

United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service



California Vegetable Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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SUMMER FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the summer quarter is forecast to be 296,600 acres, down 1 percent from last year. Acreage declines for snap beans, broccoli, celery, head lettuce, and bell peppers more than offset acreage increases in cabbage, carrots, sweet corn, cucumbers, and tomatoes. Cauliflower acreage remains unchanged. Area forecast for melon harvest is 123,800 acres, up 5 percent from last year. Cantaloupe area is forecast at 38,300 acres, 2 percent below 2006. Honeydew area, at 13,900 acres, is down 7 percent from last year. Watermelon area, at 71,600 acres, is 13 percent above a year ago.

Broccoli: California's area for summer harvest is forecast at 33,000 acres, down 3 percent from last year. Growing conditions in the coastal districts have been ideal for the broccoli crop. Warm temperatures have prevailed throughout the State. The crop is expected to be stable despite water supply concerns.

Cantaloupe: U.S. summer cantaloupe area for harvest is forecast at 38,300 acres, down 2 percent from 2006. In California, harvest of the summer melon crop is expected to be behind schedule due to delayed plantings. No major insect or disease problems have been reported. In Georgia, growers report the crop is in fair to good condition. South Carolina experienced a freeze during the Easter weekend causing some producers to replant the melon crop. After the freeze, dry conditions prevailed throughout the state. However, June began with Tropical Depression Barry bringing much needed rainfall to most of the state.

Carrots: Nationally, area for fresh market harvest is forecast at 21,800 acres, up 18 percent from last year. In California, carrots are in high demand. Recent warmer temperatures are expected to help crop growth and yields. Growers in the Bakersfield area are beginning to see yield improvements. Planting began in Michigan at the end of April and was complete by mid-May. Growers were applying herbicides in the beginning of June and there were some reports of damping off problems in some fields. The crop is in good condition with minor scattered disease and pest problems.

Cauliflower: California's area for summer harvest is forecast at 10,000 acres, unchanged from 2006. Warm temperatures have sped up growth, resulting in gaps in harvesting. However, the cauliflower market is strong and quality of the crop is good with white to off-white color.

(Continued on Page 2.)

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

In California, early warm spring weather accelerated planting and transplanting. Dry conditions boosted demand for irrigation water. Growers continued to monitor infestations of brown apple moths and yellow leaf curl virus. Good growth and development were reported. Growers are expected to contract 293,000 acres, 5 percent more than in 2006. Contracted production is expected to be 11.8 million tons, 18 percent above a year ago.

Nationally, contracted production is forecast at 12.3 million tons, up 17 percent from last year's comparable states. Area contracted, at 310,900 acres, is up 4 percent from 2006 for comparable states.

PROCESSING TOMATOES BY STATE

	Area Planted				Contract		Contract			
State	2005 Total	2006		2007	Change <u>2007</u>	2005	2006		2007	Change
		Total	Contract 1/		2006	Total	Total	Contract 1/	Contract Intentions <u>1</u> /	<u>2007</u> 2006
	Acres				Percent	Tons				Percent
California	267,000	283,000	280,000	293,000	105	9,600,000	10,104,000	10,024,000	11,800,000	118
Indiana	8,300	8,000	8,000	8,400	105	266,470	225,500	225,500	258,440	115
Michigan 2/		3,300	3,300	3,400	103		115,500	115,500	118,000	102
Ohio	6,200	6,400	6,390	6,100	95	175,280	166,820	166,665	170,700	102
Other States 3/	4,340					151,370				
U.S.	285,840	300,700	297,690	310,900	104	10,193,120	10,611,820	10,531,665	12,347,140	117

- 1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.
- Data for 2005 was not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
- 3/ Data for: 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

(Continued from page 1)

Celery: California's summer area for harvest is forecast at 5,400 acres, down 2 percent from 2006. The summer celery crop is in good condition with no pest or disease problems reported. Yields are reported to be average to above average in Salinas and Santa Maria due to excellent growing and harvesting conditions.

Corn, Sweet: Nationally, fresh market area for harvest is forecast at 106,700 acres, up slightly from last year. Planting in New York progressed well and the crop is reported to be good this season despite the lack of rainfall. In Pennsylvania, cool spring temperatures and a severe frost in mid-May disrupted planting and delayed germination. Some of the fresh market acres planted in mid-April were nipped by the frost. In California, the sweet corn crop is in excellent condition. However, there is concern about surface irrigation water supplies, particularly in central California. Some growers have put in wells to minimize the impact of surface water curtailments. In Illinois, favorable weather provided excellent planting conditions. Late May and early June were very dry, but timely rains later in June provided much needed moisture during ear development. Ear worm and corn borer flights have been reported, prompting farmers to apply insecticides in some areas of the State. Planting of the Michigan crop began on schedule in late April. Temperatures were warmer than normal, however, growing conditions were reported to be good going into June. Stewert's bacterial wilt and European corn borers were noted in some fields in mid-June. New Jersey's sweet corn planting was delayed due to cold and wet spring conditions. However, growing conditions were favorable in May and June. The crop is reported to be in good to excellent condition. In North Carolina, planting was hindered by dry conditions with some acreage being replanted up to three times.

Honeydew: U.S. fresh market area for summer harvest is forecast at 13,900 acres, down 7 percent from last year. Harvest of the California crop is behind schedule due to delayed plantings. No major insect or disease problems have been reported. Harvest in Arizona began around May 12. Cucurbit Yellow stunting disorder virus was reported in melon fields across the state. The growing season is expected to end by early July.

Lettuce, Head: For the nation, area for summer harvest is forecast at 39,000 acres, down 13 percent from last year. Planted acreage in California is down due to strong competition from regional growing areas. Lettuce fields are being weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated to control insects and mildew. In Colorado, wind and freeze damage in the San Luis Valley are expected to reduce production and yield this season. Irrigation water continues to be sufficient.

Tomatoes: U.S. fresh market area for summer harvest is forecast at $38,\!600$ acres, up 1 percent from last year. California's summer crop was planted with no major problems reported. Plentiful supplies continue for the round and Roma tomatoes in southern California. Michigan growers began planting by the beginning of May in low tunnels. Growth in and out of the tunnels was progressing well by the end of May. Early plantings began to bloom and transplanting of tomatoes continued until mid-June. In New Jersey, cold overnight temperatures during May stalled tomato growth. Hot and humid weather in late June benefitted plant development. Harvest will start the second week of July. No problems have been reported for the crop this season. In Pennsylvania, moisture and a severe late frost in mid-May delayed planting by one to two weeks. Some growers in the southern areas of Pennsylvania were able to start planting by the middle of April. However, most of the tomato planting began in late May and early June. Drought conditions abound throughout much of the state with the Harrisburg area reporting at 4.4 inches below normal for precipitation. In Virginia, a dry and mild spring was favorable for the tomato crop. Tomato acres in the Commonwealth have declined due to high input cost.

Watermelon: Nationally, summer area for harvest is forecast at 71,600 acres, up 13 percent from 2006. The Georgia crop is in fair to good condition despite dry conditions. California's harvest was behind schedule due to delayed plantings. No major insect or disease problems have been reported. In Mississippi, irrigated and non-irrigated melons have developed well despite the unusually warm dry weather. The watermelon crop is expected to be sweeter than normal due to clear weather and lack of rain. South Carolina experienced a freeze during the Easter weekend causing some producers to replant the melon crop. After the freeze, drought like conditions affected crop progress and development throughout the state. However, June began with Tropical Depression Barry bringing much needed rainfall across most of the state. Harvest of the Texas crop was on schedule in the Rio Grande Valley. Rainfall has been sufficient and the melon crop looks good.

SUMMER VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE

Crop and State		Usual	Area Ha	rvested	Area for Harvest	<u>2007</u> 2006	
BROCCOLI: 1/ California	Crop and State		2005	2006			
California		Period		Acres			
California Georgia June-Sept. 2,000 2,200 1,800 82 1,000 1,100 1,0	California	July-Sept.	33,000	34,000	33,000	97	
South Carolina June-Oct. 1,100 1,100 1,100 100 100 3,200 2,200 85 39,500 39,100 38,300 98 39,500 39,100 38,300 98 39,500 39,100 38,300 98 39,500 39,100 38,300 98 39,500 39,100 38,300 98 39,500 39,100 38,300 39,500 39,100 38,300 39,500 39,100 30,500 112 30,500 2,800 112 30,500 30,500 2,800 112 30,500	California						
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California		July-Sept.	9,000	10,000	10,000	100	
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^{1/} Includes fresh market and processing.

ONION ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

Production of U.S. spring onions in 2007 is forecast at 11.2 million cwt., up slightly from last year. The crop is produced on 31,500 harvested acres. The average yield is 355 cwt. per acre, 33 cwt. above 2006. In west Texas, spring onion transplants have begun to bulb. The 2006 drought adversely affected spring planting. Heavy rains in late May and early June halted onion harvest in some areas and resulted in some production losses. In California, planting of spring onions began by early November under favorable conditions. Freezing temperatures caused some localized damage, while other growing regions reported good to exceptional production. There were few reports of mildew problems. In Georgia, rainfall during the winter months was near normal, while rainfall during the spring was well below normal. Georgia is currently under severe drought conditions. Disease problems for the onion crop have been minimal. Irrigation use was active this season. The crop is in good condition and yields are higher than anticipated. Harvest was virtually complete by the end of May, which is one to two weeks ahead of normal.

Nationally, production of non-storage onions is forecast at 10.9 million cwt., up 3 percent from last year. Harvested area covers 19,900 acres, unchanged from 2006. California non-storage summer onion growers noted rain delays during planting. Early mild temperatures and timely rainfall after planting helped the crop to progress well. No major disease problems were reported. Cool temperatures slowed development, which delayed harvest up to several weeks in the San Joaquin region. Some growers reported heavy seeders. In Nevada, the onion crop is reported to be in very good condition. Well irrigation is predominate in the onion fields, therefore, diminished surface water supplies had little impact. In New Mexico, harvest was well underway. Quality of the crop is reported to be excellent.

Across the country, growers expect to harvest 108,280 acres of storage onions this year, down 2 percent from last year for comparable states. In California, storage summer onion growers noted rain delays during planting. Early mild temperatures and timely rainfall after planting helped the crop to progress well. No major disease problems were reported. Cool temperatures slowed development delaying harvest up to several weeks in the San Joaquin region. Colorado's growing areas experienced hot and dry conditions throughout much of the growing season. Dry weather, hail, and thrip damage had a large impact on production. In Idaho, planting was delayed due to a wet spring followed by an extremely hot summer. Weather conditions, disease, and pests contributed to reduced yields. In Michigan, onion planting is nearly complete showing good growth toward the middle of May. Growth continued to show progress throughout the season, but slowed in mid-June due to cooler temperatures. In New York, a cool and wet spring in Orange County flooded onion fields in May resulting in some acreage loss. Later, hot dry weather across New York caused onion seedlings to shrivel. Some replanting has been necessary. In Malheur County Oregon, wet weather conditions during spring hindered planting. Hot summer temperatures adversely affected crop development. Reports of thrip problems resulted from the summer heat. In the other areas of Oregon, planting was delayed due to very wet conditions during spring. In Washington, the onion crop is reported to be in good condition.

The final tally of the U.S. 2006 storage onion production is 51.4 million cwt., up 2 percent from 2005. Harvested acreage, at 110,280 acres, is up 1 percent from 2005. The average yield of 466 cwt. per acre is 2 cwt. above 2005. The 2006 storage crop is valued at \$598 million, an increase of 41 percent from 2005. Average price per cwt. increased from \$9.34 in 2005 to \$13.10 in 2006. With spring and non-storage summer onions added in, total value of the 2006 harvested onions is \$962 million, up 13 percent from 2005.

ONION ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION 1/

	Area Planted Area Harveste		rvested	Yield Per Acre		Production		
Season and State	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
SPRING 2/								
Arizona	1,000	1,200	1,000	1,200	490	450	490	540
California	8,100	7,700	7,900	7,500	415	420	3,279	3,150
Georgia	14,000	12,500	10,500	12,000	310	300	3,255	3,600
Texas	17,700	12,500	15,200	10,800	270	360	4,104	3,888
SPRING TOTAL	40,800	33,900	34,600	31,500	322	355	11,128	11,178
SUMMER								
Non-Storage 2/								
California	9,800	8,900	9,400	8,500	560	530	5,264	4,505
Nevada	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	720	800	1,872	2,080
New Mexico	6,000	6,500	5,500	6,300	480	525	2,640	3,308
Texas	1,000	1,100	900	1,000	240	400	216	400
Washington <u>3</u> /	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	380	380	570	570
NON-STŎRAĞE TOTAL	20,900	20,600	19,900	19,900	531	546	10,562	10,863
Storage 4/								
California 5/	33.100	31.600	31,800	30,200	425		13,515	
Colorado	10.000	10,000	9,500	9,500	400		3,800	
Idaho	9,700	9,400	9,400	9,200	540		5,076	
Michigan	2,700	2,600	2,600	2,500	250		650	
New York	14,100	12,400	12,800	11,700	330		4,224	
Oregon- Malheur	11,700	12,000	11,700	11,900	520		6,084	
- Other	8,400	8,500	8,400	8,500	550		4,620	
Washington	20,000	21,000	20,000	21,000	600		12,000	
Wisconsin	1,900	1,800	1,900	1,700	300		570	
Other States 6/	2,280	2,180	2,180	2,080	378		825	
STORAGE TOTAL	113,880	111,480	110,280	108,280	466		51,364	
SUMMER TOTAL	134,780	132,080	130,180	128,180	476		61,926	
U.S. TOTAL ALL ONIONS	175,580	165,980	164,780	159,680	443		73,054	

- 1/ Estimates for 2006 revised.
- 2/ Primarily fresh market.
- 3/ Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.
- 4/ Yield and production for 2007 will be published October 4, 2007.
- / Primarily dehydrated and other processing.
- 6/ Data for 2006 and 2007 OH and UT.