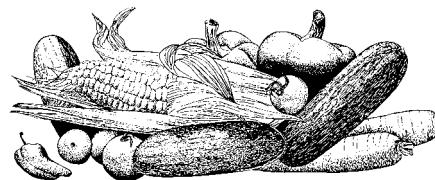


# California Vegetable Review



Frequency: Jan., Apr., July, Sept. & Oct.  
Released: September 8, 2005

(USPS 598-210)  
VOL. 26 NO. 4



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service,  
California Field Office

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Contracted Processing Tomato Production . . . . .	1
Asparagus Production . . . . .	1
Spring Onion Production . . . . .	2

## CONTRACTED PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

The 2005 California processing tomato production is forecast at 10.0 million tons, down 12 percent from 2004. The acreage, at 260 thousand acres, decreased 5 percent from a year earlier. The yield is forecast to be 38.46 tons per acre, 7 percent below last year's 41.54 tons per acre. The wet spring and hot summer conditions in California increased disease pressure for early-season processing tomatoes. Bacterial spot has been reported for some acreage.

U.S. contracted tomato production is forecast at 10.6 million tons, 11 percent less than last year for comparable States. Based on comparable States between 2004 and 2005, a 4 percent decrease in contracted acreage was accompanied by a yield decrease of 2.88 tons per acre. Indiana growers report very good quality and high yields and production. Rainfall has been spotty during the summer months, but growers were able to irrigate. Most of the tomato crop in Ohio had been planted by June 10, nearly two weeks ahead of schedule. The weather has been hot and dry, and rainfall has been below normal for the State since April 1, 2005.

## TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE AND U.S.

State	Acreage Harvested				Yield Per Acre			Production			
	2003 Total	2004		Indicated 2005 Contract 1/	2003 Total	2004 Total	Indicated 2005 Contract 1/	2003 Total	2004		Indicated 2005 Contract 1/
		Total	Contract 1/						Total	Contract 1/	
Acres				Tons							
California	274,000	281,000	273,000	260,000	33.77	41.54	38.46	9,252,000	11,672,000	11,350,000	10,000,000
Indiana	8,200	8,300	8,300	8,300	24.67	33.11	33.05	202,290	274,810	274,810	274,320
Michigan	3,300	3,500	3,500	---	38.00	31.00	---	125,400	108,500	108,500	---
Ohio	5,700	6,200	6,100	6,700	30.40	28.60	26.00	173,280	177,320	174,460	174,200
Other States 2/ 3/	2,720	1,620	1,620	4,600	24.54	20.85	33.33	66,740	33,780	33,780	153,300
<b>U.S. 3/</b>	<b>293,920</b>	<b>300,620</b>	<b>292,520</b>	<b>279,600</b>	<b>33.41</b>	<b>40.80</b>	<b>37.92</b>	<b>9,819,710</b>	<b>12,266,410</b>	<b>11,941,550</b>	<b>10,601,820</b>

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ 2003 - MD, NJ and PA; 2004 - MD and NJ; 2005 - MI and NJ

3/ In-season forecasts for MD are not available. Estimates to be published in the January 2006 annual. PA estimates discontinued in 2004.

## ASPARAGUS PRODUCTION

California's 2005 asparagus production is estimated at 744 thousand cwt., down 9 percent from 2004. The harvested acreage, at 24.0 thousand remained the same as last year. Yield is estimated at 31 cwt., 9 percent below last year. Unusually hot and humid weather during the last two weeks of July, when harvest was at its peak, slowed development of the current asparagus crop. Cooler weather followed in the beginning of August as harvest was winding down in the San Joaquin and Salinas Valley.

cwt., decreased 4 percent from last year and 8 percent from two years earlier. Processed production, at 22.9 thousand tons, is down 18 percent from 2004 and 29 percent below 2003. The Michigan asparagus crop progressed slowly early in the season, due to cool temperatures. Production was light in the beginning of June and high heat and lack of moisture during the middle of June resulted in poor quality in some areas. Harvest was complete by the fourth week of June. In Washington, water supplies were not as much of a concern as expected at the beginning of the season. Prices have been low this season which may lead growers to remove acreage from asparagus production immediately following this year's harvest.

Nationally, production of the 2005 asparagus crop is forecast at 1.56 million cwt., down 9 percent from 2004 and 15 percent below 2003. Harvested acreage, at 51.0 thousand, is down 3 percent from last year and 12 percent below two years ago. Fresh production of 1.10 million

## 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	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		Dollars		\$1,000	
California	26,000	26,000	24,000	24,000	34	31	816	744	141.00	163.00	115,056	121,272
Michigan	15,500	15,000	14,500	14,000	20	21	290	294	64.50	50.70	18,708	14,892
Washington	15,000	14,000	14,000	13,000	43	40	602	520	82.10	91.10	49,420	47,360
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>56,500</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>52,500</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>107.00</b>	<b>118.00</b>	<b>183,184</b>	<b>183,524</b>

1/ Includes Fresh Market and Processing.

**SPRING ONION PRODUCTION**

California's 2005 spring onion production is estimated at 3.36 million cwt., down 6 percent from the previous year. The yield calculates to 460 cwt. per acre, down 9 percent from last year. Spring onion yields are down this year due to variable conditions across the State. Below normal temperatures and rain caused problems early in the season in some areas. Some intended acreage was never planted due to wet field conditions. Also, wet conditions during development caused mildew in some fields.

The U.S. end-of-season spring onion production estimate, at 10.6 million cwt., is down 12 percent from last year. Acres harvested, at 34.1 thousand, are down 4 percent from a year ago, while the yield, at 310 cwt. per acre, is down 27 cwt. per acre from 2004. The value of the Spring crop is estimated at 252 million dollars, 6 percent more than last year. Harvest of the Arizona Spring onion crop is complete. In Georgia, a hail storm in late March combined with wet Spring growing conditions reduced harvested acreage. By mid-May, only 35 percent of the crop had been harvested, 25 points below average. However, harvest finally caught up and by mid-June the crop was mostly harvested. The Texas crop got off to a late start when heavy rains delayed planting. The crop progressed well as conditions improved throughout the season. Yields are lower in some of the larger production areas because of blight.

**SPRING ONIONS BY SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 1/**

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		Dollars		\$1,000	
Arizona	1,600	2,300	1,600	2,300	500	500	800	1,150	8.80	8.40	7,040	9,660
California	7,300	7,500	7,100	7,300	505	460	3,586	3,358	15.10	18.50	54,149	62,123
Georgia	16,500	13,500	14,500	10,500	260	210	3,770	2,205	23.50	29.70	88,595	65,489
Texas	14,500	15,500	12,500	14,000	310	275	3,875	3,850	22.60	29.70	87,575	114,345
U.S.	39,900	38,800	35,700	34,100	337	310	12,031	10,563	19.70	23.80	237,359	251,617

1/ Primarily fresh.