

California Vegetable Review



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SPRING SEASON FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Broccoli: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 35,000 acres, up 4 percent from 2002. Harvest began in early March and should peak around mid-April. No unusual pest or disease problems are reported.

Cantaloupe: California cantaloupe producers intend to harvest 12,500 acres, 4 percent above last year. The crop is progressing well with no major problems reported. Growers continue weed treatment on melon acreage. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is estimated at 30,500 acres, up 2 percent from 2002.

Carrots: Carrot growers in California expect to harvest 18,000 acres, 8 percent less than a year ago. Carrots continued to be planted and harvested in Kern County. Consumer demand for baby carrots continues to be strong. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 18,900 acres, down 6 percent from last year.

Cauliflower: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 9,500 acres, 6 percent above 2002. Cold temperatures may cause harvest delays. No major pest or disease problems reported.

Celery: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 5,200 acres, unchanged from last year. Warm weather in January and February resulted in larger-than-normal celery production in the Oxnard area, which pushed prices lower. No bolting was reported, unlike last year. The crop is in good condition with no pest or disease problems reported.

Corn, Sweet: California's sweet corn acreage was reported to be 12,000 acres, up 9 percent from the previous year. The California crop is doing very well and harvest in the Imperial Valley is expected to begin in early April, two weeks ahead of schedule. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 38,000 acres, up 3 percent from last year's acreage.

Honeydew: California's honeydew melon acreage remained the same as the previous year at 4,000. California's melon crop is progressing well. Weed treatment on fields continues. No major problems have been reported thus far. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 5,700 acres, unchanged from 2002.

Lettuce, Head: California acreage was reported to be 35,000 acres, unchanged from the comparable period a year ago. Despite a few cool spells in February, the crop has generally been reported to be progressing well. Good crop development has continued due to ample soil moisture and recent mild temperatures. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 36,800 acres, down fractionally from 2002.

Watermelon: Expected California acreage for the April-June 30 harvest period was 3,100 acres, 7 percent above the previous year. The California crop is progressing well with no major problems reported. Nationally acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 42,600 acres, down 11 percent from last year.

SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvesting Period	Area Harvested		For Harvest 2003	Percent Change
		2001	2002		
		Acres		Percent	
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	33,000	33,500	35,000	104
CANTALOUPE:					
Arizona	Apr-Jun	10,000	10,200	10,200	100
California	Apr-Jun	12,200	12,000	12,500	104
Georgia	Apr-Jun	3,600	3,600	4,000	111
Texas	Apr-Jun	5,200	4,000	3,800	95
GROUP TOTAL		31,000	29,800	30,500	102
CARROTS:					
California	Apr-Jun	20,000	19,500	18,000	92
Texas	Apr-Jun	700	600	900	150
GROUP TOTAL		20,700	20,100	18,900	94
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	9,000	9,000	9,500	106
CELERY: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	5,300	5,200	5,200	100
CORN, SWEET:					
California	Apr-Jun	10,500	11,000	12,000	109
Florida	Apr-Jul	25,600	26,000	26,000	100
GROUP TOTAL		36,100	37,000	38,000	103
HONEYDEW:					
California	Apr-Jun	4,000	4,000	4,000	100
Texas	Apr-Jun	1,800	1,700	1,700	100
GROUP TOTAL		5,800	5,700	5,700	100
LETTUCE, HEAD:					
Arizona-Other	Mar-Jun	1,000	1,200	1,200	100
California	Apr-Jun	36,000	35,000	35,000	100
New Jersey	Apr-Jun	700	700	600	86
GROUP TOTAL		37,700	36,900	36,800	100
TOMATOES:					
California	Apr-Jun	7,000	7,700	7,300	95
Florida	Apr-Jul	16,500	17,000	18,000	106
South Carolina	May-Aug	3,200	3,100	3,600	116
GROUP TOTAL		26,700	27,800	28,900	104
WATERMELON					
Arizona 2/	May-Jul	5,100	5,100	---	---
California	Apr-Jun	2,800	2,900	3,100	107
Florida	Apr-Jul	24,000	23,000	23,000	100
Texas	Apr-Jun	22,000	17,000	16,500	97
GROUP TOTAL		53,900	48,000	42,600	89

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Seasonal estimate discontinued. Estimates will be published in the January 2004 annual.

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

California production is forecast at 10.9 million tons, up 1 percent from 2002. A good crop is expected this season. The California estimate is based on a survey of processors that was conducted in January. Updated acreage and production will be available by mid-June.

Nationally, contracts with growers cover 312,600 acres in 2003, up less than 1 percent from last year. Contract production at 11.5 million tons is 1 percent above 2002.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change 2003 2002	Production				Contract Change 2003 2002
	2001 Total	2002		2003 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>		2001 Total	2002		2003 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		Total		Contract <u>1/</u>			
	Acres				Percent	Tons				Percent
California	258,000	296,000	290,000	291,000	100	8,640,140	11,056,000	10,806,400	10,900,000	101
Indiana	8,600	8,200	8,200	8,400	102	251,120	256,450	256,450	245,680	96
Michigan	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,200	97	105,400	112,000	112,000	104,000	93
Ohio	6,370	6,400	6,400	7,700	120	164,610	149,630	149,630	166,200	111
Other States <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u>	3,660	3,200	3,200	2,300	72	87,450	82,740	82,740	69,800	84
UNITED STATES	279,930	317,100	311,100	312,600	100	9,248,720	11,656,820	11,407,220	11,485,680	101

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 2001 – DE, MD, NJ, PA, and VA.

2002 – MD, NJ, AND PA.

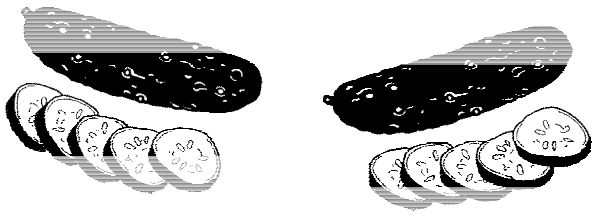
2003 – NJ and PA.

3/ Seasonal forecasts for MD are not available. Estimates will be published in the January 2004 annual. DE and VA estimates discontinued in 2002.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES

California's planting season was delayed initially, due to cool temperatures and frost. Temperatures have since improved and planting has gone well with no problems reported. Table data for California are included in "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Nationally, pickle packers intend to contract 95,600 acres of cucumbers for pickles, up 20 percent from last year. Contract-acreage increases are forecast for Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. In Alabama, planting will begin around mid-April. Harvest of the Florida spring crop has begun. Indiana field preparations were delayed by heavy snowfall and below normal temperatures in February. Planting of vegetables has not yet begun. Planting in North Carolina should begin in April after fields dry out and temperatures increase following recent rains which left fields excessively wet. Weather in Texas has been favorable. Harvest is expected to pick up as warmer spring weather arrives. Pickling cucumbers have remained the number one production use of cucumbers in Texas. Wisconsin growers are still working out contracts. The crop has not yet been planted.



CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES BY STATE

State	2001 Total	2002 Area Planted		2003 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	Contract Change 2003/2002
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		
	Acres				Percent
Florida	6,500	6,500	1,000	6,200	620
Indiana	1,800	1,600	1,600	400	25
Michigan	31,000	35,500	22,000	27,000	123
North Carolina	18,200	18,500	9,900	10,200	103
Ohio	2,700	2,500	2,300	2,300	100
South Carolina	3,500	3,900	3,900	4,000	103
Texas	11,500	11,500	3,500	11,000	314
Wisconsin	5,100	5,800	5,100	4,700	92
Other States <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u>	31,810	36,000	30,500	29,800	98
UNITED STATES	112,110	121,800	79,800	95,600	120

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 2001 – AL, CA, DE, GA, MD, MA, MO, NJ, NY, VA, and WA.

2002 – AL, CA, DE, GA, MD, MA, MO, and WA.

2003 – AL, CA, DE, GA, MD, MA, and MO.

3/ Seasonal forecasts for WA are not available. Estimates will be published in the January 2004 annual. Estimates were discontinued in 2002 for NJ, NY, and VA.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS

California growers planted 6,500 acres of spring onions this year, up 2 percent from 2002. California spring onions were planted last fall without any problems reported. The crop has progressed well, with robust growth reported lately, due to recent rains and mild temperatures. Progress has been reported as near normal in most areas, although periods of cool weather during February slowed onion growth in some locations.

Nationally, the total planted onion acreage for all seasons in 2003 is forecast at 161,960 acres, down 4 percent from last year. Spring onions were planted on 34,900 acres in 2003, down 10 percent from 2002. The summer non-storage onion planted acreage, at 23,200 acres, is up 1 percent from last year. The total storage planted acreage is 103,860 acres, down 3 percent from 2002. The total summer onion acreage, at 127,060 acres, is down 2 percent from the previous year.

California's summer storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 33,500 acres, up 6 percent from last year. The California storage onion crop was planted without any major problems reported. Mild temperatures, combined with recent rains, have helped the crop progress well, although some of the late-planted summer onions were growing a little slow due to cool soil temperatures. The non-storage onion acreage is estimated at 8,000 acres, up 7 percent from last year.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Season and State	2001	2002	2003	2003/2002
	Acres Planted			Percent
Spring 1/				
Arizona	3,100	1,600	1,700	106
California	6,400	6,400	6,500	102
Georgia	14,500	14,700	13,700	93
Texas	15,200	16,200	13,000	80
Spring Total	39,200	38,900	34,900	90
Summer 1/				
<u>Non-Storage</u>				
California	7,300	7,500	8,000	107
Nevada	2,900	3,300	3,400	103
New Mexico	8,100	8,100	7,700	95
Texas	2,800	3,000	2,700	90
Washington 2/	800	1,100	1,400	127
Non-Storage Total	21,900	23,000	23,200	101
<u>Storage</u>				
California 3/	31,000	31,500	33,500	106
Colorado	14,000	12,500	9,500	76
Idaho	8,000	8,100	7,900	98
Michigan	4,100	4,000	3,700	93
Minnesota	230	280	260	93
New York	13,200	12,700	12,100	95
Ohio	470	470	400	85
Oregon				
Malheur County	11,400	12,000	11,500	96
Other	5,800	5,400	5,900	109
Utah	2,200	2,200	2,200	100
Washington	16,000	16,000	15,000	94
Wisconsin	2,000	2,100	1,900	90
Storage Total	108,400	107,250	103,860	97
Summer Total	130,300	130,250	127,060	98
UNITED STATES TOTAL ONIONS	169,500	169,150	161,960	96

1/ Primarily fresh market.

2/ Forecast for 2003 includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.

3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

ASPARAGUS

California's area for harvest, at 29,000 acres, is 15 percent below the previous year. Recent frosts have delayed the start of Northern California's spring asparagus season.

Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 59,000 acres, down 11 percent from 2002. In Michigan, growers report stand conditions are not as good as previous years due to dry weather and frost.

ASPARAGUS BY STATE 1/

State	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 2003	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2001	2002		2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
	Acres			Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	35,000	34,000	29,000	30	30	---	1,050	1,020	---
Michigan	14,300	15,000	15,000	20	15	---	290	219	---
New Jersey 2/	1,100	---	---	24	---	---	26	---	---
Washington	19,000	17,000	15,000	36	37	---	684	629	---
TOTAL	69,400	66,000	59,000	30	28	---	2,050	1,868	---

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Estimate discontinued in 2002.