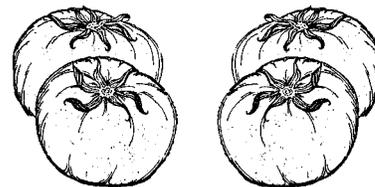


California Processing Tomato Report



Released: September 1, 2000



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

2000 PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

As of August 15, 2000, California's contracted processing tomato production is forecast at 9,700,000 tons. This production would be 19 percent less than the record contracted production of last year and slightly less than the production reported earlier in June.

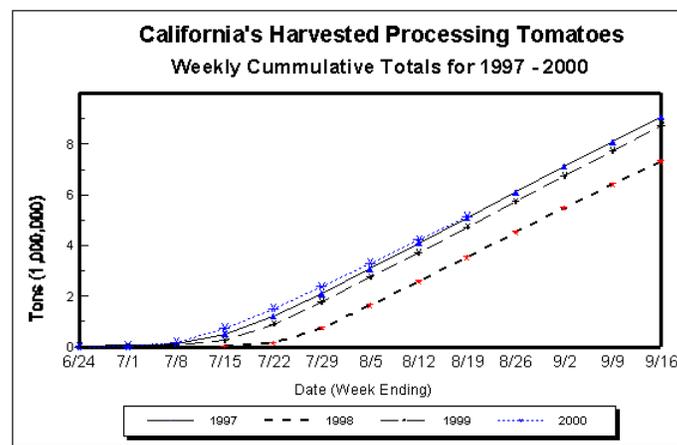
The production for 2000 is expected to come from 273,000 acres producing an average 35.5 tons per acre. The estimated contracted harvested acreage is 16 percent less compared to last year's. However, the yield is only 4 percent less than the record yield for 1999 and similar to the second highest yield established in 1997.

In early March, wet weather delayed some tomato planting and slowed the development of those already in the ground. During April, a duration of warm weather improved the crop such that the progression of tomatoes was considered normal. However, May, June and July had both below and above average temperatures. The higher temperatures caused some Blossom End Rot. Overall, the tomato harvest, which began the last week in June for some areas, is reported in good condition.

As of August 19, the total statewide inspected tonnage of tomatoes delivered (5,131,105 tons) was 9 percent higher compared to the same time frame one year ago. However, it is similar to 1997.

This report is based on the results of a survey conducted in August. This particular survey asked processors for the amount of tomatoes they expect to process and the total harvested acreage required to achieve that amount. The estimate for planted acreage is based on a survey earlier in June.

This 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 8.



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	337,000	329,000	37.20	12,239,300	332,000	324,000	37.01	11,990,270
2000	---	---	---	---	282,000	273,000	35.53	9,700,000