

California Vegetable Review



Frequency: Jan., Apr., July, Sept. & Oct.
Released: April 13, 2001

(USPS 598-210)
VOL. 22 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

Watermelon: California acreage is expected to be 3,000 acres for the April - June 30 harvest period, the same as the previous year. California growers were unable to plant their crops on schedule because of rain in the southern desert areas. Nationally acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 50,900 acres, down 12 percent from last year.

SPRING SEASON FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Broccoli: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 35,000 acres, up 9 percent from 2000. California expects a wide range of crop quality due to fluctuations in weather conditions. Harvest of the spring crop began in March and should peak around mid-April with no expected interruptions in supply or volume.

Cantaloupe: California cantaloupe producers intend to harvest 12,500 acres, 14 percent below last year. Harvest in the California desert area will be delayed two weeks because of below normal temperatures, which slowed development. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is estimated at 31,700 acres, down 4 percent from 2000.

Carrots: Carrot growers in California expect to harvest 20,000 acres, 5 percent more than last year's revised acreage. The California crop is reported in good condition with no major pests or diseases. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 21,000 acres, up 7 percent from a year ago.

Cauliflower: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 10,000 acres, 11 percent above 2000. California growers are not expecting interruptions in supply or volume, although fluctuating weather temperatures may cause variability in crop quality.

Celery: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 5,300 acres, up 23 percent from last year. Harvest was delayed in Ventura County (the largest winter celery growing area in California) due to heavy rain in late February and early March. The delayed harvest and the warm, dry weather in late March has resulted in an abundance of larger sizes and a depressed celery market.

Sweet Corn: California's sweet corn acreage remained the same as the previous year with 11,000 acres. The California southern desert area had colder temperatures than normal, which could delay harvest in the spring. However, the central California area had warmer temperatures than normal allowing growers to plant earlier, which could mean an earlier harvest to that area. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 36,400 acres, down 1 percent from the 2000 revised acreage.

Honeydew: California honeydew melon acreage of 4,900, is 2 percent below a year ago. The southern desert area of California expects a two-week delay to harvest because of cool temperatures and rain in February, which slowed growth. In addition, warmer weather in March has increased problems with aphids and the mosaic virus in the desert. In contrast, warmer weather in northern California could bring an earlier harvest to that area. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 6,700 acres, down 9 percent from last year.

Head Lettuce: California acreage was reported to be 43,000 acres, 10 percent above the comparable period a year ago. The San Joaquin Valley growers were concerned with decay and mildew after cool, wet weather in early March. However, harvest is beginning following much drier weather in late March. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 44,800 acres, up 11 percent from 2000.

SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvesting Period	Area Harvested		For Harvest 2001	Percent Change
		1999	2000		
		Acres		Percent	
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	34,000	32,000	35,000	109
CANTALOUPE:					
Arizona	Apr-Jul	13,400	10,000	10,400	104
California	Apr-Jun	17,000	14,500	12,500	86
Georgia	Apr-Jun	4,000	3,500	3,600	103
Texas	Apr-Jun	5,700	5,100	5,200	102
GROUP TOTAL		40,100	33,100	31,700	96
CARROTS:					
California 2/	Apr-Jun	20,000	19,000	20,000	105
Texas	Apr-Jun	1,700	700	1,000	143
GROUP TOTAL		21,700	19,700	21,000	107
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	10,500	9,000	10,000	111
CELERY: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	4,600	4,300	5,300	123
SWEET CORN:					
California	Apr-Jun	11,000	11,000	11,000	100
Florida 3/	Apr-Jul	28,000	25,800	25,400	98
GROUP TOTAL		39,000	36,800	36,400	99
HONEYDEW:					
California	Apr-Jun	1,900	5,000	4,900	98
Texas	Apr-Jun	2,800	2,400	1,800	75
GROUP TOTAL		4,700	7,400	6,700	91
HEAD LETTUCE:					
Arizona-Other	Apr-Jun	900	500	1,000	200
California	Apr-Jun	38,000	39,000	43,000	110
New Jersey	May-Jul	800	700	800	114
New Mexico 4/	Apr-Jun	1,100	---	---	---
GROUP TOTAL		40,800	40,200	44,800	111
TOMATOES:					
Alabama 5/	Jun-Jul	600	---	---	---
Arkansas 5/	Jun-Aug	750	---	---	---
California	Apr-Jun	8,000	8,200	7,500	91
Florida 3/	Apr-Jul	12,200	12,700	17,800	140
South Carolina	May-Jul	3,600	3,400	3,200	94
Texas 5/	Apr-Jun	1,600	---	---	---
GROUP TOTAL		26,750	24,300	28,500	117
WATERMELON					
Alabama 5/	Jun-Jul	1,900	---	---	---
Arizona	May-Jul	6,100	6,100	5,900	97
California	Apr-Jun	4,200	3,000	3,000	100
Florida	Apr-Jun	35,000	27,000	24,000	89
Texas	Apr-Jun	21,000	22,000	18,000	82
GROUP TOTAL		68,200	58,100	50,900	88

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Revised in 1999 and 2000.

3/ Revised in 2000.

4/ Estimated discontinued in 2000.

5/ Seasonal estimates discontinued in 2000. Estimates will be published in January 2002 annual.

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

California production is forecast at 8.90 million tons, down 12 percent from 2000. This estimate is based on a survey of processors conducted in January. Updated acreage and production will be available by mid-June. Field preparation in California was slowed by wet conditions in mid-January, but as of mid-March the crop was reported in good condition.

Nationally, processors are decreasing tomato acreage by 14 percent this year. Contracts with growers cover 263,800 acres in 2001. Tonnage contracts, which cover 9.46 million tons, are down 12 percent from last year.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change 2001 2000	Production				Contract Change 2001 2000
	1999 Total	2000		2001 Contract Intentions ^{1/}		1999 Total	2000		2001 Contract Intentions ^{1/}	
		Total	Contract ^{1/}				Total	Contract ^{1/}		
	Acres					Percent	Tons			
California	337,000	289,000	285,000	244,000	86	12,239,300	10,286,500	10,131,000	8,900,000	88
Indiana	7,300	7,600	7,600	8,300	109	215,140	229,020	229,020	229,760	100
Michigan	2,900	3,000	3,000	2,200	73	87,000	84,000	84,000	69,000	82
Ohio	7,900	5,800	5,800	6,800	117	212,320	158,710	158,710	188,000	118
Pennsylvania ^{2/}	1,600	---	---	---	---	31,500	---	---	---	---
Other States ^{3/ 4/}	2,420	3,900	3,900	2,500	64	50,760	100,010	100,010	72,500	72
U.S. ^{5/}	359,120	309,300	305,300	263,800	86	12,836,020	10,858,240	10,702,740	9,459,260	88

^{1/} Includes acreage from major brokers.

^{2/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Data for 2000 and 2001 are included in "Other States."

^{3/} 1999 – DE, MD, NJ, NY, and VA.

2000 – DE, MD, NJ, PA, AND VA.

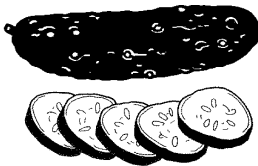
2001 – NJ, and PA.

^{4/} Seasonal forecasts are not available for DE, MD, and VA. Estimates will be published in the January 2002 annual.

^{5/} Revised 2000 contract acreage and production.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES

California cucumbers are off to a good start thanks to warm, sunny spring weather. Table data for California are included in "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.



Nationally, pickle packers intend to contract 86,210 acres of cucumbers for pickles, up 7 percent from last year. Increases in contracted acreage are forecast for Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas. Planting of cucumbers in Alabama is expected to begin in mid-May. Indiana growers are preparing fields for planting in mid to late April. North Carolina is expected to begin planting in April with the next warm period, after fields dry out from recent rains. South Carolina planting activities may be delayed by cooler temperatures in some areas of the State. Virginia growers are preparing transplants in greenhouses to be planted later in the spring.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES BY STATE

State	1999 Total	2000 Area Planted		2001 Contract Intentions ^{1/}	Contract Change 2001\2000
		Total	Contract ^{1/}		
	Acres				Percent
Florida ^{2/}	6,800	---	---	---	---
Indiana	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,800	95
Michigan	27,000	31,000	21,800	22,000	101
North Carolina	17,200	18,200	7,950	10,000	126
Ohio	2,700	2,500	2,500	2,700	108
South Carolina	1,700	3,400	3,200	3,500	109
Texas	10,200	7,000	5,600	8,000	143
Wisconsin	5,200	5,500	4,700	4,600	98
Other States ^{3/ 4/}	37,030	38,710	32,960	33,610	102
UNITED STATES ^{5/}	109,630	108,210	80,610	86,210	107

^{1/} Includes acreage from major brokers.

^{2/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Data for 2000 and 2001 are included in "Other States."

^{3/} 1999 – AL, CA, DE, GA, LA, MD, MN, MO, NJ, NY, OR, VA, and WA.

2000 – AL, CA, DE, FL, GA, MD, MA, MO, NJ, NY, VA, and WA.

2001 – AL, CA, DE, FL, GA, MD, MA, MO, and VA.

^{4/} Seasonal forecasts are not available for IL, NJ, NY, and WA. Estimates will be published in the January 2002 annual.

Estimates were discontinued in 2000 for LA, MN, and OK.

^{5/} Revised contracted acreage for 2000.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS

California growers planted 6,300 acres of *spring onions* this year, down 12 percent from 2000. A cold winter hindered growth and planting in many areas, causing some locations to be slightly behind normal. However, growth has progressed and the crop looks to be in good to excellent condition.

Nationally, growers planted 38,200 acres of *spring onions* this year compared to 41,400 acres last year.

U.S. *summer onion* acreage planted for storage is 110,310 acres, down 3 percent from 2000.

California's *summer onion* acreage for storage is estimated to be 35,500 acres, down 7 percent from last year. The non-storage onion acreage estimate is 6,800 acres, up 5 percent from last year.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Season and State	1999	2000	2001	2001/2000
	Acres Planted			Percent
Spring 1/				
Arizona	3,000	3,300	3,200	97
California	7,500	7,200	6,300	88
Georgia	16,000	15,000	13,500	90
Texas	13,800	15,900	15,200	96
Spring Total	40,300	41,400	38,200	92
Summer 1/				
Non-Storage				
California 2/	---	6,500	6,800	105
Nevada	3,200	3,300	3,000	91
New Mexico	8,300	8,000	8,000	100
Texas	3,800	4,100	3,000	73
Washington	850	800	800	100
Non-Storage Total	16,150	22,700	21,600	95
Storage				
California 3/	41,600	38,000	35,500	93
Colorado	15,500	12,000	12,500	104
Idaho	8,100	7,600	7,200	95
Michigan	4,100	4,100	3,700	90
Minnesota	480	300	180	60
New York	13,000	13,400	13,200	99
Ohio	480	480	430	90
Oregon				
Malheur County	13,000	11,700	11,400	97
Other	7,300	6,200	7,000	113
Utah	2,800	2,500	2,200	88
Washington	18,300	15,000	15,000	100
Wisconsin	2,300	2,000	2,000	100
Storage Total	126,960	113,280	110,310	97
Summer Total	143,110	135,980	131,910	97
UNITED STATES TOTAL ONIONS	183,410	177,380	170,110	96

1/ Primarily fresh market.

2/ Added to the vegetable program in 2000.

3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

ASPARAGUS

California's area for harvest, at 34,800 acres, is 6 percent below the previous year. Cool, rainy weather in February delayed the start of harvest, but drier conditions during March allowed the crop to progress well with good quality.

Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 71,400 acres, down 7 percent from 2000. Michigan and New Jersey growers report good conditions for this year's crop. Washington's acreage is down due to growers' concerns over shortages of resources such as water (due to drought conditions), power, and labor.

ASPARAGUS BY STATE 1/

State	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 2001	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1999	2000		1999	2000	2001 2/	1999	2000	2001 2/
	Acres			Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	33,800	37,000	34,800	33	32	---	1,115	1,184	---
Michigan	16,500	16,500	16,500	18	17	---	297	283	---
New Jersey	1,000	1,000	1,100	28	32	---	28	32	---
Washington	22,000	22,000	19,000	32	34	---	704	748	---
TOTAL	73,300	76,500	71,400	29	29	---	2,144	2,247	---

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Data available September 7, 2001.