

## Vegetables, Melons, and Potatoes

Arizona has a unique place in the agricultural industry in that it is capable of producing an ever increasing variety of vegetables nearly year round. With mild winters in the lower elevations and the cooler summer temperatures in the higher elevations, Arizona produces an impressive variety of vegetables and melons throughout the year. Nationally, Arizona ranked third in the production of fresh market vegetables and second to only California in the production of head lettuce, leaf and romaine lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, cantaloupes and honeydews.

During 2000, 153,000 harvested acres were devoted to vegetables (including potatoes) and melon crops in Arizona; an increase of 6 percent from a year earlier. Western head lettuce was the leader in acreage with 50,300 acres harvested, an increase of 5,300 acres from 1999. Cantaloupe acreage totaled 14,600, down 5,100 acres from the previous year and the second ranking crop in terms of acreage harvested. Watermelons had the same harvested acreage as last year.

Crops showing increases in acreage from a year earlier include romaine lettuce, cauliflower and dry onions. Major vegetable crops with acreage below the previous year include leaf lettuce, other head lettuce, broccoli, carrots, honeydews and potatoes.

The total value of all vegetables produced in Arizona during 2000 totaled over \$715 million, an increase of 12 percent from the previous year. With the exception of broccoli, cauliflower, cantaloupe and honeydew, the primary vegetables and melons reflected decreases in receipts. Half of the major vegetables' average prices received were above and half were below the average prices in 1999.

“Miscellaneous” and “other” vegetables were harvested from 21,000 acres, with a value of \$95 million, which represents 13 percent of the total value of all vegetables produced in Arizona. The most significant vegetables among these, in terms of acres harvested, were cabbage and chile peppers.

**Arizona Vegetable & Melon Harvested Acres  
1999-00 Season**

