

## Vegetables, Melons, and Potatoes

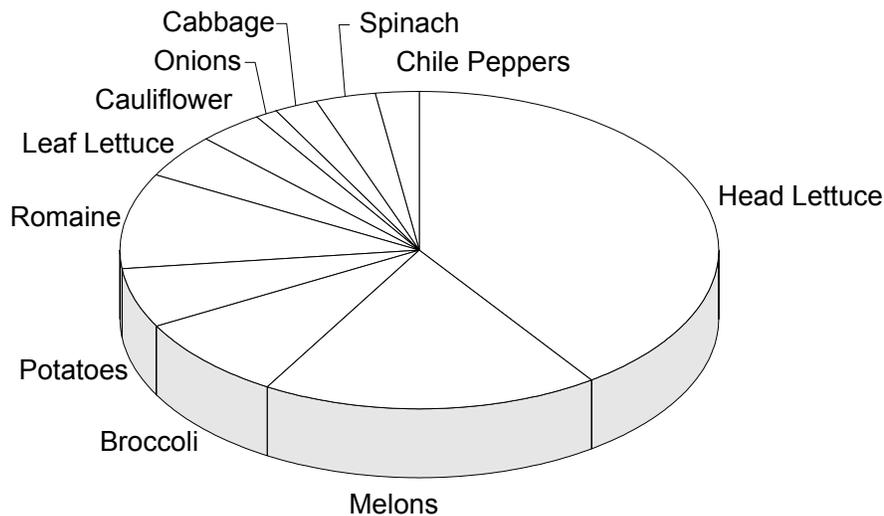
Arizona has a unique place in the agricultural industry in that it is capable of producing an ever increasing variety of vegetables nearly year round. With mild winters in the lower elevations and the cooler summer temperatures in the higher elevations, the State produces an impressive variety of vegetables 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 2002, 128,400 harvested acres were devoted to the principal vegetables (including potatoes) and melon crops in Arizona; a decrease of 2 percent from a year earlier. Western head lettuce was the leader in acreage with 50,000 acres harvested, a decrease of 1,800 acres from 2001.

Cantaloupe acreage totaled 14,800, up 200 from the previous year and the second ranking crop in terms of acreage harvested. Crops showing increases in acreage from a year earlier include romaine lettuce, cabbage, honeydews, spinach and other head lettuce. Major vegetable crops with acreage below the previous year include potatoes, onions, chile peppers, and Western head lettuce.

The value of all principal vegetables, potatoes and melons produced in Arizona during 2002 totaled \$1.2 billion, an increase of 58 percent from the previous year. With the exception of onions, cantaloupe, watermelon, potatoes, cabbage, and chile peppers, the primary vegetables and melons reflected increases in receipts.

### Vegetable & Melon Harvested Acres 2001-02



128,400 Total Acres