

Vegetables, Melons, and Potatoes

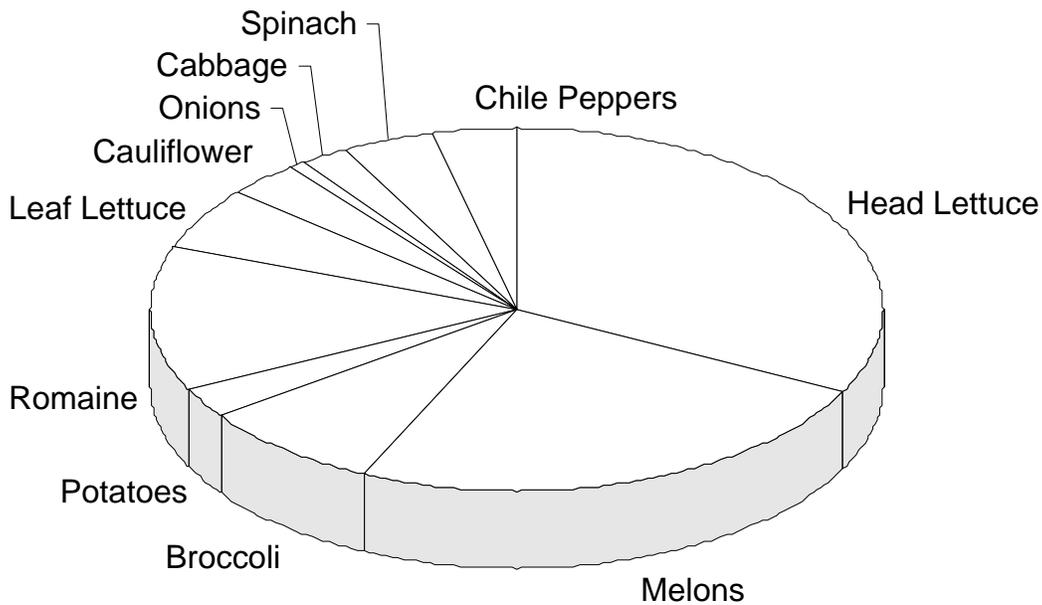
Arizona has a unique place in the agricultural industry in that it is capable of producing an ever increasing variety of vegetables nearly year round. With mild winters in the lower elevations and the cooler summer temperatures in the higher elevations, the State produces an impressive variety of vegetables and melons throughout the year. Nationally, Arizona ranked second 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 2006, over 146,000 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 47,600 acres harvested, a decrease of 2,000 acres from 2005. Cantaloupes acreage totaled 22,700, and is second ranking in terms of acreage harvested. Crops showing increases in acreage from a year earlier include honeydews, leaf lettuce and watermelon. Major vegetable crops with acreage below the previous year include dry onions, chile peppers, romaine, spinach, and potatoes.

The value of all principal vegetables, potatoes, and melons produced in Arizona during 2006 totaled \$734 million, a decrease of 16 percent from the previous year.

Vegetable & Melon Harvested Acres 2005-06



146, 200 Total Acres