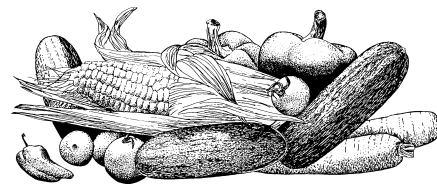


California Vegetable Review



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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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| Contracted Processing Tomato Production | 1 |
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U.S. contracted tomato production is forecast at 10.5 million tons, up 5 percent from last year for comparable States. Based on comparable States between 2005 and 2006, a 7 percent increase in contracted harvested acreage was accompanied by a yield decrease of 0.55 tons per acre. In Indiana, the tomato crop is reported to be in good condition despite hail and cool, wet conditions at the start of the season. The poor weather conditions required some processors to replant, which was not complete until mid-June. In Ohio, planting of the tomato crop was 98 percent complete by June 18. Harvest was 11 percent complete by August 20. Weather conditions have been extremely hot during the season. The Statewide rainfall between April 1 and August 20 was 1.28 inches above normal. Michigan's tomatoes progressed well through the summer. Harvest began on time although sporadic wet conditions and periods of high temperatures were affecting harvest progress.

CONTRACTED PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

The 2006 California processing tomato production is forecast at 10.0 million tons, up 6 percent from 2005. The acreage, at 279 thousand acres, increased 7 percent from a year earlier. The yield is forecast to be 35.84 tons per acre, 1 percent below last year's 36.36 tons per acre. Heavy precipitation delayed planting. Growers were hindered from entering their fields due to muddy conditions and flooded fields. The State's heat wave in mid to late July, in which temperatures ranged from 112-115 degrees, increased disease pressure for early season processing tomatoes. Bacterial spot affected many acres.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE AND U.S.

| State | Acreage Harvested | | | | Yield Per Acre | | | Production | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| | 2004 Total | 2005 | | Indicated 2006 Contract 1/ | 2004 Total | 2005 Total | Indicated 2006 Contract 1/ | 2004 Total | 2005 | | Indicated 2006 Contract 1/ |
| | | Total | Contract 1/ | | | | | | Total | Contract 1/ | |
| Acres | | | | Tons | | | | | | | |
| California | 281,000 | 264,000 | 260,000 | 279,000 | 41.54 | 36.36 | 35.84 | 11,672,000 | 9,600,000 | 9,440,000 | 10,000,000 |
| Indiana 2/ | 8,300 | 7,900 | 7,900 | 8,000 | 33.11 | 33.73 | 32.25 | 274,810 | 266,470 | 266,470 | 258,000 |
| Michigan | 3,500 | --- | --- | 3,200 | 31.00 | --- | 35.00 | 108,500 | --- | --- | 112,000 |
| Ohio | 6,200 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 5,600 | 28.60 | 30.22 | 28.05 | 177,320 | 175,280 | 175,280 | 157,080 |
| Other States 3/ 4/ | 1,620 | 4,340 | 4,340 | --- | 20.85 | 36.49 | --- | 33,780 | 158,370 | 158,370 | --- |
| U.S. 4/ | 300,620 | 282,040 | 278,040 | 295,800 | 40.80 | 36.17 | 35.59 | 12,266,410 | 10,200,120 | 10,040,120 | 10,527,080 |

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

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

3/ 2004 - MD and NJ; 2005 - MD, MI, and NJ

4/ MD and NJ dropped from the national estimating program starting in 2006.

ASPARAGUS PRODUCTION

The California 2006 asparagus production is estimated at 765 thousand cwt., down 27 percent from 2005. The harvested acreage was reduced by 22 percent from the 2005 season to the 2006 season. This reduced acreage, coupled with drenching rains and unseasonably cool temperatures during the spring, which caused disease problems, combined to reduce production. The yield is estimated at 34 cwt., 6 percent below last year.

Nationally, production of the 2006 asparagus crop is forecast at 1.45 million cwt., down 20 percent from the revised 2005 production. Harvested acreage, at 44.2 thousand, is down 18 percent from last year.

Fresh production of 1.20 million cwt., decreased 15 percent from the revised 2005 production. Processed production, at 12.4 thousand tons, is down 36 percent from 2005. Total value of the crop, at \$135 million, is down 15 percent from 2005. In Michigan, the asparagus crop emerged from the winter in good condition. Harvest began on a limited basis in late April and picked up rapidly during the first part of May. However, sporadic frosts caused harvest delays and crop damage in some areas of the State. This resulted in some of the crop being diverted from fresh market to processing. Cold temperatures and rain during the middle of May slowed harvest. More reasonable temperatures during the latter part of May allowed the harvest to proceed at a more rapid pace. Harvest continued later into June helping to increase yields. Some disease and insect pressure was reported later in the season.

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 | |
|----------------|--------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|------|------------|-------|----------------|------|-------------|---------|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 |
| | Acres | | | | Cwt. | | 1,000 Cwt. | | Dollars | | \$1,000 | |
| California | 30,000 | 23,000 | 29,000 | 22,500 | 36 | 34 | 1,044 | 765 | 114 | 128 | 119,016 | 97,920 |
| Michigan 2/ | 12,700 | 12,200 | 12,200 | 11,700 | 19 | 22 | 232 | 257 | 52 | 58 | 12,006 | 14,866 |
| Washington | 14,000 | 11,000 | 13,000 | 10,000 | 41 | 43 | 532 | 430 | 52 | 52 | 27,580 | 22,376 |
| U.S. 2/ | 56,700 | 46,200 | 54,200 | 44,200 | 33 | 33 | 1,808 | 1,452 | 88 | 93 | 158,602 | 135,162 |

1/ Includes Fresh Market and Processing.

2/ Revised 2005 data.

SPRING ONION PRODUCTION

California's 2006 spring onion production is estimated at 3.47 million cwt., down fractionally from the previous year. The yield calculates to 450 cwt. per acre, down 5 percent from last year. The planting of spring onions in California began in most areas by early November under good conditions. Above normal temperatures stimulated crop development in some areas. Wet weather later in the spring adversely affected yields. There were some reports of mildew problems and reductions in harvested acreage.

The U.S. end-of-season spring onion production estimate, at 13.3 million cwt., is up 19 percent from last year. Acres harvested, at 34.5 thousand, are down 2 percent from a year ago, while the yield, at 386 cwt. per acre, is up 68 cwt. per acre from 2005. The value of the spring crop is estimated at \$241 million, 6 percent less than last year. In Texas, irrigated onions had high yields and good quality with low incidences of disease this season. In Georgia, rainfall during the winter months had been normal to slightly below normal, while rainfall during spring was well below normal. Temperatures were near normal during the winter and early spring. Starting around mid-May, temperatures were well above normal with little or no rain. Due to these weather conditions, harvest got under way about a week earlier than normal. Yields are a record high for the State. Disease problems have been at a minimum and the crop was rated good to mostly excellent throughout the growing season. However, many growers did not harvest all of their crop due to depressed prices.

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

| State | Area Planted | | Area Harvested | | Yield Per Acre | | Production | | Value Per Cwt. | | Total Value | |
|------------|--------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|------|------------|--------|----------------|-------|-------------|---------|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 |
| | Acres | | | | Cwt. | | 1,000 Cwt. | | Dollars | | \$1,000 | |
| Arizona | 2,000 | 1,000 | 2,000 | 1,000 | 460 | 490 | 920 | 490 | 10.20 | 9.00 | 9,384 | 4,410 |
| California | 7,500 | 8,000 | 7,300 | 7,700 | 475 | 450 | 3,468 | 3,465 | 12.40 | 9.30 | 43,003 | 32,225 |
| Georgia | 13,500 | 14,000 | 10,500 | 10,500 | 210 | 310 | 2,205 | 3,255 | 29.70 | 25.20 | 65,489 | 82,026 |
| Texas | 17,000 | 17,700 | 15,500 | 15,300 | 300 | 400 | 4,650 | 6,120 | 29.70 | 20.00 | 138,105 | 122,400 |
| U.S. | 40,000 | 40,700 | 35,300 | 34,500 | 318 | 386 | 11,243 | 13,330 | 22.80 | 18.10 | 255,981 | 241,061 |

1/ Primarily fresh.