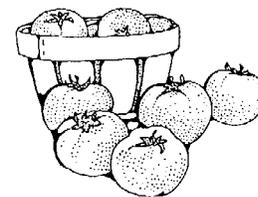


1997 California Processing Tomato Report



Released: September 2, 1997



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

1997 PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

The 1997 California processing tomato production is forecast at 9.40 million tons, 12 percent less than 1996's total crop production. The forecast is based on a record yield of 34.94 tons per acre and 269 thousand acres for harvest. As of August 23, 5.90 million tons had been delivered to canners. Since Imperial Valley had no processing tomatoes this year, harvest began three weeks later than normal. Ideal weather conditions in the spring and early summer induced crop growth around the State. However, the unexpected cool nights and rain during midsummer aroused the industry's concern about mold damage in the Sacramento and northern San Joaquin valleys.

The August 15 survey asked for expected tons to be processed and total acres required to achieve that tonnage. Planted acres were based on a May 15 enumeration of all processors.

This early processing forecast was funded by the California League of Food Processors in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The USDA forecast for U.S. processing tomato production will be issued on September 10.

ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION (CONTRACT AND TOTAL) - CALIFORNIA

Year	Total Crop				Contract Only			
	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Tons/Acre	Production Tons	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Tons/Acre	Production Tons
1985	219,000	217,000	28.12	6,102,040	217,000	215,000	28.12	6,045,800
1986	216,600	210,400	30.80	6,480,320	215,300	209,100	30.80	6,440,280
1987	217,000	214,000	31.32	6,702,480	214,800	211,800	31.32	6,632,770
1988	228,300	226,100	28.96	6,547,860	225,200	223,000	28.96	6,458,620
1989	290,000	276,500	31.05	8,585,330	280,000	272,000	31.05	8,445,200
1990	320,000	310,000	30.02	9,306,200	315,000	305,000	30.07	9,170,000
1991	322,000	312,000	31.71	9,893,520	320,000	310,000	31.68	9,820,000
1992	242,000	240,000	33.05	7,932,000	238,600	236,600	33.09	7,830,140
1993	282,000	274,000	32.67	8,951,580	280,000	272,000	32.68	8,890,240
1994	318,000	311,000	34.56	10,748,160	315,000	308,000	34.52	10,632,160
1995	331,000	317,000	33.46	10,606,820	329,000	315,000	33.25	10,472,980
1996	318,000	313,000	34.06	10,660,780	315,000	310,000	34.00	10,540,000
1997 <u>a/</u>	---	---	---	---	270,000	269,000	34.94	9,400,000

a/ First forecast.

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