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California Vegetable Review

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

CONTRACTED PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

The 2008 California processing tomato production is forecast at 11.6 million tons, 3 percent below 2007. The acreage, at 276 thousand acres, decreased 6 percent from a year earlier. The yield is forecast to be 42.03 tons per acre, 3 percent above last year's 40.82 tons per acre. The processed tomato crop was slightly behind schedule. A frost in mid-April caused spotty damage to the crop in some areas of the State. Dry conditions and high winds during spring hampered fruit setting and harvest. However, the condition of the crop in many areas is reported to be excellent with no significant insect problems.

Nationally, contracted tomato production is forecast at 12.1 million tons, down 3 percent from last year. A decline of 6 percent in contracted harvested area is accompanied by a yield increase of 0.99 tons per acre. In Ohio, harvest was 6 percent complete by August 17. Michigan growers began transplanting throughout May. Early planted tomatoes progressed well by the end of May despite dry soil. Stakes were put in fields during the first week of June. Planting was near complete by mid-June. Ample moisture in July caused a setback to plants in some fields. Harvest began in mid-August and the crop progressed well throughout the growing season. Indiana's processing tomatoes were in fair to good condition despite dry weather during late July into mid-August. Some growers had to irrigate to make up for the lack of rainfall.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE AND U.S.

State	Acreage Harvested				Yield Per Acre			Production			
	2006 Total	2007 Total	2007 Contract 1/	Indicated 2008 Contract 1/	2006 Total	2007 Total	Indicated 2008 Contract 1/	2006 Total	2007 Total	2007 Contract 1/	Indicated 2008 Contract 1/
	Acres				Tons						
California	282,000	296,000	293,000	276,000	35.83	40.82	42.03	10,104,000	12,082,000	11,965,000	11,600,000
Indiana	7,800	8,400	8,400	7,800	28.91	35.00	30.29	225,500	294,000	294,000	236,260
Michigan	3,300	3,300	3,300	2,600	35.00	34.00	34.00	115,500	112,200	112,200	88,400
Ohio	6,300	5,900	5,900	6,500	26.48	29.10	29.00	166,820	171,690	171,690	188,500
U.S.	299,400	313,600	310,600	292,900	35.44	40.37	41.36	10,611,820	12,659,890	12,542,890	12,113,160

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

ASPARAGUS

The California 2008 Asparagus production is estimated at 421 thousand cwt., down 27 percent from 2007. The harvested acreage was reduced by 28 percent from the 2007 season to the 2008 season. The yield is estimated at 29 cwt., unchanged from last year. Mostly excellent quality crop was reported throughout the growing season, however, acreage continues to decline due to competition from imports.

Nationally, production of the 2008 asparagus crop is forecast at 952 thousand cwt., down 15 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 32.2 thousand acres, is down 16 percent from 2008. Fresh production of 718 thousand cwt., declined 22 percent from 2007. Processed production, at 11.7 thousand tons, is up 18 percent from 2008. In Michigan, the asparagus spears emerged in late April. Warm temperatures allowed crop development to proceed ahead of schedule. Harvest began in early May and continued at a slow pace for the remainder of the month due to weather conditions. Purple spots were reported in some fields. Harvest was complete in some areas by mid-June.

ASPARAGUS BY SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 1/

State and U.S.	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 cwt		Dollars		$1,000	
California	20,800	15,000	20,000	14,500	29	29	580	421	121.00	103.00	70,180	43,363
Michigan	11,700	11,700	11,200	11,200	21	23	235	258	65.60	71.80	15,417	18,516
Washington	8,000	7,000	7,000	6,500	43	42	301	273	59.10	65.40	17,802	17,859
U.S.	40,500	33,700	38,200	32,200	29	30	1,116	952	92.70	83.80	103,399	79,738

1/ Includes Fresh Market and Processing.

SPRING ONION PRODUCTION

California's 2008 spring onion production is estimated at 2.86 million cwt., down 14 percent from the previous year. The yield calculates to 440 cwt. per acre, down 2 percent from last year. Planting of spring onions in California began in most areas by early November under good conditions. A cool growing season slowed crop growth, and some growers experienced problems with seeders and mildew. However, good quality was reported for the spring onion crop.

The U.S. end-of-season spring onion production estimate, at 11.0 million cwt, is up 8 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 29.0 thousand acres, is down 6 percent from a year ago, while yields, at 379 cwt. per acre, are up 49 cwt. per acre from 2007. The value of the spring crop is estimated at 266 million dollars, 20 percent less than last year. In Georgia, rainfall during the winter months was normal to slightly below normal, while rainfall during spring was well below normal. Temperatures were above normal during the winter and near normal during spring. The State experienced drought conditions during most of the summer. However, rainfall in the southern part of the State improved moisture conditions. Harvest got underway by the first week in April, and the crop was rated good to excellent condition throughout the growing season. Yields are reported to be the highest on record. Disease problems have been at a minimum and growers were actively irrigating the spring onion crop.

SPRING ONIONS BY SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 1/

State and U.S.	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 cwt		Dollars		$1,000	
Arizona	1,200	1,500	1,200	1,500	450	440	540	660	12.00	8.30	6,480	5,478
California	7,600	6,700	7,400	6,500	450	440	3,330	2,860	11.00	12.80	36,630	36,608
Georgia	12,500	12,000	12,000	11,500	270	320	3,240	3,680	35.90	29.50	116,316	108,560
Texas	12,500	11,000	10,400	9,500	300	400	3,120	3,800	56.00	30.30	174,720	115,140
U.S.	33,800	31,200	31,000	29,000	330	379	10,230	11,000	32.70	24.20	334,146	265,786

1/ Primarily fresh market.

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