

Vegetables, Melons, and Potatoes

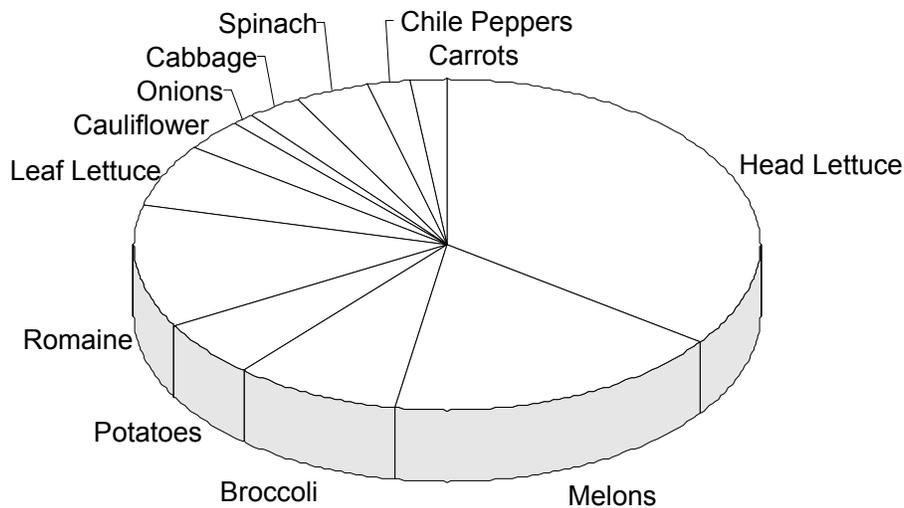
Arizona has a unique place in the agricultural industry in that it is capable of producing an ever increasing variety of vegetables nearly year round. With mild winters in the lower elevations and the cooler summer temperatures in the higher elevations, the State produces an impressive variety of vegetables 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 2003, over 136,000 harvested acres were devoted to the principal vegetables (including potatoes) and melon crops in Arizona, an increase of 4 percent from a year earlier. Western head lettuce was the leader in acreage with 47,000 acres harvested, a decrease of 3,000 acres from 2002. Cantaloupe

acreage totaled 15,200, up 400 from the previous year and the third ranking crop in terms of acreage harvested. Other crops showing increases in acreage from a year earlier include honeydews, romaine and leaf lettuce, and spinach. Major vegetable crops with acreage below the previous year include broccoli, cauliflower, potatoes, watermelons, and Western head lettuce.

The value of all principal vegetables, potatoes, and melons produced in Arizona during 2003 totaled \$642 million, a decrease of 51 percent from the previous year. Decreases in value for spinach, broccoli, cauliflower, and all lettuces led to the relatively large decreases in value of vegetables, potatoes, and melons.

**Vegetable & Melon Harvested Acres
2002-03**



136,200 Total Acres