



# California Vegetable Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · (916) 498-5186 Fax · [www.nass.usda.gov/ca](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca)

Released: April 13, 2011 · Frequency: Jan., Apr., July, Sept. & Oct. · (USPS 598-210) VOL. 32 NO. 2

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fresh Market Vegetable Acreage .....	1
Processing Tomatoes — Cucumbers for Pickles.....	2
Spring and Summer Onions.....	3
Asparagus Acreage .....	4

**Watermelons:** U.S. acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 38.7 thousand acres, down 5 percent from last year. In California, growers in the Southern San Joaquin Valley are preparing fields for planting of the spring melon crop with harvest expected to begin in June. In Florida, growers in Lee County began planting watermelons during late January. From late January throughout February land preparations were underway for planting watermelons across the State.

## SPRING SEASON FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

**Broccoli:** California's area for spring harvest is forecast at 31.0 thousand acres, unchanged from 2010. Growers reported quality of the broccoli crop to be good.

**Cantaloupe:** U.S. acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 26.5 thousand acres, down 1 percent from 2010. In California, planting has begun in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. Harvest is expected to begin sometime in June. In Arizona, growing conditions have been reported to be good for the spring melon crop due to favorable weather conditions.

**Carrots:** U.S. acreage for harvest is forecast at 13.3 thousand acres, up 20 percent from last year. California growers increased their spring carrot acreage to meet market demand. In Texas, growing conditions have been excellent for the spring carrot crop. However, below freezing temperatures during the first week in February slowed some harvest activities.

**Cauliflower:** California's area for spring harvest is forecast at 7.4 thousand acres, 3 percent below 2010. Wet fields slowed plant development.

**Celery:** California's area for spring harvest is forecast at 5.9 thousand acres, down 2 percent from last year. Excessive rainfall and below average temperatures during December and January negatively impacted the spring celery crop.

**Sweet Corn:** U.S. intended acreage for harvest is forecast at 42.1 thousand acres, up 3 percent from a year ago. In California, weather conditions were favorable for the sweet corn crop despite a freeze in early February. In Florida, weather conditions were reported as favorable by the sweet corn growers.

**Honeydew Melons:** U.S. acreage for harvest is forecast at 2.8 thousand acres, up 8 percent from 2010. In California, planting has begun in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, with harvest expected to begin in June. In Texas, planting is underway in the Rio Grande Valley. In the Winter Garden area, it is expected to begin during the first week of April.

**Head Lettuce:** California's area for harvest is forecast at 28.0 thousand acres, down 3 percent from 2010. A hard freeze in February negatively impacted lettuce fields.

**Tomatoes:** U.S. acreage for harvest is forecast at 26.2 thousand acres, up 4 percent from 2010. California growers increased their spring fresh market tomato acreage to meet market demand.

## SPRING FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Crop and State	Usual Harvest Period	Harvested		For Harvest	2011	
		2009	2010	2011	2010	
					Acres	Percent
<b>BROCCOLI: 1/</b>						
California	Apr-June	33,000	31,000	31,000	100	
<b>CANTALOUPE:</b>						
Arizona	May-July	13,500	12,000	10,500	88	
California	Apr-June	9,300	10,300	10,800	105	
Georgia	May-July	3,400	3,300	2,800	85	
Texas	Apr-June	1,100	1,300	2,400	185	
GROUP TOTAL		27,300	26,900	26,500	99	
<b>CARROTS:</b>						
California	Apr-June	11,800	10,500	12,700	121	
Texas	Apr-June	400	600	600	100	
GROUP TOTAL		12,200	11,100	13,300	120	
<b>CAULIFLOWER: 1/</b>						
California	Apr-June	7,700	7,600	7,400	97	
<b>CELERY: 1/</b>						
California	Apr-June	6,000	6,000	5,900	98	
<b>CORN, SWEET:</b>						
California	Apr-June	12,500	13,200	13,100	99	
Florida	Apr-July	28,000	27,600	29,000	105	
GROUP TOTAL		40,500	40,800	42,100	103	
<b>HONEYDEW:</b>						
California	Apr-June	2,200	2,000	2,300	115	
Texas	Apr-June	600	600	500	83	
GROUP TOTAL		2,800	2,600	2,800	108	
<b>LETTUCE, HEAD:</b>						
California	Apr-June	29,000	29,000	28,000	97	
<b>TOMATOES:</b>						
California	Apr-June	7,500	7,200	7,500	104	
Florida	Apr-July	16,800	15,500	16,200	105	
South Carolina	May-Aug	1,900	2,400	2,500	104	
GROUP TOTAL		26,200	25,100	26,200	104	
<b>WATERMELON</b>						
California	Apr-June	2,500	3,200	3,200	100	
Florida	Apr-June	25,800	24,600	22,900	93	
Texas	Apr-June	10,000	12,900	12,600	98	
GROUP TOTAL		38,300	40,700	38,700	95	

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

### PROCESSING TOMATO ACREAGE AND TONNAGE INTENTIONS

California production is forecast at 12.6 million tons, up 3 percent from 2010. Planting of the processing tomato crop began in February.

Nationally, contracts with growers are expected to cover 287.0 thousand acres in 2011, down slightly from last year. Contract production, at 13.2 million tons, is 4 percent above 2010. In Indiana, field work and planting were delayed due to rainy conditions.

#### TOMATOES FOR PROCESSING BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change	Production				Contract Change
	2009 Total	2010		2011 Contract Intentions 1/		2009 Total	2010		2011 Contract Intentions 1/	
		Total	Contract 1/		Total		Contract 1/			
	Acres				Percent	Tons				Percent
California	312,000	271,000	269,000	268,000	100	13,314,000	12,297,000	12,212,000	12,600,000	103
Indiana	9,800	9,600	9,600	9,000	94	321,340	205,440	205,440	290,120	141
Michigan	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,300	94	132,600	115,500	115,500	116,000	100
Ohio	6,600	5,900	5,900	6,700	114	202,620	158,340	158,340	196,010	124
UNITED STATES	331,900	290,000	288,000	287,000	100	13,970,560	12,776,280	12,691,280	13,202,130	104

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 83.2 thousand acres of cucumbers for pickles, down 1 percent from last year. Florida growers experienced dry weather conditions during the planting season. In Indiana, rainy weather delayed planting and field work.

#### CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES BY STATE

State	Area Planted				Contract Change
	Total	Total	Contract 1/	Contract Intentions 1/	
	2009	2010	2010	2011	2011 2010
	Acres				Percent
Florida	7,000	9,800	7,800	7,300	94
Indiana	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,700	113
Michigan	33,000	32,000	30,000	30,000	100
North Carolina	10,000	9,700	8,100	8,500	105
Ohio	2,700	2,100	1,900	2,500	132
South Carolina	2,200	2,000	2,000	2,000	100
Texas	7,600	6,100	4,500	5,200	116
Wisconsin	6,500	6,300	6,200	5,700	92
Other States 2/	30,000	22,800	21,800	20,300	93
UNITED STATES	100,500	92,300	83,800	83,200	99

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

2/ Includes AL, CA, DE, GA, MD, and MO.

**SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS**

California growers planted 6.9 thousand acres of spring onions this year, 8 percent above the previous year. Spring onion growers report a good growing season despite rainy conditions during December. California's summer storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 30.0 thousand acres, a slight decrease from last year. Despite rainy conditions in the San Joaquin Valley during December, good growing conditions are currently being reported. The summer non-storage onion planted acreage is estimated at 6.6 thousand acres, down 3 percent from last year. Precipitation during December hindered crop development in the San Joaquin Valley.

Nationally, the total planted onion acreage for all seasons in 2011 is forecast at 158.9 thousand acres, up 2 percent from last year. Spring onions were planted on 32.9 thousand acres in 2011, increasing 16 percent from 2010. The summer non-storage onion planted acreage, at 17.9 thousand acres, is down 6 percent from a year ago. The total storage planted acreage is 108.1 thousand acres, up slightly from 2010. The total summer onion acreage, at 126.0 acres, is down 1 percent from the previous year.

**SPRING AND SUMMER ONIONS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES**

Season and State	2009	2010	2011	<u>2011</u> <u>2010</u>
	Acres Planted			Percent
<b>Spring 1/</b>				
Arizona 2/	1,600	---	---	---
California	6,200	6,400	6,900	108
Georgia	11,800	12,000	13,000	108
Texas	10,300	10,000	13,000	130
Spring Total	29,900	28,400	32,900	116
<b>Summer 1/</b>				
<u>Non-Storage</u>				
California	6,600	6,800	6,600	97
Nevada	3,400	3,700	3,500	95
New Mexico	5,200	6,000	5,000	83
Texas	700	600	600	100
Washington 3/	2,000	2,000	2,200	110
Non-Storage Total	17,900	19,100	17,900	94
<u>Storage</u>				
California 4/	32,600	30,100	30,000	100
Colorado	8,000	7,500	7,700	103
Idaho	9,000	9,200	9,500	103
Michigan	4,000	4,200	3,900	93
New York	10,600	10,700	10,500	98
Oregon				
Malheur County	11,200	11,300	11,500	102
Other	9,100	8,900	9,200	103
Washington	21,000	22,000	22,000	100
Wisconsin	2,000	2,000	2,000	100
Other States 5/	2,010	1,870	1,760	94
Storage Total	109,510	107,770	108,060	100
Summer Total	127,410	126,870	125,960	99
<b>UNITED STATES TOTAL ONIONS</b>	<b>157,310</b>	<b>155,270</b>	<b>158,860</b>	<b>102</b>

1/ Primarily fresh market.

2/ Estimates discontinued in 2010.

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

4/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

**ASPARAGUS**

California's intended area for harvest is forecast at 12.0 thousand acres, 4 percent higher than 2010. Development of the asparagus crop was delayed due to below normal temperatures. Harvest is underway in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and is expected to continue through early June.

Nationally, intended area for harvest is forecast at 28.0 thousand acres, unchanged from 2010.

**ASPARAGUS BY STATE 1/**

State	Area Harvested		Area For Harvest 2011	Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2009	2010		2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
	Acres			Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California 2/	12,500	11,500	12,000	32	35	---	400	403	---
Michigan	10,700	10,500	10,000	22	16	---	235	168	---
Washington	6,000	6,000	6,000	44	38	---	264	228	---
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,200</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>---</b>

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Includes a small amount of fall acreage.

VIC TOLOMEO, Director  
 SARAH HOFFMAN - KELLY KRUG, Deputy Directors  
 Doug Flohr - Ben Blomendahl - Aaron Cosgrove  
 Sarah DeVandry - Stephanie Holm - Robert Jeutong - Brian Kugel  
 Jodi Letterman - John McDonnell - Karen Olmstead - Lena Schwedler  
 Geoffrey Sechter - Jennifer Travis - Jennifer Van Court  
 Estimates Group - (916) 498-5161

USDA-NASS, California Field Office publications  
 are available free-of-charge on the Internet at:  
[www.nass.usda.gov/ca](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca)