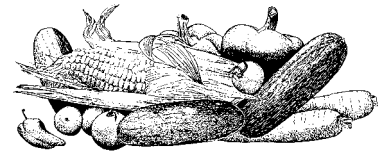


California Vegetable Review



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SPRING SEASON

FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Broccoli: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 33,300 acres, down 1 percent from 2005. Wet, cool weather in February interrupted planting and slowed crop development. Some fields were inaccessible due to flooding.

Cantaloupe: California cantaloupe producers intend to harvest 11,000 acres, 4 percent below 2005. Growing conditions in the southern desert have been great for spring melons. Harvest is expected to begin in late June. No major problems have been reported. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 32,200 acres, up 10 percent from 2005.

Carrots: Carrot growers in California expect to harvest 19,000 acres, 3 percent more than a year ago. The carrot crop is in good condition with very few problems reported. Baby carrots continue to be in high demand. Growers are taking advantage of the high demand created by the increased use of healthier vegetables by fast food restaurants. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 19,700 acres, up 3 percent from last year.

Cauliflower: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 8,000 acres, 2 percent below 2005. Wet, cool weather in February delayed planting and slowed plant growth.

Celery: California's acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 5,200 acres, up 2 percent from last year. Erratic winter and early spring weather did not disrupt celery harvest in the Oxnard area. However, freezing temperatures in March could cause some plants to go to seed during May and June when harvest shifts to the Santa Maria and Salinas areas.

Corn, Sweet: California's sweet corn acreage, at 13,500, is up 17 percent from 2005. The sweet corn crop is in good condition, but cooler weather in the southern desert will delay the start of harvest by about a week. Harvest should begin the middle of April. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 34,500 acres, up 6 percent from a year ago.

Honeydew: California honeydew melon acreage of 3,400 remained the same as a year ago. Growing conditions in the southern desert have been ideal for spring melons. Plastic wrap has been removed from spring melon beds and harvest is expected to begin by late June. No major problems have been reported. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 4,100 acres, unchanged from 2005.

Lettuce, Head: California acreage was reported to be 33,000 acres, 8 percent below a year ago. Producers were ahead of their planting schedules due to favorable growing conditions through much of February. Cooler temperatures arrived the beginning of March, which slowed planting activities. Many of the State's growers reduced spring lettuce acreage due to depressed prices. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 33,600 acres, down 8 percent from 2005.

Tomatoes: California fresh market tomato growers expect to harvest 7,800 acres during the spring quarter. Wet and cool weather in February and early March interrupted planting and crop development. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 28,300 acres, down 1 percent from 2005.

Watermelon: Expected California acreage for the April - June 30 harvesting period remained the same as a year earlier with 3,500 acres. Growing conditions in the southern desert have been ideal for spring melons. No major problems have been reported. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 41,900 acres, up 4 percent from last year.

SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvesting Period	Area Harvested		For Harvest 2006	Percent Change
		2004	2005		
		Acres		Percent	
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	33,500	33,500	33,300	99
CANTALOUPE:					
Arizona	Apr-Jun	12,500	11,400	15,000	132
California	Apr-Jun	11,500	11,500	11,000	96
Georgia	Apr-Jun	4,600	4,300	4,400	102
Texas	Apr-Jun	3,500	2,000	1,800	90
GROUP TOTAL		32,100	29,200	32,200	110
CARROTS:					
California	Apr-Jun	18,500	18,500	19,000	103
Texas	Apr-Jun	800	600	700	117
GROUP TOTAL		19,300	19,100	19,700	103
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	8,500	8,200	8,000	98
CELERY: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	5,300	5,100	5,200	102
CORN, SWEET:					
California	Apr-Jun	10,700	11,500	13,500	117
Florida	Apr-Jul	25,500	21,000	21,000	100
GROUP TOTAL		36,200	32,500	34,500	106
HONEYDEW:					
California	Apr-Jun	3,400	3,400	3,400	100
Texas	Apr-Jun	1,300	700	700	100
GROUP TOTAL		4,700	4,100	4,100	100
LETTUCE, HEAD:					
California	Apr-Jun	43,000	36,000	33,000	92
Other States 2/		850	650	600	92
GROUP TOTAL		43,850	36,650	33,600	92
TOMATOES:					
California	Apr-Jun	8,500	8,000	7,800	98
Florida	Apr-Jul	17,000	17,500	17,500	100
South Carolina	May-Aug	3,500	3,000	3,000	100
GROUP TOTAL		29,000	28,500	28,300	99
WATERMELON					
California	Apr-Jun	3,500	3,500	3,500	100
Florida	Apr-Jul	25,000	26,000	25,400	98
Texas	Apr-Jun	14,500	10,800	13,000	120
GROUP TOTAL		43,000	40,300	41,900	104

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Includes AZ and NJ for 2004-06.

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

California production is forecast at 11.6 million tons, up 23 percent from 2005. Wet, cool weather in February interrupted planting and crop development. No significant pest infestations or diseases have been reported. The California estimate is based on a survey of processors conducted in January. Updated acreage and production will be available by mid-June.

Nationally, contracts with growers cover 310,500 acres in 2006, up 10 percent from last year for comparable States. Contract production, at 12.1 million tons, is 21 percent above 2005 for comparable States.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change <u>2006</u> 2005	Production				Contract Change <u>2006</u> 2005
	2004 Total	2005		2006 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>		2004 Total	2005		2006 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		Total		Contract <u>1/</u>			
	Acres				Percent	Tons				Percent
California	301,000	267,000	263,000	293,000	111	11,672,000	9,600,000	9,440,000	11,600,000	123
Indiana	8,400	8,300	8,300	8,000	96	274,810	266,470	266,470	249,500	94
Michigan <u>2/</u>	3,600	---	---	2,700	---	108,500	---	---	95,500	---
Ohio	6,600	6,200	6,200	6,800	110	177,320	175,280	175,280	192,000	110
Other States <u>3/</u>	1,630	4,440	4,440	---	---	33,780	158,370	158,370	---	---
UNITED STATES	321,230	285,940	281,940	310,500	110	12,266,410	10,200,120	10,040,120	12,137,000	121

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

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

3/ Includes: MD and NJ for 2004; MD, MI, and NJ for 2005. In 2006, MD and NJ were dropped from the national estimating program. 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

Table data for California are included in "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Nationally, pickle packers intend to contract 97,000 acres of cucumbers for pickles, up 6 percent from last year. Planting of the spring crop in Florida began in January. Favorable weather conditions have kept planting on schedule during January. There were a few nights when temperatures were below freezing, but cucumbers escaped significant damage because growers covered the crop with freeze cloths or ran overhead sprinklers. Cool temperatures have slowed some crop development. Due to cool temperatures and wet soil conditions, Indiana farmers have performed little field work.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES BY STATE

State	2004 Total	2005 Area Planted		2006 Contract Intentions <u>1/</u>	Contract Change 2006\2005
		Total	Contract <u>1/</u>		
	Acres				Percent
Florida	6,500	6,500	1,000	6,700	670
Indiana	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,500	88
Maryland <u>2/</u>	4,300	3,000	3,000	---	---
Michigan	35,000	38,500	26,500	28,000	106
North Carolina	17,000	16,200	10,300	9,000	87
Ohio	5,000	3,400	3,200	2,900	91
South Carolina	4,200	4,800	4,700	4,600	98
Texas	7,500	8,000	8,000	9,000	113
Wisconsin	4,600	4,700	4,500	4,700	104
Other States <u>3/</u>	30,000	29,800	29,000	30,600	106
UNITED STATES	115,800	116,600	91,900	97,000	106

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ Data for 2006 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

3/ Includes: AL, CA, DE, GA, MA, MO, and WA for 2004-05; AL, CA, DE, GA, MD, and MO for 2006. 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 7,600 acres of spring onions this year, up 1 percent from 2005. Planting of spring onions began in most areas by early November under good conditions. Above normal temperatures stimulated development and the crop is anticipated to be early in some areas. Other locations reported mild temperatures and good planting conditions. Onion fields show good stands in many areas in response to recent rains.

California's summer storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 29,900 acres, an increase of 3 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. Good growing conditions have been reported. The non-storage onion planted

acreage is estimated at 9,200 acres, up 1 percent from last year. The non-storage onion crop was planted with some delays due to rain. Recent mild temperatures and timely rainfall have helped the crop to progress. Good growing conditions are reported.

Nationally, the total planted onion acreage for all seasons in 2006 is estimated at 171,100 acres, up 1 percent from last year. Spring Onions were planted on 40,200 acres in 2006, up 1 percent from 2005. The summer non-storage onion planted acreage, at 20,500 acres, is up less than 1 percent from last year. The total storage planted acreage is 110,400 acres, up 1 percent from 2005. The total summer onion acreage, at 130,900 acres, is 1 percent above the previous year.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Season and State	2004	2005	2006	2006/2005
	Acres Planted			Percent
Spring 1/				
Arizona	1,600	2,000	1,000	50
California	7,300	7,500	7,600	101
Georgia	16,500	13,500	14,000	104
Texas	14,500	17,000	17,600	104
Spring Total	39,900	40,000	40,200	101
Summer 1/				
<u>Non-Storage</u>				
California	8,800	9,100	9,200	101
Nevada	3,400	2,400	2,400	100
New Mexico	7,300	6,500	6,500	100
Texas	2,900	1,000	1,000	100
Washington 2/	1,500	1,400	1,400	100
Non-Storage Total	23,900	20,400	20,500	100
<u>Storage</u>				
California 3/	30,900	28,900	29,900	103
Colorado	12,500	10,000	10,500	105
Idaho	11,000	9,700	9,900	102
Michigan	3,700	3,800	3,900	103
Minnesota 4/	---	---	---	---
New York	13,500	13,800	13,400	97
Oregon				
Malheur County	12,500	11,400	11,800	104
Other	7,400	7,700	7,900	103
Utah 5/	1,600	---	---	---
Washington	20,000	19,500	19,000	97
Wisconsin	2,000	2,000	2,000	100
Storage Total	115,800	108,820	110,400	101
Summer Total	139,700	129,220	130,900	101
UNITED STATES TOTAL ONIONS	179,600	169,220	171,100	101

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 2005 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

ASPARAGUS

California's area for harvest, at 24,500, decreased 16 percent due to growers removing old fields. Cool and wet weather in early March hindered picking in the Imperial Valley.

Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 45,500 acres, down 16 percent from 2005. Washington's harvested area is forecast at 10,000 acres, 23 percent below last year. Weather this winter was very mild. Snow and rain were plentiful and water supplies should not be a concern for the upcoming season. Acreage continues to drop as available markets shrink.

ASPARAGUS BY STATE 1/

State	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 2006	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2004	2005		2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
	Acres		Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.			
California	34,000	29,000	24,500	35	36	---	1,190	1,044	---
Michigan	13,500	12,000	11,000	20	19	---	270	228	---
Washington	14,000	13,000	10,000	43	41	---	602	532	---
TOTAL	61,500	54,000	45,500	34	33	---	2,062	1,804	---

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.