



# California Vegetable Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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setting. Warm weather accelerated crop progress in early spring and harvest began earlier than usual in many areas. Crop conditions have generally been excellent. Vigorous plant growth was noted during the first weeks of summer and exceptionally high yields have been reported in most growing regions.

### CONTRACTED PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

The 2007 California processing tomato contract production is forecast at 12.0 million tons, up 20 percent from 2006. The acreage, at 293,000 acres, increased 5 percent from a year earlier. The yield is forecast to be 40.96 tons per acre, 14 percent above last year's 35.83 tons per acre. This has been an outstanding year for processing tomato growers in California. Weather patterns have been conducive for successful fruit

Nationally, contracted tomato production is forecast at 12.6 million tons, up 19 percent from last year. An increase of 5 percent in contracted harvested area is accompanied by a yield increase of 4.94 tons per acre. In Ohio, harvest was 10 percent complete by August 19. Michigan's tomatoes progressed well through the summer. Indiana's processing tomatoes were in good condition despite hot and dry weather throughout the State. Many processors had to irrigate to make up for the lack of rainfall.

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

State	Acreage Harvested				Yield Per Acre			Production			
	2005 Total	2006		Indicated 2007 Contract 1/	2005 Total	2006 Total	Indicated 2007 Contract 1/	2005 Total	2006		Indicated 2007 Contract 1/
		Total	Contract 1/						Total	Contract 1/	
California	264,000	282,000	279,000	293,000	36.36	35.83	40.96	9,600,000	10,104,000	10,024,000	12,000,000
Indiana	7,900	7,800	7,800	8,400	33.73	28.91	33.68	266,470	225,500	225,500	282,910
Michigan 2/	---	3,300	3,300	3,300	---	35.00	33.00	---	115,500	115,500	108,900
Ohio	5,800	6,300	6,290	6,100	30.22	26.48	26.00	175,280	166,820	166,665	158,600
Other States 3/ 4/	4,240	---	---	---	35.70	---	---	151,370	---	---	---
U.S. 4/	281,940	299,400	296,390	310,800	36.15	35.44	40.38	10,193,120	10,611,820	10,531,665	12,550,410

- 1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.
- 2/ Data for 2005 was not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
- 3/ Includes MD, MI, and NJ
- 4/ MD and NJ dropped from the national estimating program starting in 2006.

### ASPARAGUS PRODUCTION

The California 2007 asparagus production is estimated at 598 thousand cwt., negligibly down from 2006. The harvested acreage was reduced by 4 percent from the 2006 season to the 2007 season. A freeze in mid-January had minimal impact on the asparagus crop. Acreage continues to decline due to competition from imports. The yield is estimated at 26 cwt., 4 percent above last year.

Nationally, production of the 2007 asparagus crop is forecast at 1.13 million cwt., down 8 percent from the 2006 production. Harvested acreage, at 41,200, is down 8 percent from last year. Fresh production

of 936 thousand cwt., decreased 6 percent from the revised 2006 production. Processed production, at 9,900 tons, is down 18 percent from 2006. Total value of the crop, at \$112.8 million, is up 8 percent from 2006. In Michigan, the asparagus crop emerged in the west central area in late April. The crop did not exhibit severe damage from the winter weather conditions. Harvest began on a limited basis at the beginning of May and continued on schedule for the remainder of the month. Despite some reports of purple spots, new plantings proceeded on schedule. Yields were average, but the quality of the crop was excellent. Harvest was near completion in older stands toward the end of May. In June, an extended period of warm weather matured the crop quickly. Common asparagus beetles affected some fields in west central Michigan.

### 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	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		Dollars		\$1,000	
California	25,000	24,000	24,000	23,000	25	26	600	598	118.00	134.00	70,800	80,132
Michigan	12,200	11,700	11,700	11,200	22	21	257	235	57.80	65.60	14,866	15,417
Washington	9,000	8,000	9,000	7,000	42	43	378	301	50.00	57.20	18,911	17,228
U.S.	46,200	43,700	44,700	41,200	28	28	1,235	1,134	84.70	99.50	104,577	112,777

- 1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

**SPRING ONION PRODUCTION**

California's 2007 spring onion production is estimated at 3.21 million cwt., down 2 percent from the previous year. The yield calculates to 440 cwt. per acre, up 6 percent from last year. 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. Freezing temperatures in late January adversely affected yields in some areas. Wet weather later in the spring also 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 10.9 million cwt., is down 2 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 31,300 acres, is down 10 percent from a year ago, while the yield, at 348 cwt. per acre, is up 26 cwt. per acre from 2006. The value of the spring crop is estimated at \$376 million, 89 percent more than last year. In Texas, planting and harvesting of the spring onion crop was delayed due to excessive soil moisture. In Georgia, rainfall during the winter months was normal to slightly below normal, while rainfall during spring was well below normal. Temperatures were above normal during both winter and spring. The crop was rated in good to excellent condition throughout the growing season. Harvest got underway about a week earlier than normal. Yields are reported to be the second highest on record. Despite heat and labor shortages, growers were actively irrigating the spring onion crop. Arizona's spring onion crop was on schedule with favorable weather during the growing season.

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

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		Dollars		\$1,000	
Arizona	1,000	1,200	1,000	1,200	490	450	490	540	9.00	12.00	4,410	6,480
California	8,100	7,500	7,900	7,300	415	440	3,279	3,212	9.30	11.00	30,495	35,332
Georgia	14,000	12,500	10,500	12,000	310	270	3,255	3,240	25.20	35.90	82,026	116,316
Texas	17,700	12,500	15,200	10,800	270	360	4,104	3,888	20.00	56.00	82,080	217,728
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>40,800</b>	<b>33,700</b>	<b>34,600</b>	<b>31,300</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>11,128</b>	<b>10,880</b>	<b>17.90</b>	<b>34.50</b>	<b>199,011</b>	<b>375,856</b>

1/ Primarily fresh.