



California Vegetable Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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SPRING SEASON

FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Broccoli: California's area for spring harvest is forecast at 31,000 acres, down 6 percent from 2008. Drought conditions abound throughout much of the State. Production in the southern desert valleys are winding down for the season. Water shortages remain a concern. Despite dry conditions, crop quality is reported to be good with no major pests or disease problems reported.

Cantaloupe: In California, planting has begun in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. Harvest is expected to begin sometime in June. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 25,000 acres, down 4 percent from 2008.

Carrots: In California, dry weather and lack of moisture resulted in acreage loss. However, crop quality is reported to be good. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 12,300 acres, down 13 percent from last year.

Cauliflower: California's area for spring harvest is forecast at 6,600 acres, 15 percent below 2008. Cool and dry conditions hindered plant growth in many areas of the State. However, crop quality is reported to be good with no major pest or disease problems.

Celery: California's area for spring harvest is forecast at 6,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Unseasonably warm temperatures in November boosted crop growth and development.

Sweet Corn: In California, weather conditions were favorable for the sweet corn crop. Planting for the spring crop has begun in the Imperial Valley. Harvest is expected to begin around mid-April. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 37,100 acres, down 3 percent from a year ago. In Florida, favorable weather conditions allowed planting to progress on schedule.

Honeydew Melons: California's spring crop is progressing despite water shortages in the San Joaquin Valley. Harvest is expected to begin in June. Nationally, acreage for harvest is forecast at 3,000 acres, down 3 percent from 2008.

Head Lettuce: California's area for harvest is forecast at 31,000 acres, down 6 percent from 2008. Spring lettuce fields are in various stages of growth in the Bakersfield-Huron district. Water availability continues to plague growers for the third year in a row as reservoirs and snow pack remain below average.

Tomatoes: In California, recent rainfall benefitted plant growth. No disease or pest problems reported. Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 26,300 acres, up 7 percent from 2008.

Watermelons: California's expected area for harvest is forecast at 2,000 acres, 13 percent below a year ago. Planting is still ongoing for the spring melon crop and harvest is expected to begin in June. Nationally, acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 37,300 acres, down 1 percent from last year.

SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Harvested		For Harvest 2009	2009 2008
		2007	2008		
		Acres			Percent
BROCCOLI: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	33,000	33,000	31,000	94
CANTALOUPE:					
Arizona	May-Jul	12,100	11,900	10,500	88
California	Apr-Jun	9,600	10,000	10,000	100
Georgia	Apr-Jun	3,300	3,500	3,700	106
Texas	Apr-Jun	1,400	700	800	114
GROUP TOTAL		26,400	26,100	25,000	96
CARROTS:					
California	Apr-Jun	15,500	13,800	11,800	86
Texas	Apr-Jun	400	400	500	125
GROUP TOTAL		15,900	14,200	12,300	87
CAULIFLOWER: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	8,200	7,800	6,600	85
CELERY: 1/					
California	Apr-Jun	5,700	6,000	6,000	100
CORN, SWEET:					
California	Apr-Jun	12,000	11,100	11,100	100
Florida	Apr-Jul	25,200	27,300	26,000	95
GROUP TOTAL		37,200	38,400	37,100	97
HONEYDEW:					
California	Apr-Jun	2,700	2,400	2,400	100
Texas	Apr-Jun	650	700	600	86
GROUP TOTAL		3,350	3,100	3,000	97
LETTUCE, HEAD:					
California	Apr-Jun	33,000	33,000	31,000	94
TOMATOES:					
California	Apr-Jun	7,000	7,000	7,000	100
Florida	Apr-Jul	17,200	15,000	16,800	112
South Carolina	May-Aug	2,900	2,500	2,500	100
GROUP TOTAL		27,100	24,500	26,300	107
WATERMELON					
California	Apr-Jun	2,400	2,300	2,000	87
Florida	Apr-Jul	22,800	26,100	25,800	99
Texas	Apr-Jun	11,100	9,400	9,500	101
GROUP TOTAL		36,300	37,800	37,300	99

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

California contract production intentions for 2009 at 13.3 million tons are 14 percent above 2008. California's forecast is based on a survey of processors that was conducted in January. Updated acreage and production will be available May 29, 2009.

Nationally, contracts with growers cover 326,200 acres in 2009, up 10 percent from last year for comparable States. Contract production, at 13.9 million tons, is 14 percent above 2008 for comparable States. In Indiana, planting and field preparation has been delayed due to cold and wet weather.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change <u>2009</u> 2008	Production				Contract Change <u>2009</u> 2008
	2007 Total	2008		2009 Contract Intentions 1/		2007 Total	2008		2009 Contract Intentions 1/	
		Total	Contract 1/		Total		Contract 1/			
	Acres				Percent	Tons				Percent
California	301,000	281,000	278,000	308,000	111	12,082,000	11,822,000	11,691,000	13,300,000	114
Indiana	8,500	9,000	9,000	9,100	101	294,000	249,000	249,000	288,800	116
Michigan	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,200	94	112,200	102,000	102,000	110,000	108
Ohio	6,400	5,900	5,900	5,900	100	171,690	132,820	132,820	168,000	126
UNITED STATES	319,300	299,300	296,300	326,200	110	12,659,890	12,305,820	12,174,820	13,866,800	114

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES

Table data for California are included in "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Nationally, pickle packers intend to contract 90,400 acres of cucumbers for pickles, up 14 percent from last year. Planting of the spring crop in Florida began in January. In Indiana, cool and wet weather delayed planting and field preparation.

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change <u>2009</u> 2008
	Total	Total	Contract 1/	Contract Intentions 1/	
	2007	2008	2008	2009	
	Acres				Percent
Florida	6,800	7,000	4,000	7,600	190
Indiana	1,700	1,700	1,700	2,000	118
Michigan	35,500	31,000	23,700	31,500	133
North Carolina	12,100	10,700	8,100	9,400	116
Ohio	2,800	3,300	2,000	2,900	145
South Carolina	3,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	100
Texas	7,000	7,500	7,200	6,600	92
Wisconsin	6,100	7,100	7,100	6,400	90
Other States 2/	29,600	28,100	22,840	21,500	94
UNITED STATES	104,600	98,900	79,140	90,400	114

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ Includes AL, CA, DE, GA, MD, and MO. Seasonal forecasts for WA are not available. Estimates will be published in the "Vegetables 2009 Summary" released in January 2010.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS

California growers planted 6,300 acres of spring onions this year, 6 percent below the previous year. Other than a dry winter and concerns over future water allocations, the 2009 spring onion crop is looking good. California's summer storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 33,500 acres, an increase of 3 percent from last year. Despite concerns with water availability during planting, good growing conditions are currently being reported. The summer non-storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 6,000 acres, down 23 percent from last year. The onion crop is progressing well.

Nationally, the total planted onion acreage for all seasons in 2009 is forecast at 155,720 acres, down 3 percent from last year. Spring onions were planted on 29,500 acres in 2009, decreasing 5 percent from 2008. The summer non-storage onion planted acreage, at 16,200 acres, is down 19 percent from a year ago. The total storage planted acreage is 110,020 acres, up slightly from 2008. The total summer onion acreage, at 126,220 acres, is down 3 percent from the previous year.

SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Season and State	2007	2008	2009	<u>2009</u> 2008
	Acres Planted			Percent
Spring 1/				
Arizona	1,100	1,500	1,400	93
California	6,900	6,700	6,300	94
Georgia	12,500	12,000	11,500	96
Texas	12,500	11,000	10,300	94
Spring Total	33,000	31,200	29,500	95
Summer 1/				
<u>Non-Storage</u>				
California	8,000	7,800	6,000	77
Nevada	2,800	2,600	2,500	96
New Mexico	7,300	7,000	5,000	71
Texas	1,100	800	700	88
Washington 2/	1,500	1,900	2,000	105
Non-Storage Total	20,700	20,100	16,200	81
<u>Storage</u>				
California 3/	30,000	32,500	33,500	103
Colorado	9,000	8,000	7,000	88
Idaho	9,300	8,800	8,700	99
Michigan	3,900	4,000	4,000	100
New York	11,200	10,600	10,500	99
Oregon				
Malheur County	12,600	12,400	12,200	98
Other	10,300	9,600	9,300	97
Washington	22,500	20,000	21,000	105
Wisconsin	2,200	1,900	1,900	100
Other States 4/	2,180	1,690	1,920	114
Storage Total	113,180	109,490	110,020	100
Summer Total	133,880	129,590	126,220	97
UNITED STATES TOTAL ONIONS	166,880	160,790	155,720	97

1/ Primarily fresh market.

2/ Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.

3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

4/ Includes Ohio and Utah.

ASPARAGUS

California's intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 14,000, down 3 percent from last year. The crop is developing well.

Nationally, intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 31,000 acres, down 4 percent from 2008.

ASPARAGUS BY STATE 1/

State	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 2009	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2007	2008		2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
	Acres			Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	20,000	14,500	14,000	29	29	---	580	421	---
Michigan	11,600	11,200	11,000	21	23	---	244	258	---
Washington	7,000	6,500	6,000	43	42	---	301	273	---
TOTAL	38,600	32,200	31,000	29	30	---	1,125	952	---

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.