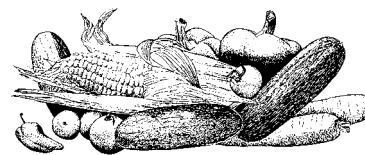


California Vegetable Review



Frequency: Jan., Apr., July, Sept. & Oct.
Released: April 8, 2004

(USPS 598-210)
VOL. 25 NO. 2



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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SPRING SEASON FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Broccoli: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 36,000 acres, up 3 percent from 2003. Planting was on schedule, but cool weather in February delayed development. No major pests or disease problems are reported at this time.

Cantaloupe: California cantaloupe producers intend to harvest 11,500 acres, 6 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 33,300 acres, up 13 percent from 2003.

Carrots: Carrot growers in California expect to harvest 19,500 acres, 3 percent more than a year ago. The crop quality is good with close to ideal growing conditions. Consumer demand for baby carrots continues to be strong. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 20,300 acres, up 2 percent from last year.

Cauliflower: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 10,000 acres, 5 percent above 2003. Weather has been favorable and development is normal. Cool temperatures during February have not delayed progress of the crop. No major pest or disease problems have been reported.

Celery: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 5,200 acres, unchanged from last year. The spring crop is on schedule with harvest expected to begin in early June. No pest or disease problems are evident at this time.

Sweet Corn: California's sweet corn acreage was reported to be 11,700 acres, down 5 percent from the previous year. The California crop is doing very well despite the grocery worker strike in the Los Angeles area which delayed planting in the Imperial Valley. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 37,200 acres, down 3 percent from last year's acreage.

Lettuce, Head: California acreage was reported to be 37,000 acres, unchanged from the comparable period a year ago. Planting of Salinas Valley lettuce is on schedule and a normal harvest is expected. The Huron district is expected to begin harvesting by the end of March. Recent warm weather in the Central Valley has accelerated crop maturity in that area. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 38,200 acres, fractionally above 2003.

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 5,300 acres, down 7 percent from 2003.

Watermelon: Expected California acreage for the April - June 30 harvesting period was 3,100 acres, unchanged from the previous year. The California crop is progressing well with no major problems reported. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 45,100 acres, 5 percent more than last year's acreage.

SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvesting Period	Area Harvested		For Harvest 2004	Percent Change
		2002	2003		
		Acres		Percent	
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	33,500	35,000	36,000	103
CANTALOUPE:					
Arizona	Apr-Jun	10,200	10,200	13,500	132
California	Apr-Jun	10,900	10,900	11,500	106
Georgia	Apr-Jun	3,600	4,500	4,800	107
Texas	Apr-Jun	4,000	3,800	3,500	92
GROUP TOTAL		28,700	29,400	33,300	113
CARROTS:					
California	Apr-Jun	19,500	19,000	19,500	103
Texas	Apr-Jun	600	900	800	89
GROUP TOTAL		20,100	19,900	20,300	102
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	9,000	9,500	10,000	105
CELERY: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	5,200	5,200	5,200	100
CORN, SWEET:					
California	Apr-Jun	11,300	12,300	11,700	95
Florida	Apr-Jul	27,500	26,000	25,500	98
GROUP TOTAL		38,800	38,300	37,200	97
HONEYDEW:					
California	Apr-Jun	4,000	4,000	4,000	100
Texas	Apr-Jun	1,700	1,700	1,300	76
GROUP TOTAL		5,700	5,700	5,300	93
LETTUCE, HEAD:					
Arizona-Other	Mar-Jun	500	500	500	100
California	Apr-Jun	35,500	37,000	37,000	100
New Jersey	Apr-Jun	700	600	700	117
GROUP TOTAL		36,700	38,100	38,200	100
TOMATOES:					
California	Apr-Jun	7,200	6,600	7,500	114
Florida	Apr-Jul	17,000	16,900	16,400	97
South Carolina	May-Aug	3,100	3,300	4,000	121
GROUP TOTAL		27,300	26,800	27,900	104
WATERMELON					
Arizona 2/	May-Jul	5,100	---	---	---
California	Apr-Jun	2,800	3,100	3,100	100
Florida	Apr-Jul	23,000	24,000	25,000	104
Texas	Apr-Jun	17,000	16,000	17,000	106
GROUP TOTAL		47,900	43,100	45,100	105

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Seasonal estimate discontinued in 2003. Estimates will be published in the January 2005 annual.

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

California production is forecast at 11.0 million tons, up 20 percent from 2003. Planting of processing tomatoes is now well underway in the Central Valley. Field preparations were hindered earlier in the year by rainfall and wet soil conditions. Previously planted fields are exhibiting good growth so far. 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 309,400 acres in 2004, up 1 percent from last year. Contract production at 11.5 million tons is 19 percent above 2003.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change 2004 2003	Production				Contract Change 2004 2003
	2002 Total	2003		2004 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>		2002 Total	2003		2004 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		Total		Contract <u>1/</u>			
	Acres				Percent	Tons				Percent
California	296,000	289,000	286,000	291,000	102	11,056,000	9,252,000	9,141,000	11,000,000	120
Indiana	8,200	8,400	8,400	7,900	94	256,450	202,290	202,290	234,020	116
Michigan	3,300	3,200	3,200	3,300	103	112,000	117,800	117,800	107,000	91
New Jersey	---	---	---	1,000	---	---	---	---	27,820	---
Ohio	6,400	6,400	6,300	6,200	98	149,630	173,280	170,240	164,600	97
Other States <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u>	3,200	2,830	2,830	---	---	82,740	66,740	66,740	---	---
UNITED STATES	317,100	309,830	306,730	309,400	101	11,656,820	9,812,110	9,698,070	11,533,440	119

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 2002 and 2003 – MD, NJ, AND PA.

3/ Seasonal forecasts for MD are not available. Estimates will be published in the January 2005 annual.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES

California's field preparation was initially delayed by wet soil conditions, but eventually got underway as temperatures became warmer. Table data for California are included in "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Nationally, pickle packers intend to contract 100,000 acres of cucumbers for pickles, up 18 percent from last year. Contract acreage increases are forecast for Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, and Texas. In Alabama, planting, which normally begins around

mid-April, is expected to be delayed due to the lack of rainfall. The Georgia crop is in good condition at this time, but more rainfall is needed. Indiana field preparations were limited by snow showers and ice in February. Planting of vegetables will not begin until conditions become warmer and drier. Planting in North Carolina should begin in April after fields dry out and temperatures increase. Weather in Texas has been favorable. 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	2002 Total	2003 Area Planted		2004 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	Contract Change 2004/2003
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		
	Acres				Percent
Florida	6,500	6,500	1,000	6,400	640
Indiana	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,900	112
Maryland	---	4,300	4,300	3,900	91
Michigan	35,500	34,000	20,500	27,500	134
North Carolina	18,500	17,600	9,600	8,900	93
Ohio	2,500	2,300	2,100	2,900	138
South Carolina	3,900	4,500	4,300	4,100	95
Texas	11,500	8,500	3,600	10,000	278
Wisconsin	5,800	5,600	5,100	4,500	88
Other States <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u>	35,000	35,900	32,500	29,900	92
UNITED STATES	120,800	120,900	84,700	100,000	118

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 2002 – AL, CA, DE, GA, MD, MA, MO, and WA.

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

2004 – AL, CA, DE, GA, MA, and MO.

3/ Seasonal forecasts for WA are not available. Estimates will be published in the January 2005 annual.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS

California growers planted 7,000 acres of spring onions this year, up 1 percent from 2003. California spring onions were planted last fall without any major problems reported. Winter and spring conditions have been wet and cool. However, recent warm temperatures have stimulated growth. To date, the crop has progressed well with no apparent problems reported.

California's summer storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 33,000 acres, a decrease of 4 percent from last year. The California storage onion crop was planted without any major problems reported.

Mild temperatures have combined with recent rains to help the crop progress well. The non-storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 7,700 acres, down 1 percent from last year. Nationally, the total planted onion acreage for all seasons in 2003 is forecast at 177,270 acres, up 6 percent from last year. Spring onions were planted on 38,800 acres in 2003, up 10 percent from 2003. The summer non-storage onion planted acreage, at 23,200 acres, is up 2 percent from last year. The total storage planted acreage is 115,270 acres, up 6 percent from 2003. The total summer onion acreage, at 138,470 acres, is up 5 percent from the previous year.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Season and State	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003
	Acres Planted			Percent
Spring 1/				
Arizona	1,600	1,500	1,300	87
California	6,400	6,900	7,000	101
Georgia	14,700	14,000	16,300	116
Texas	16,200	12,800	14,200	111
Spring Total	38,900	35,200	38,800	110
Summer 1/				
<u>Non-Storage</u>				
California	7,500	7,800	7,700	99
Nevada	3,300	3,100	3,200	103
New Mexico	8,100	7,700	7,400	96
Texas	3,000	2,700	3,400	126
Washington 2/	1,100	1,400	1,500	107
Non-Storage Total	23,000	22,700	23,200	102
<u>Storage</u>				
California 3/	31,500	34,500	33,000	96
Colorado	12,500	10,500	12,000	114
Idaho	8,100	8,400	9,400	112
Michigan	4,000	3,700	3,800	103
Minnesota	280	280	270	96
New York	12,700	12,100	12,500	103
Ohio	470	380	400	105
Oregon				
Malheur County	12,000	12,200	13,000	107
Other	5,400	6,500	8,000	123
Utah	2,200	1,900	1,800	95
Washington	16,000	16,000	19,000	119
Wisconsin	2,100	2,100	2,100	100
Storage Total	107,250	108,560	115,270	106
Summer Total	130,250	131,260	138,470	105
UNITED STATES TOTAL ONIONS	169,150	166,460	177,270	106

1/ Primarily fresh market.

2/ Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.

3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

ASPARAGUS

California's area for harvest at 25,000 acres is 31 percent below the previous year. Harvest in the Imperial Valley began early as warm temperatures accelerated crop maturity. Northern California growers were delayed at the start of the season by chilling temperatures and rain, but warmer weather in March helped the crop progress and harvest is now active.

Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 53,500 acres, down 20 percent from 2003. Michigan's crop wintered well and is looking good. Washington's weather conditions this winter were mild.

ASPARAGUS BY STATE 1/

State	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 2004	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2002	2003		2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	Acres			Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	34,000	36,000	25,000	30	31	---	1,020	1,116	---
Michigan	15,000	15,000	14,500	15	21	---	219	317	---
Washington	17,000	16,000	14,000	37	38	---	629	608	---
TOTAL	66,000	67,000	53,500	28	30	---	1,868	2,041	---

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.