



California Vegetable Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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The season got off to a good start due to dry spring conditions. Crop progress benefited from warm weather in July.

Nationally, contracted tomato production is forecast at 14.1 million tons, up 16 percent from last year. An increase of 11 percent in contracted harvested area is accompanied by a yield increase of 1.73 tons per acre. In Ohio, harvest was 15 percent complete by mid-August. In Michigan, harvest began in early August and the crop progressed well throughout the growing season. Fruit size was reported to be larger than normal due to cool temperatures during June and July. Indiana's processing tomatoes are reported to be in fair to good condition.

CONTRACTED PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

The 2009 California processing tomato production is forecast at 13.5 million tons, 15 percent above 2008. The acreage, at 307 thousand acres, increased 11 percent from a year earlier. The yield is forecast to be 43.97 tons per acre, 4 percent above last year's 42.37 tons per acre.

TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE AND U.S.

State	Acreage Harvested				Yield Per Acre			Production			
	2007 Total	2008		Indicated 2009 Contract 1/	2007 Total	2008 Total	Indicated 2009 Contract 1/	2007 Total	2008		Indicated 2009 Contract 1/
		Total	Contract 1/						Total	Contract 1/	
	Acres				Tons						
California	296,000	279,000	276,000	307,000	40.82	42.37	43.97	12,082,000	11,822,000	11,691,000	13,500,000
Indiana	8,400	8,300	8,300	9,600	35.00	30.00	31.40	294,000	249,000	249,000	301,440
Michigan	3,300	3,400	3,400	3,300	34.00	30.00	35.00	112,200	102,000	102,000	115,500
Ohio	5,900	5,800	5,800	6,600	29.10	22.90	29.80	171,690	132,820	132,820	196,680
U.S.	313,600	296,500	293,500	326,500	40.37	41.50	43.23	12,659,890	12,305,820	12,174,820	14,113,620

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

ASPARAGUS

The California 2009 asparagus production is estimated at 322 thousand cwt., down 24 percent from 2008. The harvested acreage was reduced by 3 percent from the 2008 season to the 2009 season. The yield is estimated at 23 cwt., down 21 percent from last year. Rainfall and cold weather during early spring hampered crop progress. The harvest of the asparagus crop ended in late June.

Nationally, production from the 2009 asparagus crop is forecast at 797 thousand cwt., down 16 percent from last year. The harvested area at 30.7 thousand acres is down 5 percent from 2008. Fresh production of 601 thousand cwt. is down 16 percent from a year ago. Processed production, at 9.80 thousand tons, is down 16 percent from 2008. In Michigan, harvest was complete in the Southwest region by mid-June. However, harvest in the west central region was behind schedule through June.

ASPARAGUS BY SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 1/

State and U.S.	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 cwt		Dollars		\$1,000	
California	15,000	14,500	14,500	14,000	29	23	421	322	125.00	158.00	52,625	50,876
Michigan	11,700	11,200	11,200	10,700	23	22	258	235	71.80	70.40	18,516	16,553
Washington	7,000	6,500	6,500	6,000	42	40	273	240	67.10	76.90	18,310	18,446
U.S.	33,700	32,200	32,200	30,700	30	26	952	797	94.00	108.00	89,451	85,875

1/ Includes Fresh Market and Processing.

SPRING ONION PRODUCTION

California's 2009 spring onion production is estimated at 2.46 million cwt., down 14 percent from the previous year. The yield calculates to 410 cwt. per acre, down 7 percent from last year.

The planting of spring onions in California began in most areas by early November. Hail was reported during the early season in the San Joaquin Valley. However, weather conditions during harvest were reported to be excellent for the spring onions crop.

The U.S. end-of-season spring onion production estimate, at 9.43 million cwt, is down 2 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 27.0 thousand acres, is down 5 percent from a year ago, but yield, at 349 cwt. per acre, is up 11 cwt. per acre from 2008. The value of the spring crop is estimated at 210 million dollars, 1 percent less than last year. In Georgia, temperatures were slightly below normal during the winter months and near normal during the spring season. Harvest got underway by the end of April and the crop was reported to be in good condition.

SPRING ONIONS BY SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 1/

State and U.S.	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Value Per Cwt.		Total Value	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Acres				Cwt.		1,000 cwt		Dollars		\$1,000	
Arizona	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,600	440	360	660	576	10.50	7.70	6,930	4,435
California	6,700	6,200	6,500	6,000	440	410	2,860	2,460	8.60	8.50	24,596	20,910
Georgia	12,000	12,000	11,500	10,500	320	240	3,680	2,520	29.50	32.90	108,560	82,908
Texas	11,000	10,300	8,900	8,900	270	435	2,403	3,872	30.30	26.40	72,811	102,221
U.S.	31,200	30,100	28,400	27,000	338	349	9,603	9,428	22.20	22.30	212,897	210,474

1/ Primarily fresh market.

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