

California Vegetable Review



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SPRING SEASON FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Broccoli: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 33,000 acres, down 6 percent from 2001. Harvest of the spring crop began in March and should peak around mid-April. Some shippers noted cold weather set back harvest by one to two weeks.

Cantaloupe: California cantaloupe producers intend to harvest 12,000 acres, 4 percent below last year. Unusually cool temperatures in the Imperial Valley have slowed the growth of melons. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is estimated at 30,000 acres, down 4 percent from 2001.

Carrots: Carrot growers in California expect to harvest 19,000 acres, 5 percent less than a year ago. The California crop is reported to be two to three weeks behind schedule due to cold weather. Low temperatures may also have affected some of the crop already in the ground as stands are reported lighter than normal. Carrots continued to be planted and harvested in Kern County, where production has experienced a considerable boom in the past few years. Consumer demand for baby carrots continues strong. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 19,700 acres, down 5 percent from last year.

Cauliflower: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 9,500 acres, 5 percent below 2001. Some shippers expect quality and yield problems for the cauliflower crop this season due to cold weather in February and March. Cold temperatures also caused harvest delays for one to two weeks. No major pest or disease problems are reported.

Celery: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 5,200 acres, down 2 percent from last year. Freezing temperatures in the Oxnard area in January 2002 are expected to lower celery quality and yield during the April and May harvest. Celery sizes in the Oxnard area are getting smaller as growers are harvesting early before some plants go to seed. Celery harvest should begin on schedule in the Salinas area in June.

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 than normal temperatures, which will delay harvest this spring. However, due to ideal growing conditions in central California, the sweet corn planted for spring harvest is doing very well. A large amount of the spring harvest in central California is scheduled to occur on time in June. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 37,000 acres, up 1 percent from last year's acreage.

Honeydew Melons: California honeydew melon acreage of 4,400, is 2 percent below a year ago. California's unusually cool temperatures during March have slowed the growth of melons. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 6,100 acres, down 3 percent from last year.

Head Lettuce: California acreage was reported to be 38,500 acres, 1 percent below the comparable period a year ago. Cool temperatures slowed lettuce maturity. A gap in supply occurred, which has resulted in high lettuce prices. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 40,400 acres, down 1 percent from 2001.

Watermelon: Expected California acreage for the April - June 30 harvesting period was 3,200 acres, 7 percent above the previous year. The California crop experienced unusually cool temperatures, which slowed the growth of melons. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 48,200 acres, down 5 percent from last year.

SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvesting Period	Area Harvested		For Harvest 2002	Percent Change
		2000	2001		
		Acres		Percent	
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	34,000	35,000	33,000	94
CANTALOUPE:					
Arizona	Apr-Jun	10,000	10,000	10,200	102
California	Apr-Jun	14,500	12,500	12,000	96
Georgia	Apr-Jun	3,500	3,600	3,600	100
Texas	Apr-Jun	5,100	5,200	4,200	81
GROUP TOTAL		33,100	31,300	30,000	96
CARROTS:					
California	Apr-Jun	19,000	20,000	19,000	95
Texas	Apr-Jun	700	800	700	88
GROUP TOTAL		19,700	20,800	19,700	95
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	9,000	10,000	9,500	95
CELERY: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	4,800	5,300	5,200	98
SWEET CORN:					
California	Apr-Jun	11,000	11,000	11,000	100
Florida	Apr-Jul	25,800	25,600	26,000	102
GROUP TOTAL		36,800	36,600	37,000	101
HONEYDEW:					
California	Apr-Jun	5,000	4,500	4,400	98
Texas	Apr-Jun	2,400	1,800	1,700	94
GROUP TOTAL		7,400	6,300	6,100	97
HEAD LETTUCE:					
Arizona-Other	Apr-Jun	1,000	1,300	1,200	92
California	Apr-Jun	35,000	39,000	38,500	99
New Jersey	May-Jul	700	700	700	100
GROUP TOTAL		36,700	41,000	40,400	99
TOMATOES:					
California	Apr-Jun	7,000	7,500	8,300	111
Florida	Apr-Jul	12,200	16,500	17,000	103
South Carolina	May-Jul	3,400	3,200	3,000	94
GROUP TOTAL		22,600	27,200	28,300	104
WATERMELON					
Arizona	May-Jul	6,100	5,500	5,000	91
California	Apr-Jun	3,000	3,000	3,200	107
Florida	Apr-Jun	27,000	24,000	23,000	96
Texas	Apr-Jun	22,000	18,000	17,000	94
GROUP TOTAL		58,100	50,500	48,200	95

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

California production is forecast at 10.5 million tons, up 23 percent from 2001. The California estimate is based on a survey of processors conducted in January. Updated acreage and production will be available by mid-June. California production has been slowed by cold weather in February and March. Scattered frost in March led Sacramento Valley growers to try replacing damaged crops with seedlings, which are in tight supply.

Nationally, processors are increasing tomato acreage by 12 percent this year. Contracts with growers cover 310,400 acres in 2001. Tonnage contracts, which cover 11.1 million tons, are 21 percent above last year.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change 2002 2001	Production				Contract Change 2002 2001
	2000 Total	2001		2002 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>		2000 Total	2001		2002 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		Total		Contract <u>1/</u>			
	Acres				Percent	Tons				Percent
California	289,000	258,000	255,000	289,000	113	10,286,500	8,640,140	8,563,570	10,500,000	123
Indiana	7,600	8,600	8,600	8,600	100	229,020	251,120	251,120	244,660	97
Michigan	3,000	3,200	3,200	3,900	122	84,000	87,000	87,000	121,000	139
Ohio	5,800	6,370	6,180	6,400	104	158,710	164,610	159,580	174,600	109
Pennsylvania <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u>	1,500	1,700	1,700	---	---	42,560	63,310	63,310	---	---
Other States <u>4/</u> <u>5/</u>	2,400	1,960	1,960	2,500	128	57,450	42,030	42,030	74,500	177
U.S. <u>3/</u>	309,300	279,830	276,640	310,400	112	10,858,240	9,248,210	9,166,610	11,114,760	121

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Data for 2002 are included in "Other States."

3/ Revised data for 2001 total production.

4/ 2000 - DE, MD, NJ, NY, and VA.

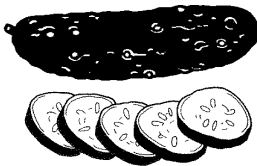
2001 - DE, MD, NJ, AND VA.

2002 - NJ, and PA.

5/ Seasonal forecasts for MD are not available. Estimates will be published in the January 2003 annual. DE and VA estimates discontinued in 2002.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES

Planting in California was initially delayed by cool temperatures and frost, but temperatures have improved and planting of the crop has progressed well. Table data for California are included in "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.



Nationally, pickle packers intend to contract 93,000 acres of cucumbers for pickles. Contract acreage increases are forecast for California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin. Alabama reports a favorable outlook for cucumbers in 2002. Growers have already laid plastic on the ground for overhead and drilled irrigation. Florida growers are starting to harvest the spring crop and report no major problems. Indiana growers were able to prepare fields as early as February due to warmer than normal temperatures, but have not yet begun planting. Texas weather has been variable this spring, with freeze damage during late February and early March in the San Antonio Winter Garden area. Planting in south Texas has been delayed due to continued cool, windy, and dry weather.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES BY STATE

State	2000 Total	2001 Area Planted		2002 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	Contract Change 2002/2001
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		
	Acres				Percent
Indiana	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,500	83
Michigan	31,000	32,500	22,000	24,000	109
North Carolina	18,200	18,200	8,800	10,500	119
Ohio	2,500	2,700	2,690	2,500	93
South Carolina	3,400	3,500	3,500	3,700	106
Texas	7,000	7,500	3,500	9,000	257
Wisconsin	5,500	5,100	4,700	4,900	104
Other States <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u>	38,710	38,410	31,760	36,900	116
UNITED STATES	108,210	109,710	78,750	93,000	118

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 2000 - AL, CA, DE, FL, GA, MD, MA, MO, NJ, NY, VA, and WA.

2001 - AL, CA, DE, FL, GA, MD, MA, MO, NJ, NY, VA, and WA.

2002 - AL, CA, DE, FL, GA, MD, MA, and MO.

3/ Seasonal forecasts are not available for IL, and WA. Estimates will be published in the January 2003 annual. Estimates were discontinued in 2002 for NJ, NY, and VA.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS

California growers planted 5,500 acres of spring onions this year, down 4 percent from 2001. California spring onions were planted last fall with no problems reported. The crop has progressed well with robust growth reported due to recent rains and continued mild temperatures.

Nationally, growers planted 39,500 acres of spring onions this year, compared to 38,500 acres last year.

U.S. summer onion acreage planted for storage is 109,450 acres, up 3 percent from 2001.

California's summer storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 31,500 acres, up 7 percent from last year. The California storage onion crop is doing well with no major problems reported. The non-storage onion acreage estimate is 6,900 acres, down 1 percent from last year. California's mild temperatures and recent rains have helped the crop to progress.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Season and State	2000	2001	2002	2002/2001
	Acres Planted			Percent
Spring 1/				
Arizona	3,300	3,100	3,600	116
California	7,200	5,700	5,500	96
Georgia	15,000	14,500	14,200	98
Texas	15,900	15,200	16,200	107
Spring Total	41,400	38,500	39,500	103
Summer 1/				
<u>Non-Storage</u>				
California	6,500	7,000	6,900	99
Nevada	3,300	2,900	3,000	103
New Mexico	8,000	8,100	8,000	99
Texas	4,100	2,800	3,000	107
Washington	800	800	1,000	125
Non-Storage Total	22,700	21,600	21,900	101
<u>Storage</u>				
California 2/	38,000	29,500	31,500	107
Colorado	12,000	14,000	12,500	89
Idaho	7,600	8,000	8,500	106
Michigan	4,100	3,900	3,700	95
Minnesota	300	230	280	122
New York	13,400	13,200	13,200	100
Ohio	480	470	470	100
Oregon				
Malheur County	11,700	11,400	11,600	102
Other	6,200	5,800	6,600	114
Utah	2,500	2,200	2,100	95
Washington	15,000	16,000	17,000	106
Wisconsin	2,000	2,000	2,000	100
Storage Total	113,280	106,700	109,450	103
Summer Total	135,980	128,300	131,350	102
UNITED STATES TOTAL ONIONS	177,380	166,800	170,850	102

1/ Primarily fresh market.

2/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

ASPARAGUS

California's area for harvest, at 33,900 acres, is 4 percent below the previous year. Cold weather delayed harvest of the spring crop in the Stockton-Delta region; however, the crop is expected to be of good quality. Some growers claim this is one of the best-looking asparagus crops they have seen in years for size, height, and color.

Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast to be 66,900 acres, down 5 percent from 2001. In Michigan, most of the respondents reported good stands due to the mild winter. However, some rust damage was reported on several fields. The Washington winter had cold temperatures and snow stretching well into March. The drought and power shortages of 2001 do not appear to be of concern this season.

ASPARAGUS BY STATE 1/

State	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 2002	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2000	2001		2000	2001	2002 2/	2000	2001	2002 2/
	Acres			Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	37,000	35,300	33,900	32	30	---	1,184	1,059	---
Michigan	16,500	16,000	16,000	17	18	---	283	287	---
New Jersey 3/	1,000	1,100	---	32	24	---	32	26	---
Washington	22,000	19,000	17,000	34	36	---	748	684	---
TOTAL	76,500	71,400	66,900	29	29	---	2,247	2,056	---

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Data available September 6, 2002.

3/ Estimate discontinued in 2002.