Blueberries.....	147.0	200.7	365.00	422.00	53,656	84,633
Cantaloupe ¹	621.0	572.0	19.10	18.00	11,861	10,296
Potatoes, spring.....	5,382.0	7,175.0	16.10	17.40	86,650	124,845
Potatoes, sweet.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Strawberries.....	2,193.5	2,407.5	166.00	140.00	364,121	336,894
Watermelons.....	6,825.0	7,702.5	16.10	17.60	109,883	135,564
Total, all crops.....	40,017.0	46,478.9	(X)	(X)	1,568,614	1,598,939

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

NA Not available.

X Not applicable.

¹ Estimates began in 2016.

Snap Beans Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2015-2017

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2015	29,500	27,500	45	1,238.0	61.60	76,261
2016	28,200	27,300	55	1,501.5	51.00	76,530
2017	24,400	23,900	58	1,386.2	51.80	70,793

Cabbage Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2015-2017

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2015	8,900	8,200	330	2,706	12.50	33,825
2016	8,500	7,900	340	2,686	18.40	49,422
2017	8,000	7,600	360	2,736	15.50	41,983

Sweet Corn Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2015-2017

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2015	41,500	36,900	140	5,166.0	30.00	154,980
2016	37,600	34,500	145	5,002.5	32.00	160,080
2017	41,700	39,000	140	5,460.0	29.00	158,340

Cucumbers Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2015-2017

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2015	11,000	10,600	160	1,696.0	28.20	47,827
2016	24,300	21,700	180	3,906.0	33.00	66,764
2017	26,000	25,900	205	5,309.5	25.90	137,601

Florida Bell Peppers: Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2015-2017

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(\$1,000 dollars)
2015	12,400	12,200	360	4,392.0	50.20	220,478
2016	13,500	12,900	295	3,805.5	33.10	125,962
2017	13,500	13,100	335	4,388.5	47.00	206,260

Potatoes Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2015-2017

[Includes processing]

Crop year	Area		Yield per acre	Production	Value per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Spring						
2015	30,000	29,600	230	6,808	15.90	108,247
2016	25,000	22,900	235	5,382	16.10	86,650
2017	29,000	28,700	250	7,175	17.40	124,845

Sweet Potatoes Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2015-2017

[Estimates began in 2009]

Crop year	Area		Yield per acre	Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2015	5.6	5.4	205	1,107	(D)	(D)
2016	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
2017	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Squash Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2015-2017

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2015 ¹	6,000	5,900	100	600.0	45.80	27,480
2016 ²	6,000	5,800	115	667.0	45.10	30,082
2017 ²	5,900	5,700	130	737.3	40.30	29,713

¹ Fresh market only.

² Includes fresh market and processing.

Strawberries Acreage, Fresh Market Production, and Value – Florida: 2015-2017

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2015	11,000	10,900	225	2,442.0	119.00	290,598
2016	10,800	10,700	205	2,193.5	166.00	364,121
2017	10,800	10,700	225	2,407.5	140.00	336,894

Tomatoes Acreage, Fresh Market Production, and Value – Florida: 2015-2017

[Includes round and plum or pear-shaped varieties, and U-Pic]

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(\$1,000 dollars)
2015	33,000	32,200	295	9,499.0	47.70	453,102
2016	30,000	28,000	260	7,280.0	52.50	382,200
2017	29,000	28,000	300	7,988.4	32.80	262,020

Watermelons Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2015-2017

Crop year	Acreage		Yield per acre	Utilized Production	Price per cwt	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2015 ¹	21,500	21,000	280	5,880.0	15.00	88,200
2016 ²	20,000	19,500	350	6,825.0	16.10	109,883
2017 ²	20,000	19,500	395	7,702.5	17.60	135,564

¹ Fresh market only.

² Includes fresh market and processing.

Vegetables

Many significant changes were made to the vegetable estimating program beginning in 2016. Based on these changes, all States in the estimating program for a given vegetable crop now estimate both fresh and processing utilization, except for lettuce. For lettuce (head, leaf, and romaine) crops, only fresh utilization is estimated.

Estimates for 2015 were not adjusted to meet new program definitions. This report was designed so that only data that are comparable across years are included together in any given table. Beginning in 2016, Total Production and Utilized Production are estimated for each crop. In 2014 and 2015 estimates were made for Production. These Production estimates represent the portion of the crop that was harvested and sold. This most closely represents Utilized Production so those estimates are now published as such to provide maximum comparability.

For selected crops (Lima Beans, Snap Beans, Carrots, Sweet Corn, Cucumbers, Green Peas, and Spinach), 2015 U.S. processing estimates represent all 50 States. For 2016 and 2017, U.S. processing estimates represent only the sum of the estimating States listed in the table.

Harvested Not Sold estimates were added to the estimating program beginning in 2016. By definition, this represents the difference between Total Production (the amount of the crop harvested from the field) and Utilized Production (the amount of the crop that was sold).

Acreage and Yield estimates for fresh and processing utilizations were discontinued beginning in 2016. The Canning and Freezing sub-breakouts for processing utilized production (selected crops), estimates for Fordhooks and Baby Lima varieties of Lima Beans, Pickle stock estimates, and processed vegetable area and production estimates by type of procurement (open market and contract) were discontinued beginning in 2016.

Vegetable Highlights

In 2017, the Nation's production for the 26 estimated vegetable and melon crops totaled 738 million cwt, 6 percent below the revised 785 million cwt in 2016. The utilized production totaled 729 million cwt, 6 percent below 2016. Area harvested in 2017 was 2.48 million acres, a 4 percent reduction from the previous year. In 2017, the top three vegetables, in terms of area harvested, were sweet corn, tomatoes, and snap beans. In terms of total production, the three largest crops were tomatoes, sweet corn, and onions, which combined accounted for 54 percent of the all vegetables total.

The value of utilized production for 2017 vegetable crops was \$13.8 billion, up 6 percent from the previous year. Tomatoes, head lettuce, and romaine lettuce claimed the highest values, accounting for 33 percent of the total value of production when combined.

For the 26 selected vegetables and melons estimated in 2017, California continued to be the leading State in terms of area harvested, utilized production, and value of production. Florida was second and Minnesota ranked third in terms of area harvested. Washington and Arizona ranked second and third, respectively, in terms of utilized production; while Arizona and Florida ranked second and third, respectively, in terms of value of utilized production. The top three States accounted for 76 percent of the total value of utilized production when combined.

Leading Vegetable States in 2017

Rank	Area harvested		Utilized Production		Value of utilized production	
	State	Percent of total	State	Percent of total	State	Percent of total
1	California	39.1	California	57.3	California	56.7
2	Florida	6.6	Washington	5.5	Arizona	12.1
3	Minnesota	6.6	Arizona	5.0	Florida	7.6
4	Wisconsin	(D)	Florida	5.0	Georgia	3.3
5	Washington	6.2	Wisconsin	(D)	Washington	2.4

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Planting and Harvesting Seasons of Selected Vegetables, Berries, and Melons – Florida

CROP	Usual Planting Dates ¹					Usual Harvesting Dates								
						Begin	Most Active			End				
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	
Snap Beans ²														
Blueberries.....														
Cabbage														
Carrots.....														
Cantaloupes.....														
Celery														
Sweet Corn														
Cucumbers.....														
Eggplant.....														
Escarole/Endive														
Lettuce/Romaine														
Peppers														
Potatoes.....														
Radishes.....														
Squash ³														
Strawberries.....														
Tomatoes.....														
Watermelon.....														
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	

¹ Usual date direct seeded or transplanted.

² Includes pole beans.

³ A small acreage of summer squash is marketed locally during July and August.