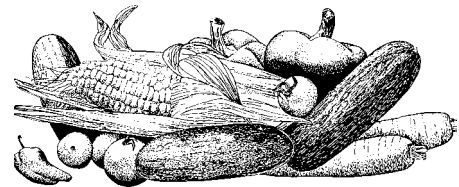


# California Vegetable Review



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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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**Lettuce, Head:** Lettuce producers in California intend to harvest 34,000 acres, 4 percent below the previous year. The Salinas Valley growers are actively picking, with reports of good quality. Nationally, acreage for fall harvest is forecast at 36,600 acres, down 3 percent from last year and 2 percent below 1997.

**Tomatoes:** Fresh market tomato growers in California expect to harvest 10,900 acres through the October-December period, 21 percent above a year ago. Cool weather in California allowed the plants to develop well. Quality of California tomatoes has been reported as exceptional with above average size. Markets are expected to be stronger as the season moves into the late summer and fall periods. Nationally, fresh market acreage for fall harvest is estimated at 25,400 acres, 3 percent above last year and 5 percent above 1997. In Florida, planting and transplanting occurred on schedule throughout the state. Hurricane Floyd and Tropical Storm Harvey caused no significant damage to the early planting, but delayed some field work during September.

## FALL FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

**Broccoli:** California's acreage for fall harvest is forecast at 27,500, 10 percent below last year and 8 percent below 1997. Cool weather early in the year pushed much of the crop about two weeks behind schedule. The quality of the crop is good with few reports of pest problems.

**Cantaloups:** California producers expect to harvest 5,000 acres, 25 percent above last year. California's late-season cantaloup acreage continues to increase and demand for cubed cantaloup is still strong. Nationally, Fall cantaloup acreage for harvest is forecast at 11,500 acres, down 9 percent from last year, but 17 percent above 1997.

**Carrots:** California growers intend to harvest 24,500 acres during the October-December quarter, 9 percent above the same quarter a year ago. In California, cool weather during the first quarter of the year caused the crop to be two weeks behind, but it is now back on schedule. The quality of the crop in California is very good and yields are expected to be up this year. Nationally, acreage for fresh market harvest is forecast at 25,100 acres, up 10 percent from last year and 14 percent above 1997.

**Cauliflower:** Acreage for fall harvest in California is forecast at 10,500 acres, the same as last year and 17 percent above two years ago. Cool weather early in the year slowed initial growth, but the crop has rebounded and is on the same schedule as last year. Yields look good with no major pest infestations this year.

**Celery:** California's fall acreage for harvest is forecast at 6,700 acres, down 4 percent from 1998, but the same as two years ago. The California crop is on schedule with good progress on quality and yields.

**Corn, Sweet:** California growers expect to harvest 4,100 acres for the October-December quarter, 3 percent more than last year. The California crop is on schedule for harvest with only minor pest problems. Nationally, fresh market acreage for harvest is forecast at 9,100 acres, down 5 percent from last year and 12 percent less than 1997. In Florida, heavy rains in September caused some discoloring in fields around Zellwood, which needed dry weather for plants to recover. Planting gained momentum during late September in the Everglades area.

**Honeydews:** California producers intend to harvest 3,900 acres during the October-December quarter, 3 percent above the previous year. California's cool weather in late summer caused the crop to mature slowly, but overall quality was reported as good and the harvest is on schedule. Nationally, fresh market acreage for fall harvest is forecast at 5,400 acres, up 2 percent from last year, but 2 percent less than 1997.

## FALL SEASON FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

Crop And State	Usual Harvest Period	Harvested		For Harvest	
		1997	1998	1999	1999
		Acres		Percent	
<b>BROCCOLI 1/</b>					
California	Oct-Dec	30,000	30,500	27,500	90
<b>CANTALOUPE</b>					
Arizona	Oct-Nov	6,200	8,700	6,500	75
California	Oct-Dec	3,600	4,000	5,000	125
TOTAL		9,800	12,700	11,500	91
<b>CARROTS</b>					
California	Oct-Dec	21,700	22,500	24,500	109
Texas	Sep-Nov	300	400	600	150
TOTAL		22,000	22,900	25,100	110
<b>CAULIFLOWER 1/</b>					
California	Oct-Dec	9,000	10,500	10,500	100
<b>CELERY 1/</b>					
California	Oct-Dec	6,700	7,000	6,700	96
<b>CORN, SWEET</b>					
California	Oct-Dec	3,800	4,000	4,100	103
Florida	Oct-Dec	6,600	5,600	5,000	89
TOTAL		10,400	9,600	9,100	95
<b>HONEYDEWS</b>					
Arizona	Nov-Apr	1,700	1,500	1,500	100
California	Oct-Dec	3,800	3,800	3,900	103
TOTAL		5,500	5,300	5,400	102
<b>LETTUCE, HEAD</b>					
Arizona-Other	Nov-Apr	1,100	1,000	1,100	110
California	Oct-Dec	35,000	35,500	34,000	96
New Jersey	Sep-Nov	500	500	300	60
New Mexico	Oct-Nov	900	800	1,200	150
TOTAL		37,500	37,800	36,600	97
<b>TOMATOES</b>					
California	Oct-Dec	8,800	9,000	10,900	121
Florida 2/	Sep-Dec	15,300	15,700	14,500	92
TOTAL 2/		24,100	24,700	25,400	103

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Revised 1998 figures.

## SUMMER ONIONS

The California crop is estimated at 35,000 acres, up 7 percent from last year and 12 percent above 1997. Production, at 15.2 million cwt., is 6 percent more than last year and 11 percent more than 1997. Harvest is proceeding slightly behind schedule for most growers due to the cooler weather. Many fresh market onions have been harvested with good overall quality. The warmer weather in the Fresno area is promoting higher yields than the Tulelake and San Joaquin areas where the cooler weather is more prevalent.

Nationally, summer storage onion production for 1999 is forecast at 36.8 million cwt., up 3 percent from last year, but 4 percent less than 1997. The storage onion crop should be harvested from 82,250 acres, slightly below last year.

## SUMMER ONION ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Harvested		For Harvest	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1997	1998		1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	Acres		1999	Cwt. Per Acre			1,000 Cwt.		
Non-Storage States	14,300	14,150		11,400	413	399	425	5,910	5,651
Storage States	83,010	82,590	82,250	463	431	448	38,438	35,629	36,847
California 1/	31,300	32,700	35,000	440	440	435	13,772	14,388	15,225
U.S. TOTAL	165,910	166,340	166,450	414	397	411	68,769	66,024	68,402

1/ Primarily for processing.

**Cash Income by Commodity Groups, 1996-98**

Source of Income	1996	1997	1998	Source of Income	1996	1997	1998
	\$1,000				\$1,000		
<b>VEGETABLE CROPS</b>				<b>FIELD CROPS</b>	2,979,149	3,359,052	2,863,573
Artichokes	65,416	73,910	62,899				
Asparagus	64,691	93,105	126,024	<b>FRUIT &amp; NUT CROPS</b>	6,583,759	7,716,122	6,518,661
Beans, Green Lima	16,015	16,052	---				
Beans, Snap	38,050	27,894	32,091	<b>NURSERY &amp; GREENHOUSE PROD.</b>	2,281,327	2,550,199	2,468,541
Broccoli	388,753	431,301	502,875				
Brussels Sprouts	20,120	21,180	22,249	<b>CHRISTMAS TREES</b>	12,491	10,469	11,000
Cabbage	44,100	69,911	78,890				
Carrots	358,354	395,640	352,648	<b>LIVESTOCK &amp; POULTRY PROD.</b>	6,125,111	6,309,659	6,845,071
Cauliflower	203,499	181,829	196,696				
Celery	181,606	247,371	207,515	<b>TOTAL CASH INCOME FROM MARKETINGS</b>	23,522,964	26,137,127	24,616,242
Corn, Sweet	65,754	67,338	65,981				
Cucumbers	71,894	57,969	66,052	<b>FARM RELATED INCOME</b>	1,629,094	1,504,578	1,277,814
Garlic	196,333	268,776	171,621				
Lettuce	982,101	1,459,395	1,114,295	<b>GROSS CASH INCOME FROM FARMING <sup>1/</sup></b>	25,152,058	27,641,705	25,894,056
Melons, Cantaloupe	232,342	231,569	249,480				
Melons, Honeydew	56,942	68,265	75,174				
Melons, Watermelon	79,002	85,283	83,148				
Mushrooms	154,711	163,122	164,920				
Onions	251,529	230,828	232,018				
Peppers, Green	173,506	155,040	170,374				
Spinach	47,934	89,171	94,726				
Tomatoes, Fresh	259,706	261,630	283,392				
Tomatoes, Processing	651,249	555,867	499,775				
Other Vegetable Crops	937,520	939,180	1,056,553				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,541,127</b>	<b>6,191,626</b>	<b>5,909,396</b>				

<sup>1/</sup> 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