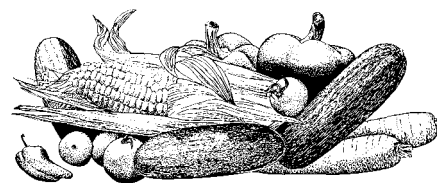


California Vegetable Review



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SPRING SEASON FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

BROCCOLI: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 29,700 acres, down 1 percent from 1997. Rains delayed planting, but recent better weather allowed producers to catch up. Fields are wet and weedy, but producers reported very few other problems.

CANTALOUPS: California cantaloupe producers intend to harvest 19,400 acres, 2 percent below last year. Winter rain and frost delayed the planting and growth of California's spring cantaloups. The crop was sprayed to control whiteflies and mildew in the desert valley. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is estimated at 40,100 acres, up 2 percent from 1997. Acreage in Georgia was up 4 percent from last year, which continues the upward trend from 1996. Texas acreage is up 38 percent compared to last year's rain reduced harvested acreage.

CARROTS: Carrot growers in California expect to harvest 18,000 acres, 7 percent more than a year ago. Rains delayed planting in a few areas, but the crop responded well to favorable temperatures. Sizing was about normal at this time, but wet fields caused some weed problems. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is estimated at 21,700 acres, up 12 percent from last year. The frequent winter rainfall flooded some Florida fields and caused a significant amount of winter acreage to be lost. Spring crop plantings, and winter crop digging were delayed due to muddy conditions.

CAULIFLOWER: California's acreage for spring harvest is estimated at 10,500 acres, down 5 percent from 1997. Delayed plantings due to wet fields caused less acreage to be ready for harvesting this quarter. The crop is in fair condition with head size reported to be about normal.

CELERY: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 4,900 acres, down 4 percent from last year. Wet weather in January and February delayed harvest along the coast. In the desert valley, the crop remained on schedule and growers reported no major problems.

SWEET CORN: California's sweet corn acreage, at 12,500 acres, is 16 percent above a year earlier. The harvest is on schedule in the desert valley, where winter rains stimulated the growth of the crop. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is estimated at 41,600 acres, up 1 percent from 1997.

HONEYDEW MELONS: California honeydew melon acreage of 3,800 is 6 percent greater than a year ago. The desert valley crop was sprayed to control whiteflies and mildew. Producers reported no major problems. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 6,100 acres, up 9 percent from last year.

HEAD LETTUCE: California acreage was reported to be 38,000 acres, 5 percent less than the comparable period a year ago. Extremely wet weather in January and February delayed planting of the crop, which may cause spring supply gaps. Drier weather in March allowed growers to catch up. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 43,900 acres, up slightly from last year. Growers in Arizona and New Mexico increased their acreage in anticipation of the California shortfall. New Mexico experienced some severe winds and cooler temperatures as winter storms moved across the state during March. Growers reported no damage to the crop and planting is complete. At the end of March, New Mexico's crop condition rated 10 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 30 percent excellent. Lower than normal temperatures delayed plantings in New Jersey.

TOMATOES: California fresh market tomato growers expect to harvest 8,400 acres during the spring quarter, 16 percent less than a year ago. Winter rains delayed planting in the San Joaquin Valley. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 30,550 acres, down 2 percent from 1997. Winter storms across Florida blew blooms off plants and scarred fruit, which resulted in lower crop yield prospects. Cold conditions in mid-March severely damaged plants in the Palmetto-Ruskin area. Growers made spot resets. Although much rain was received in South Carolina, producers believed that this had little impact on the acreage of tomatoes planted. In Alabama, cool, wet conditions delayed planting and transplanting by about one week.

WATERMELONS: Expected California acreage for the May-June 30 harvesting period was 4,400 acres, 10 percent below a year earlier. California's desert crop was sprayed for white flies and mildew. Frost was also a problem in January and February, but milder conditions in March enhanced growing conditions. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is estimated at 69,100 acres, up 2 percent from last year. Cool weather delayed planting and transplanting about a week in Alabama. The early March freeze did very little damage to the north Florida watermelon crop. Any watermelons killed by that freeze were replanted. However, wet fields have upset planting schedules.

SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvesting Period	Area Harvested		For Harvest 1998	Percent Change
		1996	1997		
		-- Acres --			Percent
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	31,000	30,000	29,700	99
CANTALOUPE:					
Arizona	Apr-Jun	9,500	11,600	11,000	95
California	Apr-Jun	17,000	19,700	19,400	98
Georgia	Apr-Jun	3,500	4,800	5,000	104
Texas	Apr-Jun	9,500	3,400	4,700	138
GROUP TOTAL		39,500	39,500	40,100	102
CARROTS:					
California	Apr-Jun	17,600	16,800	18,000	107
Florida	Apr-Jun	1,800	1,900	1,800	95
Texas	Apr-Jun	1,000	700	1,900	271
GROUP TOTAL		20,400	19,400	21,700	112
CAULIFLOWER:					
1/ California	Apr-Jun	11,500	11,000	10,500	95
CELERY: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	5,300	5,100	4,900	96
SWEET CORN:					
California	Apr-Jun	9,600	10,800	12,500	116
Florida	Apr-Jun	29,900	30,300	29,100	96
GROUP TOTAL		39,500	41,100	41,600	101
HONEYDEWS:					
California	Apr-Jun	3,000	3,600	3,800	106
Texas	Apr-Jun	3,200	2,000	2,300	115
GROUP TOTAL		6,200	5,600	6,100	109
HEAD LETTUCE:					
Arizona-Other 2/	Apr-Jun	1,100	1,900	2,500	132
California	Apr-Jun	39,000	40,000	38,000	95
New Jersey	May-Jul	800	800	800	100
New Mexico	Apr-Jun	900	1,100	2,600	236
GROUP TOTAL		41,800	43,800	43,900	100
TOMATOES:					
Alabama	Jun-Jul	700	700	600	86
Arkansas	Jun-Aug	500	550	650	118
California	Apr-Jun	6,700	10,000	8,400	84
Florida	Apr-Jun	15,700	13,100	13,700	105
South Carolina	May-Jul	3,800	3,700	3,600	97
Texas	Apr-Jun	3,900	3,200	3,600	113
GROUP TOTAL		31,300	31,250	30,550	98
WATERMELON					
Alabama	Jun-Jul	2,900	1,700	2,100	124
Arizona	Apr-Jun	6,700	6,900	7,600	110
California	May-Jun	6,000	4,900	4,400	90
Florida	Apr-Jun	34,000	30,000	34,000	113
Texas	Apr-Jun	30,000	24,000	21,000	88
GROUP TOTAL		79,600	67,500	69,100	102

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Revised 1997 data.

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

California production is estimated at 10.0 million tons, up 8 percent from 1997. Unusually heavy and persistent winter rains caused planting disruptions in California. Processors were forced to adjust their intended delivery schedules due to the disruptions. More growers were compelled to use transplants this year. Early planted tomatoes continue to be delayed by the abnormal rainfall in southern California. In the Sacramento Valley, planting is one month behind schedule.

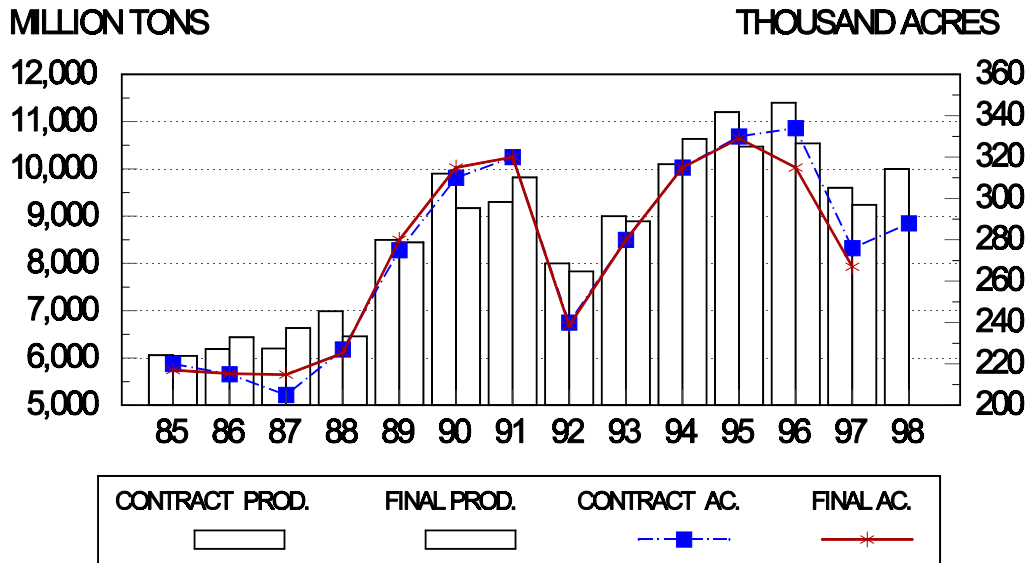
Nationally, processors are increasing tomato acreage by 6 percent this year. Contracts with growers cover 306,980 acres in 1998. Tonnage contracts covering 10.5 million tons are up 6 percent from last year.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING, BY STATE, 1996-98

State	Area Planted				Contract Change <u>1998</u> 1997	Production				Contract Change <u>1998</u> 1997
	1996 Total	1997		1998 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>		1996 Total	1997		1998 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>				Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		
	----- Acres -----				Percent	----- Tons -----				Percent
California	318,000	270,000	267,000	288,000	108	10,660,780	9,349,600	9,241,720	10,000,000	108
Colorado	220	---	---	---	---	3,900	---	---	---	---
Indiana	6,600	6,400	6,400	6,700	105	180,480	157,440	157,440	176,790	112
Michigan	4,600	3,800	3,800	2,100	55	143,000	123,500	123,500	61,350	50
Ohio	10,900	9,100	9,100	6,000	66	307,650	252,670	252,670	156,600	62
Pennsylvania	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,300	108	22,300	27,010	27,010	32,700	121
Other States <u>2/</u>	3,950	3,200	3,200	2,880	90	90,630	62,430	62,430	67,650	108
U.S.	345,370	293,700	290,700	306,980	106	11,408,740	9,972,650	9,864,770	10,495,090	106

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.
2/ 1996-97 -- DE, IL, MD, NJ, NY, TX, and VA.
 1998 -- DE, MD, NJ, NY, and TX.

**CALIFORNIA PROCESSING TOMATOES
 INTENTIONS VS. FINAL PRODUCTION AND ACREAGE**



CONTRACT PLANTED ACRES AND PRODUCTION

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS

Spring rains in the southern coastal area of California forced some spring onion acreage to be planted much later than normal. Additionally, some acreage planted before the winter rains has been abandoned due to flooding. The Georgia crop is rated mostly fair to good. Excessive rainfall in some areas has led to some yield reductions. Producers intend to harvest 34,400 acres, up 4 percent from last year. Texas acreage for harvest and production are forecast to be up 41 percent and 92 percent, respectively, when compared to last year's rain hindered crop.

California farmers expect to plant 33,000 acres of summer onions, mostly for processing, up 10 percent from last year. Despite the poor winter weather, producers are optimistic for the season ahead. Planted acreage for summer onions on the National level is estimated at 127,130 acres, fractionally below last year's acreage.

ONIONS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, 1996-98

Season and State	Acres			1998/1997
	1996	1997	1998	
	----- Acres for Harvest -----			Percent
Spring 1/				
Arizona 2/	1,900	2,100	2,100	100
California 2/	7,200	7,200	6,800	94
Georgia	14,700	15,800	14,100	89
Texas	13,000	8,100	11,400	141
Spring Total	36,800	33,200	34,400	104
	----- Acres Planted -----			Percent
Spring 1/	40,900	38,100	35,600	93
Summer 1/				
Non-Storage				
Nevada 3/	1,900	1,800	---	---
New Mexico	7,200	6,600	7,300	111
Texas	4,400	3,900	4,200	108
Washington	900	900	850	94
Group Total 4/	14,400	13,200	12,350	108
Storage				
California 5/	31,000	30,000	33,000	110
Colorado	18,000	18,000	17,000	94
Idaho	8,800	8,400	8,200	98
Michigan	6,200	6,200	4,500	73
Minnesota	530	600	500	83
New York	12,300	12,500	12,400	99
Ohio	500	480	480	100
Oregon				
Malheur County	12,200	12,200	12,200	100
West	6,500	7,600	7,600	100
Utah	2,200	2,500	2,200	88
Washington	13,000	13,800	14,800	107
Wisconsin	1,800	2,000	1,900	95
Summer Total	127,430	127,480	127,130	101
UNITED STATES TOTAL 4/	168,330	165,580	162,730	99

- 1/ Primarily fresh market.
- 2/ First production forecast will be published July 9, 1998.
- 3/ Estimate to be published in "Vegetables 1998 Summary" in January 1999.
- 4/ Percent calculated, excluding Nevada.
- 5/ Primarily for processing.

ASPARAGUS

California's area for harvest is estimated at 33,200 acres, 10 percent more than the previous year. After a very wet January and February, the California harvest began two weeks later than normal. Growers are concerned that the extremely wet soil could adversely affect the yield and quality.

Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is estimated at 76,200 acres, up 6 percent from 1997. A good season is expected in New Jersey. Producers reported that the crop was in good condition. Plant stand quality was reported as average by most Michigan growers.

ASPARAGUS, BY STATE, 1996-98 a/

State	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 1998	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1996	1997		1996	1997	1998 b/	1996	1997	1998 b/
	--- Acres ---			--- Cwt. ---			--- 1,000 Cwt. ---		
California	29,000	30,100	33,200	26	27	---	754	813	---
Michigan	17,500	17,500	17,500	17	15	---	298	263	---
New Jersey	900	1,000	1,000	40	23	---	36	23	---
Washington	23,000	23,000	24,500	36	36	---	828	828	---
TOTAL	70,400	71,600	76,200	27	27	---	1,916	1,927	---

- a/ Includes fresh market and processing.
- b/ Data available September 10, 1998.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES

California processors have contracted 4,600 acres from growers for 1998, 5 percent above last year. Pickle packers intend to contract 95,250 acres of cucumbers for pickles, up 2 percent from last year.

Acreage increases are forecast for California, Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES, BY STATE, 1996-98

State	1996 Total	1997 Planted Areas		1998 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	Contract Change 1998\1997
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		
		----- Acres -----			Percent
California	6,300	4,400	4,400	4,600	105
Colorado	900	780	780	190	24
Florida	6,500	6,500	4,300	4,500	105
Georgia	---	---	---	3,000	---
Indiana	2,400	2,000	2,000	1,800	90
Michigan	28,000	26,000	22,500	23,000	102
North Carolina	14,100	18,300	13,300	13,000	98
Ohio	3,300	3,000	2,900	3,000	103
South Carolina	5,000	4,000	4,000	3,500	88
Texas	11,600	11,500	8,900	10,400	117
Wisconsin	5,000	3,700	3,700	3,800	103
Other States <u>2/</u>	26,940	27,600	26,390	24,460	93
United States	110,040	107,780	93,170	95,250	102

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 1997 -- AL, AR, DE, GA, IL, LA, MD, MA, MN, MO, NJ, NY, OR, VA, and WA.
1998 -- AL, DE, LA, MD, MA, MN, MO, NJ, NY, OR, VA, and WA.