California Vegetable Review

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

SUMMER FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the summer quarter is estimated to be 300,300 acres, less than 1 percent above last year. Acreage increases for snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, and bell peppers more than offset the acreage decreases for celery, cucumbers, head lettuce, and tomatoes. Area estimated for melon harvest is 108,200 acres, 3 percent below last year. Cantaloupe area is estimated at 38,600 acres, 6 percent below 2005. Honeydew area, at 14,600 acres, is 4 percent above last year. Watermelon area, at 55,000 acres, is 2 percent below a year ago.

Broccoli: California's acreage for summer harvest is estimated at 33,500 acres, 3 percent above last year. Weather conditions were considered favorable for crop development and growth. Planting progressed under good conditions with no major pests or disease problems reported.

Cantaloupe: Summer cantaloupe acreage for harvest nationally is estimated at 38,600 acres, down 6 percent from 2005. California's summer melon crop began slightly behind schedule due to delayed planting during a wet February. Growers are reporting lower yields than usual due to rains during the planting and growing season. Despite adverse growing conditions, producers are expecting high quality melons this summer. In Georgia, growers report the crop is in fair to good condition. South Carolina experienced hot, dry weather this growing season. However, most of the state received significant rainfall for the week ending June 18. In Texas, cantaloupe yields and acreage are lower this season due to problems with leaf miners.

Carrots: U.S. acreage for fresh market harvest is estimated at 19,700 acres, 5 percent above last year. California's crop is progressing well as a result of favorable growing conditions. Baby carrots are still in high demand and there is a growing demand for value added snack pack products. Michigan planting went well. By June 6, the fields looked excellent and growers continued irrigating where needed.

Cauliflower: California's acreage for summer harvest is estimated at 7,600 acres, up 1 percent from 2005. Cool weather in May slowed development, but June brought warmer temperatures stimulating growth. No major pest or disease problems have been reported this season.

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PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

In California, heavy precipitation disrupted planting as growers were hindered from entering their fields due to muddy conditions and flooded fields. This will potentially affect their harvest schedules, in addition to their level of production. Growers are expected to contract 288,000 acres, 10 percent more than in 2005. Contracted production is expected to be 11.4 million tons, 21 percent above a year ago.

Nationally, contracted production is forecast at 11.9 million tons, 19 percent above last year's comparable states. Area contracted, at 304,900 acres, is up 8 percent from 2005 for comparable States.

PROCESSING TOMATOES BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change 2006/2005	Production				Contract Change 2006/2005
	2004 Total	2005		2006 Contract Intentions 1/		2004 Total	2005		2006 Contract Intentions 1/	
		Total	Contract 1/				Total	Contract 1/		
	Acres				Percent	Tons				Percent
California	301,000	267,000	263,000	288,000	110	11,672,000	9,600,000	9,440,000	11,400,000	121
Indiana	8,400	8,300	8,300	8,000	96	274,810	266,470	266,470	245,900	92
Michigan 2/	3,600	---	---	3,300	---	108,500	---	---	112,700	---
Ohio	6,600	6,200	6,200	5,600	90	177,320	175,280	175,280	156,900	90
Other States 3/	1,630	4,440	4,440	---	---	33,780	158,370	158,370	---	---
U.S.	321,230	285,940	281,940	304,900	108	12,266,410	10,200,120	10,040,120	11,915,500	119

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.
2/ Data for 2005 was not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
3/ Data for: 2004 — MD and NJ; 2005 — MD, MI, and NJ; 2006 — MD and NJ dropped from the national estimating program starting this year.

SUMMER FRESH MARKET
VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE
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Celery: California's summer acreage for harvest is estimated at 5,500 acres, 7 percent less than 2005. Heavy spring rains after a very warm February caused some reduction in quality for the spring celery crop. Some spillover into the early summer crop was reported with seeder problems in larger celery sizes in Salinas. However, the overall quality of the summer crop has improved.

Corn, Sweet: Fresh market acreage for harvest nationally is estimated at 109,700 acres, 1 percent above last year. In California, the summer sweet corn crop is in good condition with no pest or disease problems reported. Cool weather and rain subsided the second half of April in Central California letting fields dry so the crop could be planted on schedule. Warm weather in May and June was beneficial to the crop. The Illinois crop had favorable weather resulting in excellent planting conditions. Growing conditions are favorable due to consistent rainfall across the state. Planting of the Michigan crop began on schedule in late April and early May, while harvest began in early July. New Jersey's sweet corn planting was on schedule. In North Carolina, sweet corn is still being planted. Weather conditions began dry, but the state received moisture in June from recent tropical storms. Planting in Wisconsin is almost complete.

Honeydew: Total fresh market acreage for summer harvest is estimated at 14,600 acres, 4 percent more than last year. Harvest of the California crop was behind schedule due to delayed planting during a wet February. No substantial market movement is expected until July 1. Demand will likely exceed supply due to the late start and decreased production. Growers have reported lower yields than usual due to rainfall during the planting and growing seasons. Some melon vines have been treated for cucumber beetles. Despite adverse growing conditions, growers are expecting high quality melons this summer. The melon season in Arizona was delayed due to unseasonable cool overnight weather. Crop progress in western Arizona was delayed approximately 7-10 days, while harvest in central Arizona began around June 10.

Lettuce, Head: U.S. acreage for summer harvest is estimated at 43,800 acres, 7 percent below last year. California's planting conditions have been normal for the summer crop. No significant delays or problems were reported. Most of Colorado's lettuce is grown and irrigated in the San Luis Valley. Irrigation water is expected to be sufficient.

Tomatoes: Fresh market acreage for summer harvest nationally is estimated 38,850 acres, 3 percent less than last year. California's summer crop was planted with no major problems reported. Cool and rainy conditions had a detrimental effect on the development of the spring crop, but dry and warmer weather is expected to stimulate growth. Michigan growers began planting by the beginning of May and crop progress was good. Early planting began to blossom by mid-June. In New Jersey, cold night temperatures during May stalled tomato growth. Hot and humid weather in mid and late June benefitted plant development and harvest will start the first week of July. In New York, planting of the tomato crop is progressing well and no problems have been reported for the crop this season. The planting season of the Pennsylvania tomato crop began in late April. Soil moisture is not an issue since most tomato acreage has drip irrigation. No pest or disease problems have been reported. In Virginia, a dry spring aided in planting efforts, but cooler than normal temperatures were a concern early in the growing season. Tomato acreage in the Commonwealth has increased due to rising prices. Spring weather has been drier than normal in most areas of the state. Although no reported damage has been caused by dry conditions, timely showers are needed for good yields and adequate quality.

Watermelon: Total summer acreage for harvest is estimated at 55,000 acres, 2 percent below 2005. Many Georgia growers report the state has been dry this growing season. The crop is in fair to good condition. California's harvest was behind schedule due to delayed planting during a wet February. No substantial market movement is expected until July 1. Demand will likely exceed supply due to the late start and decreased production. Growers are reporting lower yields than usual due to rains during the planting and growing seasons. Some melon vines were treated for cucumber beetles. Despite adverse growing conditions, growers are expecting high quality melons this season. Mississippi watermelon planting was complete by June 19. With almost ideal growing conditions, a good crop is expected. Although the state has experienced unusually warm, dry weather, the conditions aided in producing an especially sweet watermelon crop. In addition, lack of precipitation in the state helped to keep diseases at bay. South Carolina experienced hot, dry weather early in the season, but most of the state received significant rainfall during the week ending June 18. The Texas crop will be harvested earlier than normal due to warmer spring conditions allowing growers to plant early. However, yields are down in drylands due to dry weather.

SUMMER VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Area Harvested		Area for Harvest	2006 / 2005
		2004	2005	2006	
		Acres			Percent
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	July-Sept.	32,500	32,500	33,500	103
CANTALOUPE:					
California	July-Sept.	33,200	34,900	33,000	95
Georgia	June-Sept.	2,000	2,000	1,800	90
South Carolina	June-Sept.	1,100	1,100	1,000	91
Texas	July-Sept.	4,000	3,200	2,800	88
GROUP TOTAL		40,300	41,200	38,600	94
CARROTS:					
California	July-Sept.	14,700	14,500	16,800	116
Michigan	July-Nov.	4,200	4,200	2,900	69
GROUP TOTAL		18,900	18,700	19,700	105
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	July-Sept.	8,000	7,500	7,600	101
CELERY: 1/					
California	July-Sept.	5,800	5,900	5,500	93
CORN, SWEET:					
California	July-Sept.	9,500	9,600	9,500	99
Illinois	July-Aug.	5,300	6,200	7,000	113
Michigan	July-Oct.	9,500	9,500	8,000	84
New Jersey	July-Oct.	7,500	7,100	7,500	106
New York	July-Oct.	28,000	28,200	26,800	95
North Carolina	June-Aug.	7,500	7,000	8,200	117
Ohio	July-Oct.	15,300	16,100	16,100	100
Pennsylvania	July-Oct.	19,600	17,700	19,800	112
Wisconsin	Aug.-Sept.	6,900	6,900	6,800	99
GROUP TOTAL		109,100	108,300	109,700	101
HONEYDEW:					
Arizona	May-Aug.	2,000	1,900	3,300	174
California	July-Sept.	12,000	12,100	11,300	93
GROUP TOTAL		12,000	14,000	14,600	104
LETTUCE, HEAD:					
California	July-Sept.	44,000	45,000	42,000	93
Colorado	June-Oct.	2,200	1,900	1,800	95
GROUP TOTAL		46,200	46,900	43,800	93
TOMATOES:					
California	July-Sept.	22,500	23,600	22,000	93
Michigan	July-Sept.	2,100	2,200	2,050	93
New Jersey	July-Oct.	3,000	3,000	3,200	107
New York	July-Oct.	2,400	2,000	2,000	100
Pennsylvania	July-Oct.	3,700	3,800	3,800	100
Virginia	July-Sept.	5,500	5,600	5,800	104
GROUP TOTAL		39,200	40,200	38,850	97
WATERMELON:					
California	July-Sept.	10,000	9,500	9,600	101
Georgia	June-Sept.	23,000	25,000	23,000	92
Mississippi	June-Sept.	2,700	2,900	2,900	100
South Carolina	June-Sept.	7,000	7,000	7,000	100
Texas	July-Sept.	13,000	11,500	12,500	109
GROUP TOTAL		55,700	55,900	55,000	98

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

ONION ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

Production of spring onions in 2006 is forecast at 13.6 million cwt., 21 percent more than last year and 13 percent above 2004. The crop is produced on 34,900 harvested acres. The average yield is 390 cwt. per acre, 72 cwt. above 2005. In Texas, spring onion harvest is complete in some areas and peaking in others. Quality and yields are better than last season due to good growing conditions and lower incidence of disease. In California, planting of the spring onions began by early November under good conditions. Above normal temperatures stimulated development in some areas while other locations reported mild temperatures and good planting conditions. Onion fields have shown good stands and growth due to rains early in the year. In Georgia, rainfall during the winter months has been near normal while rainfall during the spring has been well below normal. Due to weather conditions, harvest got underway about a week behind schedule and remained behind throughout the season. Yields are exceptionally good. Disease problems have been at a minimum and the crop condition was rated good to mostly excellent throughout the growing season. Arizona harvest has just begun and is expected to continue until mid to late July.

Production of non-storage onions is forecast at 10.9 million cwt., 3 percent less than last year. Harvested area covers 21,000 acres, 6 percent above 2005. California non-storage summer onion growers noted rain delays during planting. Mild temperatures and timely rainfall after planting helped the crop to progress well. Some mildew problems were reported due to wet conditions. Nevada growers report the onion fields look very good. Heavy winter snowfall provided for more than adequate irrigation supplies. New Mexico growers report the onion crop to be in fair to excellent condition. Harvest is well underway and is 60 percent complete. In Texas, growers will begin harvesting in early July in the Southern High Plains and Edwards Plateau. Harvest is early due to plenty of hot weather, irrigation, and cool nights. Quality and yields are expected to be good due to good growing conditions and lower incidence of viral disease.

Growers expect to harvest 110,650 acres of storage onions this year, 4 percent above last year for comparable States. In California, rain delayed planting of the summer onion crop. After planting was complete, mild temperatures and timely rainfall helped the crop to progress well. Some mildew problems were reported due to wet conditions. Colorado's planting conditions were favorable. Restrictions on irrigation water are in effect for some growing areas. In Idaho, adequate prices influenced an increase of onion acres. Michigan's onion crop is developing well and soil moisture has been good. In New York, onion fields are doing very well despite excessive rain in the eastern part of the State. In Malheur County Oregon, wet weather during the spring hindered planting. Many growers experienced a late planting season. Growing conditions, after planting was completed, have been reported to be fair to good. In the "Other Area" of Oregon, planting was delayed due to very wet conditions during spring. Rain, hail, and high winds during May reduced crop potential in North Central Oregon. In Washington, inclement weather and disease contributed to reduced yields.

The final production tally of 2005 storage onions is 50.0 million cwt., down 15 percent from 2004. Harvested acreage, at 106,020 acres, is down 4 percent from 2004. The average yield of 472 cwt. per acre is 63 cwt. below 2004. The 2005 storage crop is valued at $490 million, an increase of 35 percent from 2004. Average price per cwt. increased from $7.28 in 2004 to $10.90 in 2005. With spring and non-storage summer onions added in, total value of the 2005 harvested onions is $905 million, up 16 percent from 2004.

ONION ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION 1/

Season and State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
SPRING 2/								
Arizona	2,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	460	490	920	490
California	7,500	8,100	7,300	7,900	475	450	3,468	3,555
Georgia	13,500	14,000	10,500	11,000	210	325	2,205	3,575
Texas	17,000	17,600	15,500	15,000	300	400	4,650	6,000
SPRING TOTAL	40,000	40,700	35,300	34,900	318	390	11,243	13,620
SUMMER								
Non-Storage 2/								
California	9,100	10,200	8,700	9,800	550	460	4,785	4,508
Nevada	2,400	2,300	2,400	2,300	880	800	2,112	1,840
New Mexico	6,500	6,500	6,400	6,500	530	550	3,392	3,575
Texas	1,000	1,000	900	900	370	400	333	360
Washington 3/	1,400	1,500	1,400	1,500	370	380	518	570
NON-STORAGE TOTAL	20,400	21,500	19,800	21,000	563	517	11,140	10,853
Storage 4/								
California 5/	28,900	33,000	27,800	32,000	425	---	11,815	---
Colorado	10,000	10,000	9,500	9,500	440	---	4,180	---
Idaho	9,700	10,000	9,500	9,800	640	---	6,080	---
Michigan	3,000	2,700	2,900	2,600	260	---	754	---
New York	13,800	14,300	13,600	13,900	280	---	3,808	---
Oregon- Malheur	11,700	12,000	11,500	12,000	640	---	7,360	---
- Other	7,800	7,400	7,800	7,400	360	---	2,808	---
Washington	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500	600	---	11,700	---
Wisconsin	2,000	2,100	2,000	2,000	330	---	660	---
Other States 6/	2,020	2,150	1,920	1,950	453	---	869	---
STORAGE TOTAL	108,420	113,150	106,020	110,650	472	---	50,034	---
SUMMER TOTAL	128,820	134,650	125,820	131,650	486	---	61,174	---
U.S. TOTAL -- ALL ONIONS	168,820	175,350	161,120	166,550	449	---	72,417	---

1/ Estimates for 2005 revised.
2/ Primarily fresh market.
3/ Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.
4/ Yield and production for 2006 will be published October 4, 2006.
5/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.
6/ Data for 2005 and 2006 — OH and UT.