California Vegetable Review



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CONTRACTED PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

The 1999 California contracted processing tomato production is forecast at 11.0 million tons, up 24 percent from 1998. Harvested acreage, at a record 327 thousand, is up 18 percent from a year ago. Yield is forecast to be 33.64 tons per acre, an increase of 6 percent from last year's yield of 31.76 tons per acre. A late spring and generally cooler than normal summer temperatures delayed maturity. Although the California crop is delayed about two weeks, yields and quality are good.

U.S. contracted tomato production is forecast at 11.5 million tons, 23 percent above last year and 16 percent above 1997. A 17 percent increase in acreage was accompanied by a 1.84 ton per acre increase in yields. In Indiana, timely rains and sunshine have produced higher yields compared with last year when excess rains caused water damage and stress to the tomato crop. The Michigan harvest is underway with good yield and size reported on irrigated fields.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE AND U.S.

			Ý	'ield Per Ad	cre	Production					
State	1997	1998		Indicated 1999	1997	1998	Indicated 1999	1997	1998		Indicated 1999
State	Total	Total	Contract 1/	Contract 1/	Total	Total	Contract	Total	Total	Contract 1/	Contract
		Acr	res		Tons						
California	260,000	280,000	278,000	327,000	35.93	31.76	33.64	9,342,309	8,892,800	8,845,960	11,000,280
Indiana	6,400	7,100	7,100	7,100	24.60	22.00	26.20	157,440	156,200	156,200	186,020
Michigan	4,300	2,300	2,200	2,500	31.00	36.00	31.00	133,300	82,800	79,200	77,500
Ohio	8,900	6,300	6,200	7,300	28.39	26.84	24.40	252,670	169,090	167,550	178,120
Pennsylvania	1,100	1,300	1,300	1,600	24.55	26.00	25.20	27,010	33,800	33,800	40,320
Other States 2/	2,690	2,760	2,760	2,250	22.50	21.78	24.81	60,530	60,120	60,120	55,826
U.S.	283.390	299.760	297.560	347.750	35.19	31.34	33.18	9.973.259	9.394.810	9.342.830	11.538.066

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.

SUMMER ONION PRODUCTION

California production is forecast at 12.5 million cwt., 13 percent less than last year and 9 percent less than two years ago. Acres harvested, at 29,000, are 11 percent less than last year. The yield, at 430 cwt. per acre, is 10 cwt. less than in 1998.

Nationally, production of summer storage onions (excluding California) is forecast at 36.5 million cwt., 2 percent more than 1998, but 5 percent less than 1997. Harvested acreage, at 82,550, is down slightly from last year. The yield, at 442 cwt. per acre, is 11 cwt. more than 1998. Washington is expecting smaller sized onions than normal due to a late, cool spring that delayed crop development two weeks. A wet, cool spring delayed planting in Oregon, but even with the late start preliminary yields are higher. Oregon

weather conditions improved later in the summer. Southeastern Colorado experienced localized flooding in mid-July. The Front Range area of Colorado received a lot of moisture in July and August causing part of the crop to develop disease. Harvest is a little behind schedule in Colorado, and the crop condition is rated mostly good to excellent throughout the state. Idaho growers feel this crop is the best in recent years. Some hail damage occurred in isolated areas of Idaho, but the overall size and condition of the onion crop is very good. Onion growers in New York are facing lower yields due to severe drought conditions. New York is reporting dry soil conditions with onion size ranging from small to average. In Wisconsin, growers reported an excess of rain that drowned some fields. This caused less than healthy onion tops and more weed pressure than usual.

ONIONS FOR	FRESH	MARKET	AND	PROCESSING

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Crop and State	Area Ha	rvested	For Harvest	Y	rield Per Acre		Production		
Crop and State	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
		Acres			Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.	
SPRING TOTAL	37,300	36,900	37,800	285	281	304	10,649	10,356	11,487
Storage:									
Colorado	15,300	16,000	14,500	350	380	360	5,355	6,080	5,220
Idaho	8,200	8,000	7,900	690	580	670	5,658	4,640	5,293
Michigan	4,900	4,200	4,000	320	260	300	1,568	1,092	1,200
Minnesota	600	470	440	300	320	310	180	150	136
New York	12,200	12,500	12,500	300	300	265	3,660	3,750	3,313
Ohio	510	520	510	415	310	325	212	161	166
Oregon-Malheur	12,000	12,000	12,900	620	510	580	7,440	6,120	7,482
-West	7,400	7,500	7,300	450	440	450	3,330	3,300	3,285
Utah	2,300	2,400	2,400	485	440	420	1,116	1,056	1,008
Washington	17,500	17,000	18,000	520	500	490	9,100	8,500	8,820
Wisconsin	2,100	2,000	2,100	390	390	280	819	780	588
Storage Total 1/	83,010	82,590	82,550	463	431	442	38,438	35,629	36,511
Non-storage Total 2/	14,300	14,150	11,400	413	399	425	5,910	5,651	4,843
CALIFORNIA Total 3/	31,300	32,700	29,000	440	440	430	13,772	14,388	12,470
SUMMER TOTAL	128,610	129,440	122,950	452	430	438	58,120	55,668	53,824
U.S. ALL ONIONS	165,910	166,340	160,750	414	397	406	68,769	66,024	65,311

1/ Summer storage total, excluding California. 2/ Carried forward from earlier forecast. 3/ Primarily for processing.

SPRING ONION PRODUCTION

California had more variability in temperature than normal. 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 from last year.

The season end report of U.S. spring onions places production at 11.5 million cwt., up 11 percent from last year and 8 percent above 1997. Acres harvested, at 37,800, are up 2 percent from a year ago. The yield, at 304 cwt. per acre, is up 23 cwt. per acre. The value of the spring crop is estimated at 197 million dollars, 5 percent less than last year.

SPRING ONIONS BY SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 1/

	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
State	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		Dollars		\$1,000	
Arizona	2,500	3,000	2,500	3,000	470	545	1,175	1,635	15.30	11.50	17,978	18,803
California	9,400	7,500	9,100	7,300	445	438	4,050	3,197	14.10	11.30	57,105	36,126
Georgia	15,000	16,000	13,900	14,500	160	190	2,224	2,755	30.90	27.10	68,722	74,661
Texas	12,000	13,800	11,400	13,000	255	300	2,907	3,900	21.70	17.40	63,082	67,860
U.S.	38,900	40,300	36,900	37,800	281	304	10,356	11,487	20.00	17.20	206,887	197,450

1/ Primarily fresh market.