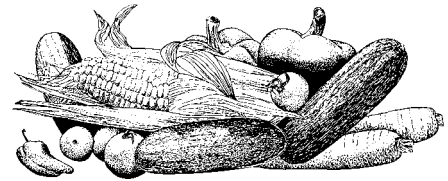


# California Vegetable Review



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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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## CONTRACTED PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

The 1997 California processing tomato production is forecast at 9.40 million tons, 11 percent less than 1996. The acreage, at 269 thousand, is down 13 percent from a year earlier, while the yield of 34.94 tons per acre is above last year's yield of 34.06 tons per acre. Overall, ideal weather conditions in late spring and early summer induced good growth. However, unexpected cool nights raised concerns about mold damage. Unseasonable rains in mid-August caused mold damage to some fields in Yolo County. The extent of the damage was unknown as of September 1.

U.S. contracted tomato production is forecast at 10.0 million tons, 11 percent less than last year and 10 percent less than the 1995 crop. A 13 percent decrease in acreage more than offset a 0.75 ton increase in yield. Cool, wet spring conditions delayed tomato maturity in the eastern half of the Nation. In Michigan, the harvest was delayed nearly three weeks by the slow-maturing crop. Yield prospects appear good, provided the weather stays favorable.

## TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE AND U.S., 1995-97

State	Acreage Harvested				Yield Per Acre			Production				
	1995 Total	1996		Indicated 1997 Contract 1/	1995 Total	1996 Total	Indicated 1997 Contract 1/	1995 Total	1996		Indicated 1997 Contract 1/	
		Total	Contract 1/						Total	Contract 1/		
	----- Acres -----				----- Tons -----							
California	317,000	313,000	310,000	269,000	33.46	34.06	34.94	10,606,820	10,660,780	10,540,000	9,400,000	
Colorado	180	220	220		10.22	17.72		1,840	3,900	3,900		
Indiana	6,700	6,400	6,400	6,500	23.50	28.20	26.00	157,450	180,480	180,480	169,000	
Michigan	4,500	4,400	4,300	3,400	30.00	32.50	34.00	135,000	143,000	138,600	115,600	
Ohio	10,400	10,500	10,400	9,000	25.93	29.30	28.20	269,670	307,650	304,750	253,800	
Pennsylvania	1,400	800	800	1,100	26.14	27.88	24.00	36,600	22,300	22,300	26,400	
Other States 2/	4,200	3,800	3,700	2,350	18.73	23.85	22.90	78,660	90,630	87,780	53,810	
U.S.	344,380	339,120	335,820	291,350	32.77	33.64	34.39	11,286,040	11,408,740	11,277,810	10,018,610	

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 1995 - DE, IL, MD, NJ, NY, SC, TX, and VA.

1996-97 - DE, IL, MD, NJ, NY, SC, and VA.

## SPRING ONION PRODUCTION

The season end report of spring onions places production at 9.20 million cwt., down 1 percent from last year and 9 percent less than in 1995. Acreage harvested, at 32,900, is down 11 percent from

a year ago, but the yield is 278 cwt. per acre, up 26 cwt. per acre. The value of the spring crop is estimated at 172 million dollars, 36 percent greater than last year.

## SPRING ONIONS BY SELECTED STATES, 1996-97 1/

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- Acres -----				-- Cwt. --		-- 1,000 Cwt. --		-- Dollars --		-- 1,000 Dollars --	
Arizona	2,100	1,800	1,900	1,800	400	410	760	738	8.63	9.91	6,559	7,315
California	7,500	7,400	7,200	7,200	380	445	2,736	3,204	9.80	14.30	26,813	45,817
Georgia	16,000	16,200	14,700	15,800	120	220	1,764	3,476	30.50	25.60	53,800	88,990
Texas	15,300	12,400	13,000	8,100	310	215	4,030	1,742	9.68	17.20	39,010	29,940
U.S.	40,900	37,800	36,800	32,900	252	278	9,290	9,160	13.60	18.80	126,182	172,062

1/ Primarily fresh market.

**SUMMER ONION PRODUCTION**

California production is forecast at 12.8 million cwt., 4 percent less than last year, but 1 percent greater than two years ago. Acres for harvest, at 29,000, are 6 percent less than last year. The yield, at 440 cwt. per acre, is 10 cwt. greater than in 1996. Production of summer storage onions (excluding California) is forecast at 35.8 million cwt., 8 percent more than 1996 and 2 percent more than in 1995. Harvested acreage, at 80,330, is 4 percent more than last year, while the yield is 445 cwt. per acre, 17 cwt. more than in 1996. In Wisconsin, cool mid-August conditions promoted weed growth, but slowed onion development. Onion harvest in Michigan is underway. Maturity is behind, but the crop outlook is excellent. The yield is forecast at a record tying high due to moderate summer conditions.

Dry conditions in New York did not necessarily hurt onion yields. Recent rainfall should help size onions and improve conditions. Harvest is to start about a week later than usual due to a wet, cool spring. Overabundance of precipitation in July and August resulted in disease problems for the Colorado crop. Producers expect a lower than average yield. The weather in Eastern Oregon was cooler during the summer than last year. Although the weather has not been unfavorable for onions, the cooler temperatures could bring lower yields than in 1996. Western Oregon had a hot, dry summer, which could produce higher yields than in 1996. Washington onions are in good condition and an excellent harvest is in progress. Size is larger than normal. Producers expect a record yield at this time.

**ONIONS FOR FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING**

Crop and State	Area Harvested		For Harvest 1997	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1995	1996		1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
	--- Acres ---			--- Cwt. ---			--- 1,000 Cwt. ---		
<b>SPRING TOTAL</b>	35,600	36,800	32,900	284	252	278	10,110	9,290	9,160
Storage:									
Colorado	17,800	16,000	16,500	345	325	340	6,141	5,200	5,610
Idaho	8,700	8,600	8,200	630	650	660	5,481	5,590	5,412
Michigan	6,400	5,800	6,000	290	310	340	1,856	1,798	2,040
Minnesota	520	520	570	240	220	300	125	114	171
New York	12,600	11,400	11,600	320	240	300	4,032	2,736	3,480
Ohio	480	490	460	305	380	350	146	186	161
Oregon-Malheur	12,300	12,000	12,000	580	590	590	7,134	7,080	7,080
-West	6,800	6,300	7,400	400	380	400	2,720	2,394	2,960
Utah	2,200	2,100	2,300	440	470	460	968	987	1,058
Washington	12,500	12,700	13,500	490	510	530	6,125	6,477	7,155
Wisconsin	1,900	1,700	1,800	235	370	350	447	629	630
Storage Total <u>1/</u>	82,200	77,610	80,330	428	428	445	35,175	33,191	35,757
Non-storage Total <u>2/</u>	15,700	13,900	11,200	397	400	366	6,239	5,558	4,100
CALIFORNIA Total <u>3/</u>	30,500	31,000	29,000	415	430	440	12,658	13,330	12,760
<b>SUMMER TOTAL</b>	128,400	122,510	120,530	421	425	437	54,072	52,079	52,617
<b>U.S. ALL ONIONS</b>	164,000	159,310	153,430	391	385	403	64,182	61,369	61,777

1/ Summer storage total, excluding California.

2/ Carried forward from earlier forecast.

3/ Primarily for processing.