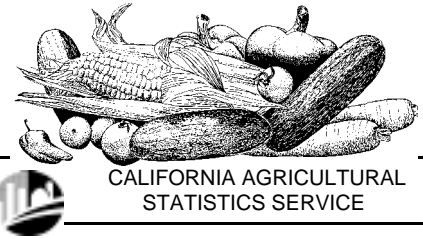


California Vegetable Review



Frequency: Jan., Apr., July, Sept. & Oct.
Released: July 18, 2002

(USPS 598-210)
VOL. 23 NO. 3

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fresh Market Vegetable and Melon Acreage	1-2
Processing Tomato Acreage and Production	1
Onion Acreage and Production	3

SUMMER FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

The prospective U.S. area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the summer quarter is forecast to be 324,400 acres, virtually unchanged from last year's comparable commodities. Acreage decreases for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, sweet corn, and tomatoes offset acreage increases for snap beans, carrots, celery, cucumbers, and head lettuce. Bell peppers remained the same. Area forecast for melon harvest is 130,200 acres, up 3 percent from last year. Cantaloupe acreage is forecast at 49,200 acres, unchanged from 2001. Honeydew acreage, at 14,800 acres, is up 5 percent. Watermelon acreage, at 66,200 acres, is 4 percent above last year.

Broccoli: California's acreage for summer harvest is forecast at 32,000 acres, down 6 percent from last year. Fields were planted under good conditions during June, with no problems reported. A combination of poor prices and increased broccoli supplies in 2001 led to a lower acreage forecast for 2002.

Cantaloupe: California's growers expect to harvest 39,000 acres, down 2 percent from the comparable period a year ago. California's summer crop has had favorable growing conditions with no major pest or disease problems reported. Nationally, summer cantaloupe acreage for harvest is forecast at 49,200 acres, unchanged from last year. Georgia growers have increased acreage from 2001. Irrigation has been necessary due to the lack of rain. South Carolina development and harvest are ahead of normal. The Texas harvest for early planted acreage was winding down with good quality and yields reported in many areas. Summer acreage is making good progress in most areas where moisture shortages have not been a problem, but some areas need rain. Grasshoppers and other insect problems were increasing in central and northern growing areas.

Carrots: California carrot producers expect to harvest 19,000 acres, the same as the previous year. California's crop is in good condition. The State has experienced no major disease or pest problems. Nationally, acreage for fresh market harvest is forecast at 23,400 acres, up 1 percent from last year.

Cauliflower: California's acreage for summer harvest is forecast at 10,000 acres, down 9 percent from 2001. Poor prices and increased supplies of cauliflower last year led to a lower acreage forecast for 2002. Scattered storms in late-May briefly slowed development, but warmer weather in June has helped the crop improve.

(Continued on page 2.)

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

In California, moderate weather has provided good growing conditions. Fruit setting was good with only minor infestations of beet leafhoppers reported. Stands are generally reported in excellent condition and harvest should begin by early July. Growers are expected to contract 282,000 acres, 11 percent more than in 2001. Contracted production is expected to be 10.5 million tons, up 23 percent from last year.

Nationally, contracted production is forecast at 11.1 million tons, up 21 percent from last year's comparable states. Area contracted, at 302,000 acres, is up 10 percent from 2001 for comparable states.

PROCESSING TOMATOES BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change 2002 2001	Production				Contract Change 2002 2001
	2000 Total	2001		2002 Contract Intentions ^{1/}		2000 Total	2001		2002 Contract Intentions ^{1/}	
		Total	Contract ^{1/}				Total	Contract ^{1/}		
Acres					Percent	Tons				Percent
California	289,000	258,000	255,000	282,000	111	10,286,500	8,640,140	8,563,570	10,500,000	123
Indiana	7,600	8,600	8,600	8,200	95	229,020	251,120	251,120	236,000	94
Michigan	3,000	3,200	3,200	3,000	94	84,000	87,000	87,000	101,000	116
Ohio	5,800	6,370	6,180	6,400	104	158,710	164,610	159,580	174,900	110
Pennsylvania ^{2/}	1,500	1,700	1,700	---	---	42,560	63,310	63,310	---	---
Other States ^{3/}	2,400	1,960	1,960	2,400	122	57,450	42,030	42,030	72,100	172
U.S. ^{4/}	309,300	279,830	276,640	302,000	109	10,858,240	9,248,210	9,166,610	11,084,000	121

^{1/} Includes acreage from major brokers.

^{2/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

^{3/} 2000 - DE, MD, NJ, NY, and VA; 2001 - DE, MD, NJ, and VA; 2002 -- NJ and PA.

^{4/} Seasonal forecasts for MD are not available. Estimates to be published in the January 2003 annual. DE and VA estimates discontinued in 2002.

**SUMMER FRESH MARKET
VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE**

(Continued from page 1)

Celery: California's summer acreage for harvest is forecast at 5,700 acres, up 4 percent from 2001. Quality and yields have been excellent in the Salinas-Santa Maria areas and sizes are running larger than normal. The summer celery crop is progressing well with no pest or disease problems reported.

Corn, Sweet: In California, producers expect to harvest 10,100 acres, up 7 percent from 2001. California growing conditions have been good with no pest or disease problems reported. Quality and yields of the early harvest in the San Joaquin Valley are reported to be excellent. Nationally, fresh market acreage for harvest is forecast at 113,500 acres, down 2 percent from last year. The Michigan sweet corn crop is starting to improve following cool temperatures in May. In New Jersey, the crop was planted on schedule and development is ahead of schedule. Light harvest began the last week of June. Planting of the New York crop is behind due to wet weather. Planting is expected to continue into early July. North Carolina growers had drier than normal conditions from mid-April until mid-May, then again in mid-June causing harvest to begin later than normal. Ohio growers were not able to plant as much as intended due to very wet conditions in the spring. Some report losing part of their crop to freezing temperatures in mid-May. Although more recent warm temperatures have helped the crop to recover, the earlier cold, wet weather will push harvest back for many growers. Pennsylvania growers were forced to replant a large part of their crop due to a late-May frost. Despite the delay, growers are still expecting a good crop. Wisconsin sweet corn was emerging in the central area by the last week of June. Planting and crop progress have been delayed by wet weather.

Honeydew: California's harvested acreage of honeydew melons is forecast at 13,000, up 4 percent from last year. The crop is progressing well with no major pest or disease problems reported. Nationally, acreage for summer harvest is forecast at 14,800 acres, up 5 percent from last year.

Lettuce, Head: California's summer head lettuce acreage for harvest is forecast at 55,000 acres, 10 percent more than the comparable period a year ago. Summer lettuce is progressing nicely as a result of warmer temperatures. No major pest problems were reported, although the presence of verticillium disease continues to be noted as a small, but increasing problem. Nationally, acreage for summer harvest is forecast at 57,000 acres, up 10 percent from last year.

Tomatoes: California's fresh market tomato producers expect to harvest 23,500 acres, 2 percent above last year. California reports optimal weather conditions in recent weeks, and the tomato crop has exhibited good growth and color. No pest or disease problems have been noted. Nationally, fresh market acreage for summer harvest is forecast at 39,100 acres, down 2 percent from last year.

Watermelon: California's producers expect to harvest 9,200 acres, 3 percent below the comparable period a year ago. California reports favorable growing conditions for a good quality summer crop with no major insect or disease problems reported. Nationally, summer acreage for harvest is forecast at 66,200 acres, up 4 percent from 2001.

SUMMER VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area Harvested		Area for Harvest 2002	2002 2001
		2000	2001		
				Acres	Percent
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	July-Sept.	35,000	34,000	32,000	94
CANTALOUPE:					
California	July-Sept.	39,000	40,000	39,000	98
Georgia	July-Sept.	2,000	1,700	2,100	124
South Carolina	June-Sept.	1,000	1,500	1,700	113
Texas	July-Sept.	5,700	6,000	6,400	107
GROUP TOTAL		47,700	49,200	49,200	100
CARROTS:					
California	July-Sept.	21,000	19,000	19,000	100
Michigan	July-Nov.	4,500	4,200	4,400	105
GROUP TOTAL		25,500	23,200	23,400	101
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	July-Sept.	10,500	11,000	10,000	91
CELERY: 1/					
California	July-Sept.	5,300	5,500	5,700	104
CORN, SWEET:					
California	July-Sept.	9,000	9,400	10,100	107
Illinois	July-Aug.	5,600	5,700	4,700	82
Michigan	July-Oct.	10,600	10,300	9,000	87
New Jersey	July-Oct.	9,000	8,900	9,000	101
New York	July-Oct.	27,500	33,400	34,400	103
North Carolina	June-Aug.	8,100	8,200	8,100	99
Ohio	July-Oct.	14,800	15,400	14,000	91
Pennsylvania	July-Sept.	18,900	17,100	16,600	97
Wisconsin	Aug.-Sept.	7,200	7,300	7,600	104
GROUP TOTAL		110,700	115,700	113,500	98
HONEYDEW:					
Arizona	June-Sept.	2,300	1,600	1,800	113
California	July-Sept.	13,000	12,500	13,000	104
GROUP TOTAL		15,300	14,100	14,800	105
LETTUCE, HEAD:					
California	July-Sept.	48,000	50,000	55,000	110
Colorado	June-Sept.	2,000	2,000	2,000	100
GROUP TOTAL		50,000	52,000	57,000	110
TOMATOES:					
California	July-Sept.	23,500	23,000	23,500	102
Michigan	July-Sept.	2,400	2,400	1,700	71
New Jersey	July-Oct.	3,600	3,400	3,400	100
New York	July-Oct.	3,000	3,000	2,600	87
Pennsylvania	July-Sept.	4,000	4,100	4,100	100
Virginia	July-Sept.	3,900	3,900	3,800	97
GROUP TOTAL		40,400	39,800	39,100	98
WATERMELON:					
California	July-Sept.	9,300	9,500	9,200	97
Georgia	July-Sept.	24,000	22,000	20,000	91
Mississippi	June-Aug.	2,800	2,500	2,700	108
South Carolina	June-Sept.	7,500	7,700	9,300	121
Texas	July-Sept.	18,000	22,000	25,000	114
GROUP TOTAL		61,600	63,700	66,200	104

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

**For information on part-time jobs collecting agricultural data in your local area,
please call 1-800-851-1127.**

ONION ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

Production of spring onions in 2002 is forecast at 11.1million cwt., virtually unchanged from last year, but 6 percent below 2000. The crop is produced on 35,400 harvested acres, averaging 314 cwt. per acre. The California spring onion crop was planted under good conditions last fall and has progressed well through the season with no major problems reported. Initially, harvest was slowed in the Imperial Valley by cooler than normal temperatures, but quality is reported as good-to-excellent with yields expected to be normal. Poor market conditions kept a few growers from harvesting in early spring, but market conditions have improved with the unfortunate losses to the Georgia onion crop. In Georgia, some onion fields have been destroyed by temperature variations and a fast spreading fungal disease (stemphyllium). A cold snap in February and warm weather in April produced unwanted seed stem growth and other defects. Heavy rains in April also helped to spread the stemphyllium fungus. Late planted onions escaped some of the damage. The Texas spring onion crop started and progressed on schedule. Dry conditions along the Rio Grande Valley and in south Texas reduced yields, but the quality is expected to be good.

Production of non-storage onions is forecast at 10.5 million cwt., up 7percent from last year. Harvested area covers 21,700 acres, 5 percent above 2001. California non-storage summer onions have progressed well during the season and good quality is expected. A cold spell in the spring damaged a small portion of the summer crop, but no other problems have been reported. Nevada had a late frost on June 9, which slowed onion progress, but the plants were far enough along to not be damaged. Onions in north Washoe County are in fair condition, while the Lyon County crop is in good condition. New Mexico onion quality is mostly good-to-excellent. Texas conditions have been hot and dry causing stress to the crop. Growers were irrigating where water was available. Onions were progressing well in these irrigated areas. Washington experienced a mild winter, which kept onions in dormancy. Spring was late to arrive in the Walla Walla area, but producers are still expecting good quality and size. Jumbo sizes are expected to make up most of this year's non-storage crop with the balance of onions running medium size.

Growers expect to harvest 101,580 acres of storage onions this year, virtually unchanged from last year. California reports good quality despite a cold spell in the spring that damaged a small portion of the summer crop. No major pest problems have been reported. The processing portion of the summer onion crop has been reported in excellent condition with no losses from the spring frost. Colorado planting fell behind early, due to lower than usual temperatures in March. Surface water for irrigation is scarce due to severe drought. On a positive note, the absence of the usual June thunderstorms has reduced hail damage considerably. Idaho had cooler spring conditions, which delayed emergence and overall growth causing crop progress to be behind last year. Onion planting in Michigan went well, even with freezing temperatures in May. Growth was enhanced in early June by warmer weather conditions. In Minnesota, heavy rains have been sweeping across the State since mid-June, however, flooding has not occurred in the onion production areas. New York has experienced excessive precipitation, which delayed planting activities in some areas and prevented it in others. Progress of the Oregon crop is normal. Some Malheur County onions have thin stands, although recent warm weather and precipitation have been welcomed. Utah is currently experiencing a severe drought, however, the counties where onions are grown are much better off than the rest of the State. Washington growers experienced a very late spring this year due to freezing temperatures in late-April and early-May. Currently, warmer temperatures have allowed onions to catch up quickly and producers are anticipating a normal crop this year.

The final tally of 2001 storage onion production is 46.7 million cwt., down 9 percent from 2000. Harvested acreage, at 101,890 acres, is 6 percent below 2000. The average yield, of 459 cwt. per acre, is down 12 cwt. from 2000. The 2001 storage crop is valued at \$358 million, a decrease of 16 percent from 2000. Average price per cwt. decreased from \$9.59 in 2000 to \$8.83 in 2001. With spring and non-storage summer onions added in, total value of the 2001 harvested onions was \$702 million, down 5 percent from 2000.

ONION ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION 1/

Season and State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
SPRING 2/								
Arizona	3,100	3,600	3,000	3,600	430	470	1,290	1,692
California	5,700	5,500	5,500	5,300	475	475	2,613	2,518
Georgia	14,500	14,700	13,500	11,500	190	190	2,565	2,185
Texas	15,200	16,200	14,200	15,000	325	315	4,615	4,725
SPRING TOTAL	38,500	40,000	36,200	35,400	306	314	11,083	11,120
SUMMER								
<u>Non-Storage 2/</u>								
California	7,000	6,900	6,700	6,600	500	510	3,350	3,366
Nevada	2,900	3,200	2,900	3,200	460	500	1,334	1,600
New Mexico	8,100	8,000	7,700	8,000	490	520	3,773	4,160
Texas	2,800	3,000	2,600	2,800	400	350	1,040	980
Washington	800	1,100	800	1,100	360	360	288	396
NON-STORAGE TOTAL	21,600	22,200	20,700	21,700	473	484	9,785	10,502
<u>Storage 3/</u>								
California 4/	29,500	29,500	28,200	28,200	420	---	11,844	---
Colorado	14,000	13,000	12,000	12,500	345	---	4,140	---
Idaho	8,000	8,100	7,800	7,900	640	---	4,992	---
Michigan	3,900	3,900	3,500	3,800	280	---	980	---
Minnesota	230	280	220	210	330	---	73	---
New York	13,200	12,700	12,800	12,100	330	---	4,224	---
Ohio	470	470	470	470	360	---	169	---
Oregon- Malheur	11,400	10,700	11,300	10,700	620	---	7,006	---
- Other	5,800	5,700	5,700	5,700	520	---	2,964	---
Utah	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,100	455	---	956	---
Washington	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	550	---	8,800	---
Wisconsin	2,000	2,100	1,800	1,900	330	---	594	---
STORAGE TOTAL	106,700	104,650	101,890	101,580	459	---	46,742	---
SUMMER TOTAL	128,300	126,850	122,590	123,280	461	---	56,527	---
U.S. TOTAL -- ALL ONIONS	166,800	166,850	158,790	158,680	426	---	67,610	---

1/ Estimates for 2001 revised.

2/ Primarily fresh market.

3/ Yield and production for 2002 will be published October 4, 2002.

4/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.