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SUMMER FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

The prospective area for harvest of twelve selected fresh market vegetables during the summer quarter is forecast at 355,700 acres, up 4 percent from last year and 7 percent from 1997. Acreage increased for broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, head lettuce, and tomatoes. Cabbage and bell peppers showed acreage reductions, while snap beans, celery, cucumbers, and eggplant remained the same. The area forecast for melon harvest is 139,900 acres, up 9 percent from last year. Cantaloup acreage is forecast at 51,600 acres, up 8 percent from 1998. Honeydew acreage, forecast to be 19,300 acres, is up 23 percent. The watermelon acreage forecast is 69,000 acres, up 6 percent from last year.

Broccoli: California's acreage for summer harvest is forecast at 35,000 acres, up 9 percent from last year and 15 percent greater than 1997. In California, growing conditions have been ideal due to mild temperatures.

Cantaloups: California growers expect to harvest 44,000 acres, up 9 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Harvest in California's San Joaquin Valley was delayed by cool spring temperatures. Nationally, summer cantaloup acreage for harvest is forecast at 51,600 acres, up 8 percent from last year and 7 percent greater than in 1997. The Texas crop is in good condition despite some rain and hail damage in a few areas.

Carrots: California carrot producers expect to harvest 19,000 acres, up 6 percent from last year. California's harvest was about two weeks behind normal because of unusually cool weather. Nationally, acreage for fresh market harvest is forecast at 26,600 acres, up slightly from last year and 6 percent above 1997.

Cauliflower: California growers expect to harvest 10,500 acres, 5 percent more than last year. Early growing conditions in California were ideal, but recent warmer weather lowered quality. Nationally, acreage for summer harvest is forecast at 11,800 acres, up 4 percent from last year and 9 percent more than two years ago.

Celery: California's summer acreage for harvest is forecast at 5,500 acres, the same as 1998, but up 6 percent from two years ago. The Oxnard area has finished harvesting, but other areas are experiencing delays due to cool temperatures.

Sweet Corn: Cool temperatures in California have slowed crop development. Growers are treating fields to prevent corn earworm infestation. Producers expect to harvest 12,000 acres, 4 percent below last year. Nationally, fresh market acreage for harvest is forecast at 130,700 acres, up 3 percent from last year and 4 percent from 1997. New Jersey experienced delays at planting due to cold, dry weather. Recent warm, moist weather makes prospects good for the summer season. The New England states had an excellent start this year with warm, dry weather during planting. Current dry conditions are causing growers to irrigate. North Carolina harvest is a little behind schedule because of dry weather. The Pennsylvania crop is doing well, but progressing slowly due to dry weather.

Honeydews: California harvest was delayed two weeks due to cool spring temperatures. Imperial Valley growers have an abundance of white flies and have been treating fields. Producers expect to harvest 16,500 acres, up 24 percent from last year. Nationally, fresh market acreage for summer harvest is forecast at 19,300 acres, up 23 percent from last year and 21 percent greater than 1997.

Head Lettuce: California lettuce growers had good weather for planting and the crop is progressing well at this time. Salinas Valley growers are spraying aphids in their crop. They expect to harvest 53,000 acres, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Nationally, acreage for summer harvest is forecast at 55,800 acres, up 3 percent from last year and 7 percent greater than 1997.

Tomatoes: California growers affected by frost had to replant some fields, which will cause an overall harvest delay of about two weeks. California producers expect to harvest 22,000 acres, 36 percent above last year. Nationally, fresh market acreage for summer harvest is forecast at 41,300 acres, up 15 percent from last year and 13 percent greater than 1997.

Watermelons: California producers expect to harvest 12,000 acres, 4 percent below the comparable period a year ago. Harvest in California's San Joaquin Valley was delayed about 10 days due to cool spring temperatures. White flies are abundant in the valley and growers have been treating fields. Summer acreage for harvest is forecast at 69,000 acres, up 6 percent from 1998, but down slightly from 1997. Alabama acreage will likely be affected by dry weather. Conditions in Texas are favorable for a good crop.

SUMMER VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

Crop And State	Usual Harvest Period	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 1999	1999
		1997	1998		1998
		Acres			Percent
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	July-Sept.	30,500	32,000	35,000	109
CANTALOUPE:					
California	July-Sept.	40,000	40,500	44,000	109
Georgia	July-Sept.	2,000	2,000	2,200	110
Texas	July-Sept.	6,300	5,300	5,400	102
GROUP TOTAL		48,300	47,800	51,600	108
CARROTS: 1/					
California	July-Sept.	16,500	18,000	19,000	106
Michigan	July-Nov.	5,300	5,000	4,600	92
New York	July-Oct.	600	500	400	80
Washington	Aug.-Dec.	2,800	3,000	2,600	87
GROUP TOTAL		25,200	26,500	26,600	100
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	July-Sept.	9,800	10,000	10,500	105
New York	July-Dec.	1,000	1,400	1,300	93
GROUP TOTAL		10,800	11,400	11,800	104
CELERY: 1/					
California	July-Sept.	5,200	5,500	5,500	100
SWEET CORN:					
California	July-Sept.	12,400	12,500	12,000	96
Connecticut	July-Oct.	4,700	4,500	5,000	111
Illinois	July-Oct.	7,500	6,800	7,400	109
Massachusetts	July-Oct.	7,100	6,500	7,000	108
Michigan	July-Oct.	11,500	11,500	11,000	96
New Jersey	July-Oct.	11,500	10,600	10,800	102
New York	July-Oct.	27,300	29,200	30,200	103
North Carolina	June-Aug.	6,500	6,600	7,200	109
Ohio	July-Sept.	14,200	14,000	14,200	101
Pennsylvania	July-Sept.	16,000	17,100	17,900	105
Wisconsin	Aug.-Sept.	7,500	7,900	8,000	101
GROUP TOTAL		126,200	127,200	130,700	103
HONEYDEWS:					
Arizona	June-Sept.	2,400	2,400	2,800	117
California	July-Sept.	13,500	13,300	16,500	124
GROUP TOTAL		15,900	15,700	19,300	123
HEAD LETTUCE:					
California	July-Sept.	49,000	51,000	53,000	104
Colorado	July-Sept.	2,300	2,700	2,300	85
New York	June-Oct.	700	600	500	83
GROUP TOTAL		52,000	54,300	55,800	103
TOMATOES:					
Alabama	July-Sept.	1,500	900	900	100
Arizona	July-Sept.	550	700	700	100
California	July-Sept.	17,400	16,200	22,000	136
Michigan	July-Sept.	2,500	2,700	2,400	89
New Jersey	July-Sept.	3,900	3,900	3,900	100
New York	July-Oct.	3,200	3,300	3,200	97
Pennsylvania	July-Sept.	3,800	4,400	4,400	100
Virginia	July-Sept.	3,700	3,800	3,800	100
GROUP TOTAL		36,550	35,900	41,300	115
WATERMELONS:					
Alabama	July-Sept.	2,900	3,100	2,800	90
California	July-Sept.	12,400	12,500	12,000	96
Georgia	July-Sept.	25,000	23,000	24,000	104
Mississippi	July-Aug.	4,000	4,000	4,500	113
South Carolina	July-Sept.	9,200	8,800	9,000	102
Texas	July-Sept.	15,600	13,900	16,700	120
GROUP TOTAL		69,100	65,300	69,000	106

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

ONION ACREAGE

Production of spring onions in 1999 was estimated at 11.05 million cwt., up 7 percent from last year and 4 percent above 1997. The crop was produced on 37,500 acres, averaging 295 cwt. per acre. California growers experienced more variability in temperature than normal. The cooler nights and hotter days in the Imperial Valley slowed both crop development and curing. Bulb size and quality are excellent, but overall yields are down slightly. In Georgia, weather conditions during the growing and harvesting seasons have been better than normal resulting in a quality crop this year. Texas had some acreage abandoned because of heat and low onion prices. The Winter Garden area lost some acreage to hail damage, however, most areas are producing a good crop with high yields.

Production of non-storage onions is forecast at 4.84 million cwt., up 2 percent from last year's comparable states. Harvest area covers 11,400 acres, down 5 percent from last year's comparable states. Part of the crop in the Texas Panhandle received hail, while the rest of the state is having an exceptional crop year with high yields. In New Mexico, growers have had good moisture during the spring after a dry, mild winter. Lower yields are the result of below normal temperatures and high winds from early spring until mid-May. Heavy rains and hail have slowed harvesting. The Washington harvest was delayed about two weeks because of below normal spring weather. Quality is good, but size is variable.

Growers expect to harvest 82,550 acres of storage onions (excluding California) this year, down slightly from last year. The Idaho and Michigan onion crops got off to a good start with favorable spring weather. The crop is developing well and is in good condition. Planting in New York is complete and the crop is reported in good to excellent condition despite the lack of rain. Oregon planting was delayed due to the cool, wet spring. Washington had a cool spring that delayed planting activities and crop development. Strong winds have also caused stands to be less than desirable.

The final tally of 1998 storage onion production was 35.62 million cwt. (excluding California), down 7 percent from 1997. Harvested acreage, at 82,590 acres, was 1 percent below comparable 1997 acreage. The average yield of 431 cwt. per acre, was down 32 cwt. from 1997. The 1998 storage crop was valued at \$392 million, an increase of 3 percent from 1997. Average prices per cwt. increased from \$12.30 in 1997 to \$13.30 in 1998. With spring and non-storage summer onions added in, total value of 1998 harvested onions was \$826 million, up 7 percent from 1997.

ONION ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

Season And State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
SPRING								
Arizona	2,500	2,700	2,500	2,700	470	445	1,175	1,202
California	9,400	7,500	9,100	7,300	445	438	4,050	3,197
Georgia	15,000	16,000	13,900	14,500	160	190	2,224	2,755
Texas	12,000	13,800	11,400	13,000	255	300	2,907	3,900
TOTAL SPRING	38,900	40,000	36,900	37,500	281	295	10,356	11,054
SUMMER 1/ Non-Storage								
Nevada <u>2/</u>	2,100	---	2,100	---	440	---	924	---
New Mexico	7,300	7,200	7,200	7,100	460	450	3,312	3,195
Texas	4,200	3,800	4,000	3,500	290	400	1,160	1,400
Washington	850	850	850	800	300	310	255	248
TOTAL	14,450	11,850	14,150	11,400	399	425	5,651	4,843
Storage <u>3/</u>								
Colorado	16,500	15,500	16,000	14,500	380	---	6,080	---
Idaho	8,200	8,100	8,000	7,900	580	---	4,640	---
Michigan	4,500	4,300	4,200	4,000	260	---	1,092	---
Minnesota	490	470	470	440	320	---	150	---
New York	13,100	13,000	12,500	12,500	300	---	3,750	---
Ohio	530	520	520	510	310	---	161	---
Oregon- Malheur	12,200	13,000	12,000	12,900	510	---	6,120	---
- West	7,600	7,300	7,500	7,300	440	---	3,300	---
Utah	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,400	440	---	1,056	---
Washington	17,300	18,300	17,000	18,000	500	---	8,500	---
Wisconsin	2,100	2,200	2,000	2,100	390	---	780	---
TOTAL	85,020	85,190	82,590	82,550	431	---	35,629	---
California <u>4/</u>	34,300	32,500	32,700	30,000	440	---	14,388	---
TOTAL SUMMER	133,770	129,540	129,440	123,950	430	---	55,668	4,843
U.S. - ALL ONIONS	172,670	169,540	166,340	161,450	397	---	66,024	1,400

1/ Estimates for 1998 revised.

2/ Estimates to be published in "Vegetables 1999 Summary" in January 2000.

3/ Yield and production for 1999 will be published September 9, 1999.

4/ Primarily processing.

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

In California, some early season acreage was replanted due to frost damage and is now set for late season harvest. Growers expected to contract 332,000 acres, 19 percent more than 1998. Contracted production is expected to be 11.0 million tons of tomatoes, up 24 percent from last year.

Nationally, production is forecast at 11.85 million tons, up 27 percent from last year. Area contracted, at 352,860 acres, was up 18 percent from 1998.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING, BY STATE, 1997-99

State	Area Planted				Contract Change <u>1999</u> 1998	Production				Contract Change <u>1999</u> 1998
	1997 Total	1998		1999 Contract Intentions 1/		1997 Total	1998		1999 Contract Intentions 1/	
		Total	Contract 1/		Total		Contract 1/			
	Acres				Percent	Tons				Percent
California	270,000	282,000	280,000	332,000	119	9,342,309	8,892,800	8,845,960	11,000,000	124
Indiana	6,400	7,200	7,200	7,200	100	157,440	156,200	156,200	190,080	122
Michigan	4,300	2,300	2,200	2,500	114	133,300	82,800	79,200	74,000	93
Ohio	9,100	6,700	6,600	7,300	111	252,670	169,090	167,550	487,700	291
Pennsylvania	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,600	123	27,010	33,800	33,800	39,800	118
Other States 2/	2,720	2,760	2,760	2,260	82	60,530	60,120	60,120	58,920	98
UNITED STATES	293,720	302,260	300,060	352,860	118	9,973,259	9,394,810	9,342,830	11,850,500	127

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 1997 - DE, IL, MD, NJ, NY, TX, and VA.

1998 - DE, MD, NJ, NY, and TX..

1999 - DE, MD, NJ, NY, and VA.