

California Vegetable Review



Frequency: Jan., Apr., July, Sept. & Oct.
Released: April 19, 2000

(USPS 598-210)
VOL. 21 NO. 2



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fresh Market Vegetable Acreage	1
Processing Tomatoes and Cucumbers for Pickles ..	2
Summer Onions and Asparagus Acreage	3

SPRING SEASON FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Broccoli: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 28,500 acres, down 11 percent from 1999. Continuous rainfall during January and February caused some problems with field activities. No unusual pest or disease problems were reported.

Cantaloups: California cantaloupe producers intend to harvest 15,500 acres, 9 percent below last year. California growers in the central areas of the State experienced heavy rains in February, which put them behind schedule for planting. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is estimated at 38,200 acres, down 2 percent from 1999.

Carrots: Carrot growers in California expect to harvest 25,000 acres, 6 percent more than a year ago. The California crop is reported in good condition with very few problems. Baby carrots continue to be in high demand. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is estimated at 25,700 acres, up 2 percent from last year.

Cauliflower: California's acreage for spring harvest is estimated at 8,900 acres, 15 percent below 1999. Recent cool nights and mildly warm days have provided beneficial conditions for the development of the California crop. Quality is reported as excellent throughout the State with no major pest or disease problems.

Celery: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 4,500 acres, down 2 percent from last year. In the State's main production area (the central coast), heavy rain during February disrupted normal production and marketing of the crop. By mid-March production and marketing were back on track.

Sweet Corn: California's sweet corn acreage, at 14,000, is up 8 percent from 1999. California's crop was affected by heavy rain in February and early March, which could delay harvest until later in the season. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 42,800 acres, up 4 percent from last year.

Honeydew Melons: California honeydew melon acreage, at 5,000, is 92 percent greater than a year ago. February rains delayed planting in central California. Consequently, some spring honeydews will be harvested later than normal. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 7,400 acres, up 37 percent from last year.

Head Lettuce: California acreage was reported to be 39,000 acres, 2 percent below the comparable period a year ago. California's San Joaquin Valley harvest is active, but growers are concerned with decay and mildew. March weather has been significantly drier than February. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 40,600 acres, down 5 percent from 1999. The Arizona crop is currently on schedule.

Tomatoes: California fresh-market tomato growers expect to harvest 8,200 acres during the spring quarter. California acreage is up 3 percent from last year. The progress of the California crop was affected by rainfall during February. However, in the past few weeks the weather has been very warm allowing the crop to progress normally. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 24,900 acres, down 7 percent from 1999.

Watermelons: Expected California acreage for the April-June harvesting period is 3,000 acres, 29 percent below a year earlier. California planting was delayed by heavy rains in February. This delay, combined with poor market conditions and grower losses in 1999, could reduce the spring watermelon supplies in California. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is estimated at 60,100 acres, down 13 percent from last year. Arizona planting is on schedule.

SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvesting Period	Area Harvested		For Harvest 2000	Percent Change
		1998	1999		
		Acres		Percent	
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	28,000	32,000	28,500	89
CANTALOUPE:					
Arizona	May-Jul	12,100	12,100	13,400	111
California	Apr-Jun	16,500	17,000	15,500	91
Georgia	Apr-Jun	3,000	4,000	4,200	105
Texas	Apr-Jun	4,700	5,700	5,100	89
GROUP TOTAL		36,300	38,800	38,200	98
CARROTS:					
California	Apr-Jun	25,000	23,500	25,000	106
Florida 2/	Apr-Jul	1,500	---	---	---
Texas	Apr-Jun	1,300	1,700	700	41
GROUP TOTAL		27,800	25,200	25,700	102
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	9,500	10,500	8,900	85
CELERY: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	4,700	4,600	4,500	98
SWEET CORN:					
California	Apr-Jun	13,700	13,000	14,000	108
Florida	Apr-Jul	28,900	28,100	28,800	102
GROUP TOTAL		42,600	41,100	42,800	104
HONEYDEWS:					
California	Apr-Jun	2,500	2,600	5,000	192
Texas	Apr-Jun	2,300	2,800	2,400	86
GROUP TOTAL		4,800	5,400	7,400	137
HEAD LETTUCE:					
Arizona-Other	Apr-Jun	3,000	1,000	900	90
California	Apr-Jun	36,000	40,000	39,000	98
New Jersey	May-Jul	800	800	700	88
New Mexico 3/	Apr-Jun	2,100	1,100	---	---
GROUP TOTAL		41,900	42,900	40,600	95
TOMATOES:					
Alabama 4/	Jun-Jul	300	600	---	---
Arkansas 4/	Jun-Aug	700	750	---	---
California	Apr-Jun	9,000	8,000	8,200	103
Florida	Apr-Jul	13,100	12,200	13,200	108
South Carolina	May-Jul	3,200	3,600	3,500	97
Texas 4/	Apr-Jun	1,400	1,600	---	---
GROUP TOTAL		27,700	26,750	24,900	93
WATERMELON					
Alabama 4/	Jun-Jul	1,600	2,100	---	---
Arizona	May-Jun	6,500	6,500	6,100	94
California	Apr-Jun	4,100	4,200	3,000	71
Florida	Apr-Jun	32,000	35,000	29,000	83
Texas	Apr-Jun	24,500	21,000	22,000	105
GROUP TOTAL		68,700	68,800	60,100	87

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Estimate discontinued in 1999.

3/ Estimated discontinued in 2000.

4/ Seasonal estimate discontinued. Estimate will be published in January 2001 annual.

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

California production is estimated at 10.1 million tons, down 16 percent from 1999. This estimate is based on a survey of processors conducted in January. Updated acreage and production will be available by mid-June. California growers were busy preparing fields during mid-January. Some fields were already being seeded by February. Mid-February brought rain, which delayed some planting. Wet weather in early March was still delaying some planting and slowing the development of those tomatoes already in the ground.

Nationally, processors are decreasing tomato acreage by 13 percent this year. Contracts with growers cover 308,700 acres in 2000. Tonnage contracts, which cover 10.6 million tons, are down 16 percent from last year.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change 2000 1999	Production				Contract Change 2000 1999
	1998 Total	1999		2000 Contract Intentions ^{1/}		1998 Total	1999		2000 Contract Intentions ^{1/}	
		Total	Contract ^{1/}		Total		Contract ^{1/}			
	Acres				Percent	Tons				Percent
California	282000	337,000	332,000	290,000	87	8892800	12,239,300	11,990,270	10,100,000	84
Indiana	7200	7,300	7,300	7,300	100	156200	215,140	215,140	197,170	92
Michigan	2600	2,900	2,800	2,400	86	90000	87,000	84,000	72,000	86
Ohio	6700	7,900	7,900	6,200	78	169090	212,320	212,320	162,100	76
Pennsylvania ^{2/}	1300	1,600	1,600	---	---	33800	31,500	31,500	---	---
Other States ^{3/}	2760	2,420	2,410	2,800	116	60120	50,760	50,610	73,790	146
U.S.	302560	359,120	354,010	308,700	87	9402010	12,836,020	12,583,840	10,605,060	84

^{1/} Includes acreage from major brokers.

^{2/} Data for 2000 are not published separately to avoid disclosure, but are included in other states.

^{3/} 1998 - DE, MD, NJ, NY, and TX.

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

2000 - NJ, and PA.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES

California's acreage of cucumbers for pickles for 2000 is not published separately to avoid disclosure of individual operations, but are included in other states. Seasonal weather in California has allowed the crop to get off to a good start.

Nationally, pickle packers intend to contract 90,490 acres of cucumbers for pickles, up 5 percent from last year. Increases in acreage are forecast for Florida, Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, and Wisconsin. Planting in North Carolina should start around mid-April.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES BY STATE

State	1998 Total	1999 Area Planted		2000 Contract Intentions ^{1/}	Contract Change 2000\1999
		Total	Contract ^{1/}		
	Acres				Percent
California ^{2/}	4,600	4,500	4,500	---	---
Colorado ^{3/}	160	---	---	---	---
Florida	7,100	6,800	3,700	6,700	181
Indiana	2,100	1,800	1,800	2,000	111
Michigan	27,000	27,000	23,000	22,000	96
North Carolina	18,200	17,200	8,000	11,200	140
Ohio	3,000	2,700	2,700	2,800	104
South Carolina	2,100	1,700	1,600	3,000	188
Texas	9,900	10,200	7,500	9,500	93
Wisconsin	4,300	4,000	3,800	4,800	126
Other States ^{4/}	27,510	31,230	29,770	28,490	96
UNITED STATES	105,970	107,130	86,370	90,490	105

^{1/} Includes acreage from major brokers.

^{2/} Data for 2000 are not published separately to avoid disclosure, but are included in other states.

^{3/} Estimate discontinued in 1999.

^{4/} 1998-99 --- AL, DE, GA, LA, MA, MD, MN, MO, NJ, NY, OR, VA, and WA.

2000 --- AL, CA, DE, GA, MA, MD, MO, and WA.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS

California growers expect to harvest 7,200 acres of spring onions this year, down 4 percent from 1999. Growth of the California crop had been hindered by cool temperatures, but more recent warmer temperatures allowed the crop to return to normal development. Nationally, producers intend to harvest 38,100 acres up 2 percent from last year. Production is on schedule in Arizona. Georgia weather conditions have been near ideal, just a little drier than normal. The Georgia crop is in good condition and harvest is expected to begin as early as mid-April. Most areas of Texas are reporting good quality despite recent heavy rains in some areas of the valley and coastal bend.

California producers expect to plant 44,500 acres of summer onions, of which 6,500 acres are for non-storage and 38,000 acres are for storage. California has had favorably dry weather allowing growers to prepare the soil and plant the crop without too many distractions. More recent warm temperatures have given a boost to crop development.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Season and State	1998	1999	2000	2000/1999
	Acres for Harvest			Percent
Spring 1/				
Arizona	2,500	3,000	3,100	103
California	9,400	7,500	7,200	96
Georgia	15,000	16,000	13,000	81
Texas	12,000	13,800	15,900	115
Spring Total	38,900	40,300	39,200	97
Summer 1/				
Non-Storage				
California 2/	---	---	6,500	---
Nevada 3/	2,100	2,800	3,000	107
New Mexico	7,300	7,300	8,000	110
Texas	4,200	3,800	3,900	103
Washington	850	850	800	94
Group Total 4/	14,450	14,750	22,200	106
Storage				
California 5/	39,000	41,600	38,000	---
Colorado	16,500	15,500	12,400	80
Idaho	8,200	8,100	7,600	94
Michigan	4,500	4,100	3,800	93
Minnesota	490	480	300	63
New York	13,100	13,000	13,000	100
Ohio	530	480	450	94
Oregon Malheur County				
Malheur County	12,200	13,000	11,700	90
Other	7,600	7,300	6,700	92
Utah	2,500	2,800	2,800	100
Washington	17,300	18,300	16,300	89
Wisconsin	2,100	2,300	2,000	87
Storage Total	124,020	126,960	115,050	91
Summer Total	138,470	141,710	137,250	97
UNITED STATES TOTAL	177,370	182,010	176,450	97

1/ Primarily fresh market.

2/ Added to vegetable program in 2000.

3/ Estimates for 1998 and 1999 are published in the January 2000 annual. Seasonal estimates beginning in 2000.

4/ Percent calculated, excluding California.

5/ Revised for 1998 and 1999. Primarily dehydrated and other processing. Percent is not comparable from 1999 to 2000.

ASPARAGUS

California's area for harvest, at 37,100 acres, is 10 percent above the previous year. Growing conditions are good following a rainy February and a relatively dry March. Growers in the Stockton-Delta region were busy harvesting their crop.

Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is estimated at 75,600 acres, up 3 percent from 1999. In New Jersey, producers are expecting a good season. The Washington crop is mostly good following a mild winter and cool spring weather.

ASPARAGUS BY STATE a/

State	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 2000	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1998	1999		1998	1999	2000 b/	1998	1999	2000 b/
	Acres			Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	32,200	33,800	37,100	26	33	---	837	1,115	---
Michigan	17,000	16,500	16,500	16	18	---	278	297	---
New Jersey	1,000	1,000	1,000	27	28	---	27	28	---
Washington	22,000	22,000	21,000	36	32	---	792	704	---
TOTAL	72,200	73,300	75,600	27	29	---	1,934	2,144	---

a/ Includes fresh market and processing.

b/ Data available September 8, 2000.