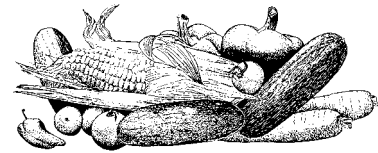


California Vegetable Review



Frequency: Jan., Apr., July, Sept. & Oct.
Released: April 6, 2005

(USPS 598-210)
VOL. 26 NO. 2



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fresh Market Vegetable Acreage	1
Processing Tomatoes --- Cucumbers for Pickles	2
Spring and Summer Onions --- Asparagus Acreage	3

SPRING SEASON FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Broccoli: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 32,600 acres, down 6 percent from 2004. Wet, cool weather in February interrupted planting and slowed development, but warmer weather in March stimulated growth. No major pest or disease problems are reported for the spring season.

Cantaloupe: California cantaloupe producers intend to harvest 11,500 acres, the same as last year. The crop is currently expected to be about two weeks late due to cooler than average temperatures, wet conditions, and cloudy skies. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 30,700 acres, down 4 percent from 2004.

Carrots: Carrot growers in California expect to harvest 20,000 acres, 8 percent more than a year ago. The weather has been favorable and development is normal. Baby carrots continue to be popular. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 21,000 acres, up 9 percent from last year.

Cauliflower: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 9,200 acres, 3 percent below 2004. Wet, cool weather in February delayed planting and slowed growth and development. Conditions warmed in March, allowing continued growth. No major pest or disease problems are reported this season.

Celery: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 5,100 acres, down 2 percent from last year. Excessive rainfall in the central and southern coast areas of the State since last fall has reduced spring production. The crop has been behind for the past few months, but more recently has begun to show improvement.

Corn, Sweet: California's sweet corn acreage, at 12,600, is up 8 percent from 2004. The crop is in good to excellent condition with no pest or disease problems reported. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 38,600 acres, up 4 percent from last year.

Honeydew Melons: California honeydew melon acreage of 3,400, remained the same as a year ago. The crop development was hindered by cool temperatures and cloudy skies. The crop could be two weeks late. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 4,100 acres, down 13 percent from 2004.

Lettuce, Head: California acreage was reported to be 34,000 acres, 24 percent below a year ago. The planting in Salinas Valley is on schedule despite continued rainfall. The Huron District is expected to begin harvesting by the end of March. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 34,900 acres, down 24 percent from 2004

Tomatoes: California fresh market tomato growers expect to harvest 7,000 acres during the spring quarter. Continued rainfall and wet soil conditions slowed field activity throughout March leading to a decrease in harvested acreage. No pest or disease problems have been reported thus far. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 27,600 acres, down 1 percent from 2004.

Watermelons: Expected California acreage for the April - June 30 harvesting period was 3,300 acres, 6 percent below a year earlier. The crop is progressing slowly due to cool temperatures and cloudy skies and is expected to reach the market two weeks late. Demand is high for the new baby watermelons. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 44,300 acres, up 3 percent from last year.

SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvesting Period	Area Harvested		For Harvest 2005	Percent Change
		2003	2004		
		Acres		Percent	
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	33,500	34,500	32,600	94
CANTALOUPE:					
Arizona	Apr-Jun	10,200	12,500	13,500	108
California	Apr-Jun	10,900	11,500	11,500	100
Georgia	Apr-Jun	4,200	4,600	3,700	80
Texas	Apr-Jun	3,800	3,500	2,000	57
GROUP TOTAL		29,100	32,100	30,700	96
CARROTS:					
California	Apr-Jun	19,000	18,500	20,000	108
Texas	Apr-Jun	900	800	1,000	125
GROUP TOTAL		19,900	19,300	21,000	109
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	8,500	9,500	9,200	97
CELERY: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	5,200	5,200	5,100	98
CORN, SWEET:					
California	Apr-Jun	12,300	11,700	12,600	108
Florida	Apr-Jun	26,000	25,500	26,000	102
GROUP TOTAL		38,300	37,200	38,600	104
HONEYDEW:					
California	Apr-Jun	3,500	3,400	3,400	100
Texas	Apr-Jun	1,700	1,300	700	54
GROUP TOTAL		5,200	4,700	4,100	87
LETTUCE, HEAD:					
Arizona-Other	Apr-Jun	600	---	---	---
California	Apr-Jun	36,000	45,000	34,000	76
New Jersey	Apr-Jun	600	---	---	---
Other States 2/		---	1,100	900	82
GROUP TOTAL		37,200	46,100	34,900	76
TOMATOES:					
California	Apr-Jun	6,800	7,500	7,000	93
Florida	Apr-Jul	16,900	17,000	17,500	103
South Carolina	May-Aug	3,300	3,500	3,100	89
GROUP TOTAL		27,000	28,000	27,600	99
WATERMELON					
California	Apr-Jun	3,000	3,500	3,300	94
Florida	Apr-Jul	24,000	25,000	26,000	104
Texas	Apr-Jun	16,000	14,500	15,000	103
GROUP TOTAL		43,000	43,000	44,300	103

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ 2004-05: AZ and NJ.

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

California production is forecast at 10.3 million tons, down 9 percent from 2004. Planting under hot caps or plastic tunnels was underway by late February. Continued rainfall caused wet soil conditions that slowed field activity throughout March, leading to a decrease in harvested acreage. There have been no reports of significant pest infestations or diseases. 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 283,900 acres in 2005, down 9 percent from last year. Contract production, at 10.8 million tons, is 9 percent below 2004.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change 2005 2004	Production				Contract Change 2005 2004
	2003 Total	2004		2005 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>		2003 Total	2004		2005 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		Total		Contract <u>1/</u>	Acres		Percent
California	289,000	301,000	293,000	265,000	90	9,252,000	11,672,000	11,350,000	10,300,000	91
Indiana	8,400	8,400	8,400	7,900	94	202,290	274,810	274,810	240,650	88
Michigan	3,400	3,600	3,600	---	---	125,400	108,500	108,500	---	---
Ohio	6,400	6,600	6,500	6,400	98	173,280	177,320	174,460	166,000	95
Other States <u>2/</u>	2,830	1,630	1,630	4,600	282	66,740	33,780	33,780	137,100	406
UNITED STATES	310,030	321,230	313,130	283,900	91	9,819,710	12,266,410	11,941,550	10,843,750	91

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 2003: MD, NJ AND PA 2004: MD and NJ 2005: MI and NJ

Seasonal forecasts for MD are not available. PA estimates discontinued in 2004. Estimates will be published in the "Vegetables 2005 Summary" released in January 2006.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES

California's field preparation was initially delayed by heavy rainfall and 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 100,700 acres of cucumbers for pickles, up 15 percent from last year. Planting of the spring crop in Florida began in January. Favorable weather conditions have kept planting on schedule until recently when rains interrupted fieldwork and reduced quality for a portion of the crop. Contracting of Michigan's cucumbers for pickles is progressing as planting is more than a month away for most growers. North Carolina growers expect to begin planting in April once fields dry out. The Texas crop is doing well under favorable conditions. Planting in Wisconsin is just getting started.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES BY STATE

State	2003 Total	2004 Area Planted		2005 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	Contract Change 2005/2004
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		
	Acres				Percent
Florida	6,500	6,500	1,000	6,700	670
Indiana	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,600	94
Maryland	4,300	4,300	4,300	---	---
Michigan	34,000	35,000	26,500	27,000	102
North Carolina	17,600	17,000	9,900	11,000	111
Ohio	2,300	5,500	2,800	3,800	136
South Carolina	4,500	4,200	4,000	4,300	108
Texas	8,500	7,500	3,500	7,000	200
Wisconsin	5,600	4,600	4,400	4,700	107
Other States <u>2/</u>	35,900	30,000	29,200	34,600	118
UNITED STATES	120,900	116,300	87,300	100,700	115

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 2003-04: AL, CA, DE, GA, MD, MA, MO and WA 2005: AL, CA, DE, GA, MD, MA and MO

Seasonal forecasts for WA are not available. Estimates will be published in the "Vegetables 2005 Summary" released in January 2006.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS

California growers planted 7,500 acres of spring onions this year, up 3 percent from 2004. Planting began in most areas by early November under varied conditions. Below normal temperatures and rain resulted in the crop being two weeks behind in some areas. Some intended acreage was not planted due to wet field conditions. Other locations reported mild temperatures and good planting conditions. Onion fields have shown good stands and growth in many areas in response to recent rains.

California's summer storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 29,000 acres, a decrease of 1 percent from last year. The storage onion crop was planted with some rain delays, but no major problems are reported. Mild

temperatures in addition to recent rains have helped crop development. The non-storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 9,000 acres, up 2 percent from last year.

Nationally, the total planted onion acreage for all seasons in 2005 is estimated at 172,300 acres, down 3 percent from last year. Spring onions were planted on 39,300 acres in 2005, down 2 percent from 2004. The summer non-storage onion planted acreage, at 24,000 acres, is up less than 1 percent from last year. The total storage planted acreage is 109,000 acres, down 4 percent from 2004. The total summer onion acreage, at 133,000 acres, is 3 percent below the previous year.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Season and State	2003	2004	2005	2005/2004
	Acres Planted			Percent
Spring 1/				
Arizona	1,500	1,600	2,300	144
California	7,700	7,300	7,500	103
Georgia	14,000	16,500	14,000	85
Texas	12,800	14,500	15,500	107
Spring Total	36,000	39,900	39,300	98
Summer 1/				
<u>Non-Storage</u>				
California	7,800	8,800	9,000	102
Nevada	3,100	3,400	3,300	97
New Mexico	7,700	7,300	7,400	101
Texas	2,700	2,900	2,900	100
Washington 2/	1,400	1,500	1,400	93
Non-Storage Total	22,700	23,900	24,000	100
<u>Storage</u>				
California 3/	36,000	29,400	29,000	99
Colorado	10,500	12,500	12,000	96
Idaho	10,000	11,000	9,900	90
Michigan	3,700	3,700	3,500	95
Minnesota 4/	280	---	---	---
New York	12,100	13,500	13,300	99
Ohio 5/	380	---	---	---
Oregon				
Malheur County	12,400	13,500	11,400	84
Other	6,900	7,000	7,300	104
Utah 6/	1,900	1,600	---	---
Washington	18,000	19,000	19,000	100
Wisconsin	2,100	2,000	1,800	90
Storage Total	114,260	113,900	109,000	96
Summer Total	136,960	137,800	133,000	97
UNITED STATES TOTAL ONIONS	172,960	177,700	172,300	97

1/ Primarily fresh market.

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

3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

4/ Data for 2004 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Estimate discontinued in 2005.

5/ Data for 2004 and 2005 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

6/ Data for 2005 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

ASPARAGUS

California's area for harvest, at 22,000, is 8 percent below the previous year. The decrease in acreage was due to continued rain through February and into early March coupled with competition from Mexico. The season got off to a slow start, but warm weather between storms enhanced growth and allowed harvest to begin in the San Joaquin and Salinas valleys.

Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 49,500 acres, down 6 percent from 2004. Michigan's crop wintered well and is looking good. Growers indicate no change in acreage this season. Washington's weather conditions this winter were mild and snow was very short leaving growers concerned about the water supply for the upcoming season. Harvested acreage is forecast at 13,000, 7 percent below last year.

ASPARAGUS BY STATE 1/

State	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 2005	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2003	2004		2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
	Acres		Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.			
California	27,000	24,000	22,000	34	34	---	918	816	---
Michigan	15,000	14,500	14,500	21	20	---	317	290	---
Washington	16,000	14,000	13,000	38	43	---	608	602	---
TOTAL	58,000	52,500	49,500	32	33	---	1,843	1,708	---

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.