



California Vegetable Review

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**SPRING SEASON
FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE**

Broccoli: California's area for spring harvest is forecast at 35,000 acres, up 1 percent from 2006. The State experienced ideal weather conditions for broccoli production. Warm sunny days and mild nights promoted plant growth.

Cantaloupe: In California, the spring melon crop is progressing well. Some freeze damage to early planted melons was reported. The Georgia crop is in fair to good condition. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 30,900 acres, down 4 percent from 2006.

Carrots: In California, weather conditions are expected to be ideal for plant growth. Although the State received sporadic rainfall, growers are expected to be able to get into their fields. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 17,400 acres, down 6 percent from last year.

Cauliflower: California's area for spring harvest is forecast at 9,000 acres, 5 percent below 2006. In early January, cold and dry weather negatively impacted quality, resulting in acreage loss as some farmers had to forego harvest. Spring weather has been ideal for growth with warm days and mild nights.

Celery: California's area for spring harvest is forecast at 4,900 acres, down 6 percent from last year. Freezing temperatures in January reduced celery yields and production. Although plants survived the cold temperatures, the impact will be felt in the coming months, as seeder problems are anticipated through May.

Corn, Sweet: In California, freezing temperatures in January damaged early planted sweet corn in the southern California desert, with several fields having to be re-planted. Weather conditions during February and March were favorable, with unseasonably warm temperatures in March boosting crop growth and development. No disease or pest problems were reported. In Florida, some acreage was lost due to a mid-February freeze. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 32,500 acres, down 4 percent from a year ago.

Honeydew: California's spring crop is progressing well despite reported freeze damage to some early planted melons. In Texas, the crop has rebounded following a rough start due to heavy rains in the Lower Texas Valley. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 4,200 acres, up 2 percent from 2006.

Lettuce, Head: In California, a January freeze adversely affected the late season lettuce crop resulting in low yields and small head size. In New Jersey, field preparation and planting is behind schedule due to unstable weather conditions during early spring. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 32,300 acres, down 3 percent from 2006.

Tomatoes: Warm weather throughout California provided ideal growing conditions for tomatoes. Sporadic rainfall provided adequate water to promote plant growth. There have been no reports of significant pest infestations or diseases. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 28,000 acres, down 2 percent from 2006.

Watermelon: Expected California acreage for the April - June 30 harvesting period remained the same as a year earlier at 3,600 acres. California's spring melon crop is progressing well. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 38,800 acres, down 1 percent from last year.

SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvesting Period	Area Harvested		For Harvest 2007	Percent Change
		2005	2006		
		Acres			Percent
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	33,000	34,500	35,000	101
CANTALOUPE:					
Arizona	May-Aug	13,900	14,300	14,000	98
California	Apr-Jun	11,500	11,500	11,200	97
Georgia	Apr-Jun	4,300	4,600	3,800	83
Texas	Apr-Jun	2,000	1,700	1,900	112
GROUP TOTAL		31,700	32,100	30,900	96
CARROTS:					
California	Apr-Jun	18,500	18,000	17,000	94
Texas	Apr-Jun	600	600	400	67
GROUP TOTAL		19,100	18,600	17,400	94
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	9,800	9,500	9,000	95
CELERY: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	5,100	5,200	4,900	94
CORN, SWEET:					
California	Apr-Jun	11,500	13,000	12,000	92
Florida	Apr-Jun	21,000	21,000	20,500	98
GROUP TOTAL		32,500	34,000	32,500	96
HONEYDEW:					
California	Apr-Jun	3,400	3,400	3,400	100
Texas	Apr-Jun	700	700	800	114
GROUP TOTAL		4,100	4,100	4,200	102
LETTUCE, HEAD:					
California	Apr-Jun	34,000	33,000	32,000	97
New Jersey	Apr-Jun	---	300	300	100
Other States 2/		600	---	---	---
GROUP TOTAL		34,600	33,300	32,300	97
TOMATOES:					
California	Apr-Jun	7,000	8,000	8,000	100
Florida	Apr-Jul	17,500	17,500	17,200	98
South Carolina	May-Jul	3,000	3,000	2,800	93
GROUP TOTAL		27,500	28,500	28,000	98
WATERMELON					
California	Apr-Jun	3,600	3,600	3,600	100
Florida	Apr-Jul	26,000	25,300	24,600	97
Texas	Apr-Jun	10,800	10,100	10,600	105
GROUP TOTAL		40,400	39,000	38,800	99

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Includes AZ and NJ for 2005. AZ estimate discontinued in 2006.

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

California production is forecast at 12.0 million tons, up 20 percent from 2006. The tomato crop is expected to be on schedule and processors are anticipating a good growing season. In Indiana, prospects for a good crop look positive due to plenty of precipitation during the winter months. California's estimate is based on a survey of processors that was conducted in January. Updated acreage and production will be available May 31.

Nationally, contracts with growers cover 322,900 acres in 2007, up 8 percent from last year. Contract production, at 12.5 million tons, is 19 percent above 2006.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change 2007 2006	Production				Contract Change 2007 2006
	2005 Total	2006		2007 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>		2005 Total	2006		2007 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		Total		Contract <u>1/</u>			
	Acres				Percent	Tons				Percent
California	267,000	283,000	280,000	305,000	109	9,600,000	10,104,000	10,024,000	12,000,000	120
Indiana	8,300	8,000	8,000	8,300	104	266,470	225,500	225,500	254,400	113
Michigan <u>2/</u>	---	3,300	3,300	3,400	103	---	115,500	115,500	115,300	100
Ohio	6,200	6,400	6,390	6,200	97	175,280	166,820	166,665	166,000	100
Other States <u>3/</u>	4,340	---	---	---	---	151,370	---	---	---	---
UNITED STATES	285,840	300,700	297,690	322,900	108	10,193,120	10,611,820	10,531,665	12,535,700	119

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ Data for 2005 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

3/ Includes MD, MI, and NJ for 2005; MD and NJ estimates were discontinued in 2006. Seasonal forecasts for MD are not available. Estimates will be published in the "Vegetables 2007 Summary" released in January 2008.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES

Table data for California are included in "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Nationally, pickle packers intend to contract 93,700 acres of cucumbers for pickles, up 9 percent from last year. Planting of the spring crop in Florida began in January. Favorable weather conditions have kept planting on schedule. Despite a few nights when temperatures were below freezing, cucumbers escaped significant damage because growers covered the crop with freeze cloths or ran overhead sprinklers. Cool temperatures slowed crop development.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES BY STATE

State	2005 Total	2006 Area Planted		2007 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	Contract Change 2007/2006
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		
	Acres				Percent
Florida	6,500	6,700	5,700	6,000	105
Indiana	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,500	94
Maryland <u>2/</u>	3,000	3,200	1,300	---	---
Michigan	34,000	34,000	24,600	32,000	130
North Carolina	16,200	11,100	9,400	10,000	106
Ohio	3,400	3,100	2,600	2,900	112
South Carolina	4,800	3,500	3,500	3,400	97
Texas	8,000	8,200	8,000	8,000	100
Wisconsin	4,600	4,800	4,800	5,100	106
Other States <u>3/</u>	31,800	31,200	24,700	24,800	100
UNITED STATES	114,000	107,400	86,200	93,700	109

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ Data for 2007 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

3/ Includes AL, CA, DE, GA, MA, MO, and WA for 2005; AL, CA, DE, GA, and MO for 2006; AL, CA, DE, GA, MD, and MO for 2007. Seasonal forecasts for WA are not available. Estimates will be published in the "Vegetables 2007 Summary" released in January 2008.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS

California growers planted 7,800 acres of spring onions this year, down 4 percent from 2006. Planting began in most areas by early November under good conditions. Above normal temperatures stimulated early development, but a frost in January caused damage to some fields. Crop development progress is behind normal in some areas. Growers reported good stands and growth in many areas following recent rains.

Nationally, the total planted onion acreage for all seasons in 2007 is estimated at 166,800 acres, down 5 percent from last year. Spring Onions were planted on 34,000 acres in 2007, decreasing 17 percent from 2006. The summer non-storage onion planted acreage, at 20,900 acres, remained the same when compared to last year's. The total storage planted acreage is 111,900 acres, down 1 percent from 2006. The total summer onion acreage, at 132,800 acres, is 1 percent below the previous year.

California's summer storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 32,200 acres, a decrease of 3 percent from last year. Planting was behind schedule due to rain and cold temperatures, however, no major problems were reported. The non-storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 9,400 acres, down 4 percent from last year. The California summer onion crop was planted with some delays due to rain and cold temperatures. Good growing conditions are currently being reported.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Season and State	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006
	Acres Planted			Percent
Spring 1/				
Arizona	2,000	1,000	1,200	120
California	8,200	8,100	7,800	96
Georgia	13,500	14,000	12,500	89
Texas	17,000	17,700	12,500	71
Spring Total	40,700	40,800	34,000	83
Summer 1/				
<u>Non-Storage</u>				
California	9,700	9,800	9,400	96
Nevada	2,400	2,600	2,700	104
New Mexico	6,500	6,000	6,500	108
Texas	1,000	1,000	800	80
Washington 2/	1,400	1,500	1,500	100
Non-Storage Total	21,000	20,900	20,900	100
<u>Storage</u>				
California 3/	31,800	33,100	32,200	97
Colorado	10,000	10,000	10,000	100
Idaho	9,700	9,700	9,400	97
Michigan	3,000	2,700	2,300	85
New York	13,800	14,100	12,700	90
Oregon				
Malheur County	11,700	12,000	12,300	103
Other	7,800	7,800	8,300	106
Washington	19,500	20,000	20,500	103
Wisconsin	2,000	1,900	2,000	105
Other States 4/	2,020	2,280	2,200	96
Storage Total	111,320	113,580	111,900	99
Summer Total	132,320	134,480	132,800	99
UNITED STATES TOTAL ONIONS	173,020	175,280	166,800	95

1/ Primarily fresh market.

2/ Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.

3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

4/ Includes OH and UT for 2005-07.

ASPARAGUS

California's area for harvest at 23,000, declined 4 percent from last year. A mid-January freeze had minimal impact on the asparagus crop.

Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 42,000 acres, down 6 percent from 2006. Washington's harvested area is forecast at 7,500 acres, 17 percent below last year. Weather this winter was very mild in the eastern part Washington. Water supplies should not be a concern for the upcoming season as the snow pack is being reported at 115 percent. Harvested acreage continues to drop as available markets shrink.

ASPARAGUS BY STATE 1/

State	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 2007	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2005	2006		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
	Acres			Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	24,100	24,000	23,000	32	25	---	770	600	---
Michigan	12,200	11,700	11,500	19	22	---	232	257	---
Washington	13,000	9,000	7,500	41	42	---	532	378	---
TOTAL	49,300	44,700	42,000	31	28	---	1,534	1,235	---

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.