

## Vegetables, Melons, and Potatoes

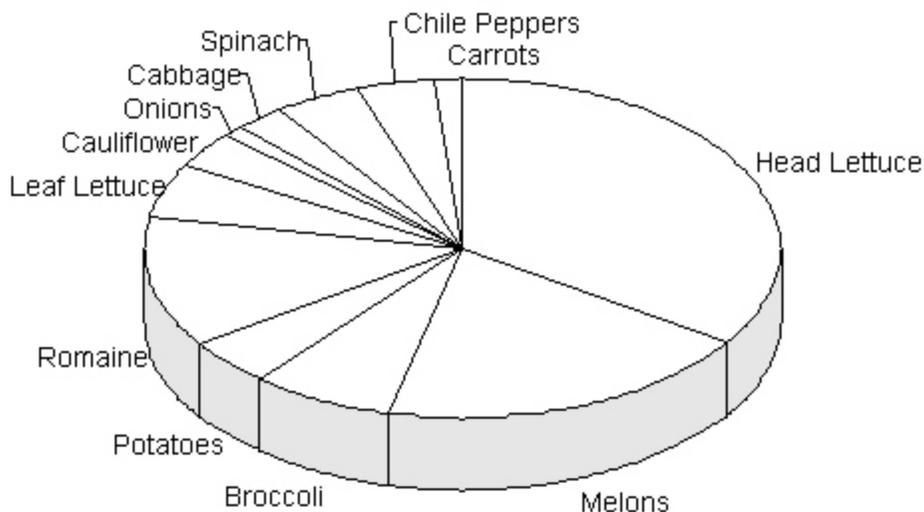
Arizona has a unique place in the agricultural industry in that it is capable of producing an ever increasing variety of vegetables nearly year round. With mild winters in the lower elevations and the cooler summer temperatures in the higher elevations, the State produces an impressive variety of vegetables 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, spinach, cantaloupes, and honeydews.

During 2004, over 137,000 harvested acres were devoted to the principal vegetables (including potatoes) and melon crops in Arizona, a decrease of 1 percent from a year earlier. Western head lettuce was the leader in acreage with 46,500 acres harvested, a decrease of 500 acres from 2003. Cantaloupe

acreage totaled 17,700, up 16 percent from the previous year and the second ranking crop in terms of acreage harvested. Other crops showing increases in acreage from a year earlier include cauliflower, chile peppers, dry onions, romaine lettuce, watermelon, and spinach. Major vegetable crops with acreage below the previous year include broccoli, potatoes, Western head lettuce, leaf lettuce, and honeydew.

The value of all principal vegetables, potatoes, and melons produced in Arizona during 2004 totaled \$876 million, an increase of 35 percent from the previous year. Increases in value for spinach, broccoli, cabbage, and all lettuces led to the relatively large increases in value of vegetables, potatoes, and melons.

**Vegetable & Melon Harvested Acres  
2003-04**



137,100 Total Acres