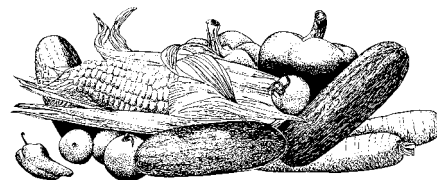


California Vegetable Review



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CONTRACTED PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

The 2003 California processing tomato production is forecast at 10.5 million tons, down 3 percent from 2002. The acreage, at 279 thousand acres, decreased 2 percent from a year earlier. The yield is forecast to be 37.63 tons per acre, 1 percent below last year's 37.99 tons per acre. Hot weather in California has accelerated maturity and caused some sunburned fruit. More recently, rainfall has delayed harvest and caused some mold problems.

U.S. contracted tomato production is forecast at 11.1 million tons, 3 percent below last year's production in comparable states. Based on comparable states between 2002 and 2003, a 2 percent decrease in contracted acreage was accompanied by a yield decrease of 0.33 tons per acre. Indiana had excessive rainfall in early July, which caused flooding and bacteria problems into mid-July. Toward the end of August, conditions became dry with little or no precipitation. Michigan processors began harvesting the last week of August. Humid weather during the season has led to some disease problems in the crop. Ohio's harvest began in late August. Temperatures have been below normal and conditions have been wet most of the summer.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE AND U.S.

State	Acreage Harvested				Yield Per Acre			Production			
	2001 Total	2002		Indicated 2003 Contract 1/	2001 Total	2002 Total	Indicated 2003 Contract 1/	2001 Total	2002		Indicated 2003 Contract 1/
		Total	Contract 1/						Total	Contract 1/	
Acres				Tons							
California	254,000	291,000	285,000	279,000	34.02	37.99	37.63	8,640,140	11,056,000	10,806,400	10,500,000
Indiana	8,000	8,100	8,100	8,400	31.39	31.66	25.50	251,120	256,450	256,450	214,200
Michigan	3,100	3,200	3,200	3,100	34.00	35.00	35.00	105,400	112,000	112,000	108,500
Ohio	6,200	6,300	6,300	6,300	26.55	23.75	28.90	164,610	149,630	149,630	182,070
Other States 2/	3,560	3,200	3,200	2,700	24.56	25.86	28.24	87,450	82,740	82,740	76,260
U.S. 3/	274,860	311,800	305,800	299,500	33.65	37.39	37.00	9,248,720	11,656,820	11,407,220	11,081,030

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 2001 - DE, MD, NJ, PA and VA; 2002 - MD, NJ and PA; 2003 - NJ and PA.

3/ In-season forecasts for MD are not available. Estimates to be published in the January 2004 annual. DE and VA estimates discontinued in 2002.

ASPARAGUS PRODUCTION

The California 2003 asparagus production is estimated at 863 thousand cwt., 15 percent below the previous year. The yield is estimated at 38 cwt., up 27 percent from last year. The harvested acreage at 23.0 thousand acres, decreased 32 percent from 2002. Asparagus harvest in California's Stockton-Delta region was completed on schedule. Weather conditions have been mild, which resulted in good quality and higher yields. Low prices have caused some growers to plow under their crops.

Nationally, production of the 2003 asparagus crop is forecast at 1.79 million cwt., down 4 percent from 2002 and 12 percent below comparable states in 2001. Harvested acreage, at 54.0 thousand, is down 18 percent from last year and 21 percent below comparable states two years ago. Fresh production of 1.14 million cwt., decreased 10 percent from last year and 15 percent from comparable states two years earlier.

Processed production, at 32,450 tons, is up 8 percent from 2002, but 5 percent below comparable states in 2001. Asparagus for canning, at 28,650 tons, is up 10 percent from last year. Frozen asparagus production of 3,800 tons, is down 3 percent from 2002. Total value of the crop, at 168 million dollars, is down 3 percent from 2002 and 26 percent less than comparable states in 2001. Michigan's harvest began during the first week of May. Minor frost damage was reported early in the season and cool temperatures during much of May slowed growth. Harvest picked up toward the end of May and into early June. Good yields are expected throughout the State. Washington's asparagus acreage continues to decline. There was little to no frost this past winter, followed by a relatively hot and dry summer. Good yields are reported.

ASPARAGUS BY SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 1/

State and U.S.	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		Dollars		\$1,000	
California	36,500	24,500	34,000	23,000	30	38	1,020	863	114.00	121.00	116,280	104,423
Michigan	16,000	16,000	15,000	15,000	15	21	219	317	53.40	63.00	11,703	19,971
Washington	18,000	17,000	17,000	16,000	37	38	629	608	71.40	71.20	44,893	43,277
U.S.	70,500	57,500	66,000	54,000	28	33	1,868	1,788	92.50	93.80	172,876	167,671

1/ Includes Fresh Market and Processing.

SPRING ONION PRODUCTION

California's 2003 spring onion production is estimated at 3.12 million cwt., up 9 percent from the previous year. The yield calculates to 480 cwt. per acre, up 4 percent from last year. The spring onion crop progressed well throughout most of the State, but cool spring weather slowed growth in some areas. Crop condition ranged from very good to poor. Harvest went well with no problems reported. There were a few reports of heat damage and root rot lowering yields.

The U.S. end-of-season spring onion production estimate, at 9.58 million cwt., is down 1 percent from last year. Acres harvested, at 31,500, are down 8 percent from a year ago, while the yield, at 304 cwt. per acre, is up 20 cwt. per acre. The value of the spring crop is estimated at 288 million dollars, 49 percent more than last year. Arizona growers report good quality and yields due to warm weather during the growing season. In Georgia, the quality of the spring onion crop is rated as fair to good. A few fields had to be abandoned due to disease that developed from wet conditions late in the season. Texas had storms in the lower Rio Grande Valley in early April, but damage was not as great as originally anticipated.

SPRING ONIONS BY SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		Dollars		\$1,000	
Arizona ^{1/}	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,500	460	500	690	750	8.35	9.90	5,762	7,425
California	6,400	6,700	6,200	6,500	460	480	2,852	3,120	14.20	22.90	40,498	71,448
Georgia	14,700	14,000	11,500	12,500	125	175	1,438	2,188	32.20	34.30	46,304	75,048
Texas	16,200	13,000	15,000	11,000	315	320	4,725	3,520	21.40	38.10	101,115	134,112
U.S.	38,900	35,200	34,200	31,500	284	304	9,705	9,578	20.00	30.10	193,679	288,033

^{1/} Includes a small amount of processing.

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