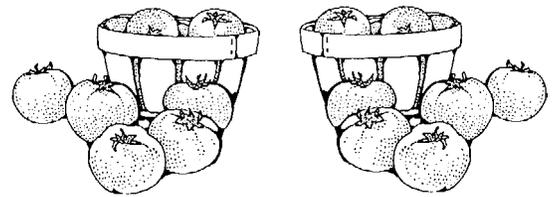


California Processing Tomato Report



Released: January 29, 1999



TOMATO PROCESSORS EXPECT TO CONTRACT 11.5 MILLION TONS IN 1999

As of January 15, 1999, California tomato processors reported intentions to contract 11.5 million tons of processing tomatoes from 329 thousand acres. This intended acreage is 18 percent above 1998. During the past five years, intentions versus final delivered contracted production were as follows:

Year	January 31	Final	Difference
	Thousands		
1994	10,100	10,632	+532
1995	11,200	10,473	-727
1996	11,400	10,540	-860
1997	9,600	9,242	-358
1998	10,000	8,846	-1,154

Most processors increased their contracted acreage due to high tomato paste prices and a supply shortage resulting from El Nino weather effects in 1998. Ground preparation, fumigation, and weed control activities for the 1999 crop have progressed well due to a relatively dry winter.

This early processing tomato contract intentions estimate was funded by the California League of Food Processors in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The USDA processing intentions estimate for all states will be issued on April 8.

ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION (CONTRACT AND TOTAL) - CALIFORNIA

Year	Total Crop			Contract Only		
	Planted	Harvested	Production	Planted	Harvested	Production
	Acres		Tons	Acres		Tons
1987	217,000	214,000	6,702,480	214,800	211,800	6,632,770
1988	228,300	226,100	6,547,860	225,200	223,000	6,458,620
1989	290,000	276,500	8,585,330	280,000	272,000	8,445,200
1990	320,000	310,000	9,306,200	315,000	305,000	9,170,000
1991	322,000	312,000	9,893,520	320,000	310,000	9,820,000
1992	242,000	240,000	7,932,000	238,600	236,600	7,830,140
1993	282,000	274,000	8,951,580	280,000	272,000	8,890,240
1994	318,000	311,000	10,748,160	315,000	308,000	10,632,160
1995	331,000	317,000	10,606,820	329,000	315,000	10,472,980
1996	318,000	313,000	10,658,741	315,000	310,000	10,540,000
1997	270,000	260,000	9,342,309	267,000	257,000	9,241,720
1998	282,000	280,000	8,892,800	280,000	278,000	8,845,960
1999	—	—	—	329,000	—	11,500,000

JIM TIPPETT, State Statistician
DWAINE NELSON, Deputy State Statistician
GARY NELSON -- DOUG FLOHR -- MARK AITKEN
BRETT FRANKLIN - SETH HOYT - DENNIS KOONG
MARTHA LEIGHTON - TOM MARR - TOM MCNAIR - WALTER PHILPOT
Agricultural Statisticians, Estimates Group, (916) 498-5165