



## ATTACHE QUERY DETAIL

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WINTER VEGETABLES AND BERRIES: COSTA RICA IMPORTS

Ref: USDA FAS 25073

The following are imports of fresh vegetables and berries from all countries and from the United States during 1994 and 1995. The largest supplier other than the United States is shown in parenthesis.

	Imports from all countries (\$U.S.)	From U.S. (\$U.S.)
Tomatoes		
1994	0	0
1995	3,330 (Guatemala)	0
Sweet Corn		
1994	55,509 (France)	0
1995	14,689 (Honduras)	3,768
Sweet Corn (frozen)		
1994	66 (Canada)	0
1995	15,436	15,436
Carrots		
1994	3,473 (Guatemala)	0
1995	0	0
Egg Plant		
1994	0	0

1995	0	0
Celery		
1994	0	0
1995	0	0
Green Peppers		
1994	462	462
1995	0	0
Strawberries		
1994	0	0
1995	2,585	2,585
Other Berries		
1994	0	0
1995	275	275

Trade data for 1996 is not yet available from the Costa Rican Government.

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 It should be noted that Central American countries have a tariff advantage over the United States. Imports from those countries enter duty free while the tariff for the same products coming from outside Central America is 14 percent plus 1 percent fixed tax.

Of the vegetables listed, sweet corn seems to be the one U.S. product with some market potential in Costa Rica since local yellow corn production has declined over the years and is now very small. The rest of the products are produced locally and are imported mainly when there is not enough domestic supply.

Of the different berries, strawberries are the most popular in the local market and Costa Rica exports a small amount of this berry. Occasional production problems, however, have resulted in sporadic imports. Blackberries are sold mostly by small street vendors or in agricultural markets near the production areas. Sales of other types of berries are negligible.

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