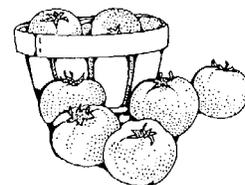


1999 California Processing Tomato Report



Released: September 1, 1999



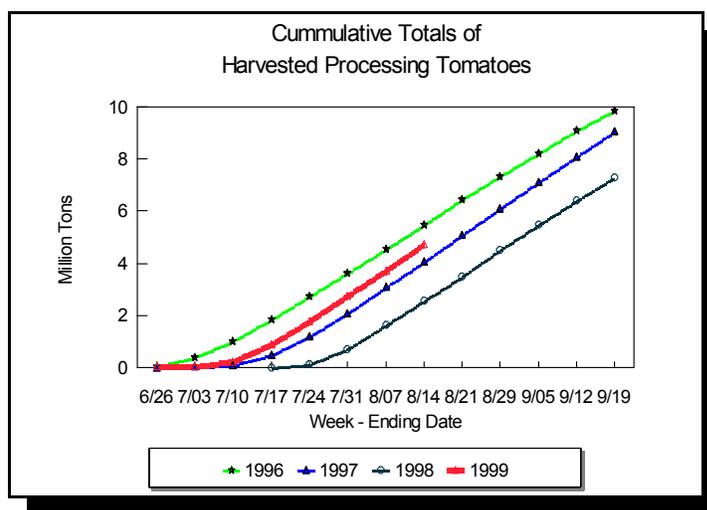
CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

1999 PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

The 1999 California contracted processing tomato production is forecast at 11.0 million tons from 327,000 harvested acres, up 24 and 18 percent, respectively, from 1998. The yield is forecast to be 33.64 tons per acre. A late spring with cool temperatures delayed the maturity of the processing tomato crop, which is 1-2 weeks behind normal. However, good yields and quality have been reported as above normal in several areas. Due to the slow maturing crop, the success of 1999's production is more dependant than normal on warm, dry fall weather. As of August 21, the inspection total was 4,726,770 tons, up 34 percent from the 3,526,522 tons for this same time frame a year ago. This is somewhat misleading as last season's crop was smaller, late, and ravaged by the effects of El Nino.

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 19 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 9.



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	8,951,707	280,000	272,000	32.68	8,890,240
1994	318,000	311,000	34.55	10,745,560	315,000	308,000	34.52	10,632,160
1995	331,000	317,000	33.46	10,605,787	329,000	315,000	33.25	10,472,980
1996	318,000	313,000	34.05	10,658,741	315,000	310,000	34.00	10,540,000
1997	270,000	260,000	35.93	9,342,309	267,000	257,000	35.96	9,241,720
1998	282,000	280,000	31.76	8,892,800	280,000	278,000	31.82	8,845,960
1999 a/	---	---	---	---	332,000	327,000	33.64	11,000,000

a/ First forecast.