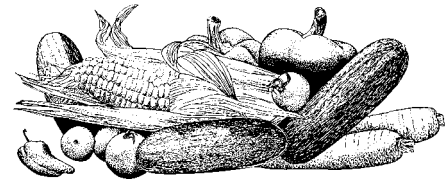


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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fresh Market Vegetable and Melon Acreage	1
Summer Onion Production	1-2
Cash Farm Income	2

FALL FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

Broccoli: California's acreage for fall harvest is estimated at 31,000 acres, 2 percent below last year, but the same as 1996. Hot weather during July and August slowed development, but cooler weather in September helped the crop recover. Heads are slightly smaller than average. Harvest is expected to proceed normally.

Cantaloups: California producers expect to harvest 8,700 acres, 2 percent below last year. Fall harvest in California is on schedule. Nationally, Fall cantaloup acreage for harvest is estimated at 12,800 acres, up 2 percent from last year and up 13 percent from 1996. Hot temperatures in July and August created stress in some areas, but the crop recovered nicely after more seasonal September temperatures arrived. Demand for cantaloup is increasing with many firms beginning to specialize in fresh-market, precut, products.

Carrots: California growers intend to harvest 16,800 acres during the October-December quarter, 8 percent below the same quarter a year ago. In California, sizing is nearly normal for the bulk of the crop despite extreme weather conditions at the beginning of the season. Extreme heat in July and August hampered crop growth, but more seasonal temperatures in September have helped the crop recover. Nationally, acreage for fresh market harvest is forecast at 17,300 acres, down 7 percent from last year and 3 percent below 1996. Baby carrot demand remains strong.

Cauliflower: Acreage for fall harvest in California is estimated at 10,600 acres, up 4 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Early season heat affected development, but recent seasonal temperatures helped the sizing and quality recover.

Celery: California's fall acreage for harvest is forecast at 7,100 acres, up 6 percent from 1997 and 3 percent more than two years ago. Seasonable temperatures late in the season have helped to offset the heat-related stress from early in the season. Harvest is on schedule.

Sweet Corn: California growers expect to harvest 4,000 acres for the October-December quarter, 5 percent more than last year. In California, quality has improved due to recent seasonable temperatures. Harvest is expected to proceed with no unusual problems. Nationally, fresh market acreage for harvest is estimated at 9,500 acres, down 9 percent from last year, and 12 percent less than 1996. In Florida, the threat of hurricanes delayed planting in some areas. Extremely dry conditions in New Jersey affected fall planting.

Honeydews: California producers intend to harvest 4,300 acres during the October-December quarter, the same as the previous year. The California crop was treated for white flies throughout the season. The crop was stressed early in the season by hot weather. By September, the temperatures were more seasonable which allowed the crop to recover. Harvest is on schedule. Nationally, fresh market acreage for fall harvest is forecast at 5,800 acres, down 3 percent from last year, but 21 percent greater than 1996.

Head Lettuce: Lettuce producers in California intend to harvest 35,500 acres, 1 percent above the previous year. California growers welcomed the recent cooler weather. Picking is active in the Salinas Valley and quality is good. Nationally, acreage for fall harvest is estimated at 38,200 acres, up 2 percent from last year and 1 percent more than 1996.

Tomatoes: Fresh market tomato growers in California expect to harvest 10,800 acres through the October-December period, 3 percent less than a year ago. In California, recent cooler temperatures helped relieve the stress of extremely hot temperatures early in the season. Harvest is on schedule with few problems reported. Nationally, fresh market acreage for fall harvest is estimated at 26,800 acres, 2 percent above last year and 6 percent above 1996. In Florida, conditions were dry at the beginning of the season, but tropical waves passing over the Peninsula during September brought rain to the area. Picking will begin in the Quincy area by early October. The condition of the Quincy crop is good.

FALL SEASON FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

Crop And State	Usual Harvest Period	Harvested		For Harvest 1998	1998 1997
		1996	1997		
--- Acres --- Percent					
BROCCOLI 1/					
California	Oct-Dec	31,000	31,500	31,000	98
CANTALOUPE					
Arizona	Oct-Dec	8,200	8,900	8,700	98
California	Oct-Dec	3,100	3,600	4,100	114
TOTAL		11,300	12,500	12,800	102
CARROTS					
California	Oct-Dec	17,300	18,300	16,800	92
Texas	Sep-Nov	500	400	500	125
TOTAL		17,800	18,700	17,300	93
CAULIFLOWER 1/					
California	Oct-Dec	10,500	10,200	10,600	104
CELERY 1/					
California	Oct-Dec	6,900	6,700	7,100	106
SWEET CORN					
California	Oct-Dec	3,300	3,800	4,000	105
Florida 2/	Sep-Dec	7,500	6,600	5,500	83
TOTAL 2/		10,800	10,400	9,500	91
HONEYDEWS					
Arizona	Oct-Dec	1,000	1,700	1,500	88
California	Oct-Dec	3,800	4,300	4,300	100
TOTAL		4,800	6,000	5,800	97
HEAD LETTUCE					
Arizona-Other	Oct-Dec	1,300	1,000	1,100	110
California	Oct-Dec	35,000	35,000	35,500	101
New Jersey	Sep-Nov	500	500	600	120
New Mexico	Oct-Nov	1,000	900	1,000	111
TOTAL		37,800	37,400	38,200	102
TOMATOES					
California	Oct-Dec	11,900	11,100	10,800	97
Florida 2/	Sep-Dec	13,400	15,300	16,000	105
TOTAL 2/		25,300	26,400	26,800	102

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Revised 1997 figures.

SUMMER ONIONS

The California crop is estimated at 28,000 acres, down 3 percent from last year and 10 percent less than 1996. Production, at 11.5 million cwt., is 10 percent less than last year and 14 percent less than 1996. Harvest is on schedule for most growers. Excessive moisture associated with El Niño resulted in wide yield variability reported by shippers and producers.

Nationally, summer storage onion production for 1998 is forecast at 36.4 million cwt., 5 percent below last year, but 10 percent more than 1996. The storage onion crop should be harvested from 82,710 acres, slightly below last year.

SUMMER ONION ACRES HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION BY SEASON, 1995-96

State	Harvested		For Harvest 1998	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1996	1997		1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	--- Acres ---			--- Cwt. Per Acre ---			--- 1,000 Cwt. ---		
Non-Storage States	13,900	12,700	12,150	400	411	420	5,558	5,221	5,099
Storage States	77,610	83,020	82,710	428	461	440	33,191	38,240	36,392
California 1/	31,000	29,000	28,000	430	440	410	13,330	12,760	11,480
U.S. TOTAL	122,510	124,720	122,860	425	451	431	52,079	56,221	52,971

1/ Primarily for processing.

CALIFORNIA CASH INCOME BY COMMODITIES AND COMMODITY GROUPS, 1995-97

Source of Income	1995	1996	1997	Source of Income	1995	1996	1997
	\$1,000				\$1,000		
VEGETABLE CROPS				Watermelon	91,005	79,002	89,271
Artichokes	61,965	65,416	67,620	Other Vegetable Crops	827,788	937,438	939,235
Asparagus	92,028	64,691	93,105	TOTAL	5,730,327	5,448,094	5,974,094
Beans, Green Lima	15,340	16,015	16,052	FIELD CROPS	3,112,781	2,989,056	3,171,585
Beans, Snap	38,676	32,457	37,443	FRUIT & NUT CROPS	5,983,149	6,554,449	7,490,704
Broccoli	394,272	382,225	449,045	NURSERY/GREENHOUSE PRODUCTS	2,158,508	2,281,327	2,346,432
Brussels Sprouts	14,390	20,120	26,800	CHRISTMAS TREES	14,928	12,491	12,000
Cabbage	57,350	44,100	61,245	LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & PRODUCTS	5,549,294	6,211,821	6,294,239
Carrots	274,024	277,978	345,135	TOTAL CASH INCOME FROM MARKETINGS	22,548,987	23,497,238	25,289,054
Cauliflower	171,045	180,140	161,497	FARM RELATED INCOME	1,041,815	1,765,815	1,504,258
Celery	283,894	181,078	249,356	GROSS CASH INCOME FROM FARMING 1/	23,590,802	25,263,053	26,793,312
Corn, Sweet	62,916	65,754	65,772				
Cucumbers	42,608	71,894	51,145				
Garlic	140,700	196,333	261,519				
Lettuce	1,453,601	1,040,313	1,251,152				
Mushrooms	147,152	154,550	161,650				
Onions	219,643	226,056	202,442				
Peppers, Green	188,523	173,506	190,342				
Spinach	41,407	38,664	44,091				
Tomatoes, Fresh	191,862	259,706	313,956				
Tomatoes, Processing	660,805	651,374	556,301				
Cantaloupe	205,178	232,342	253,616				
Honeydew	54,155	56,942	86,304				

1/ Includes value of home consumption, value of inventory adjustments, machine hire and custom work, forest products sold, rental value of farm dwelling, government payments, and other miscellaneous farm income. **SOURCE: USDA Economic Research Service**