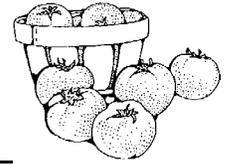


2002 California Processing Tomato Report



Released: August 30, 2002



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

2002 PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

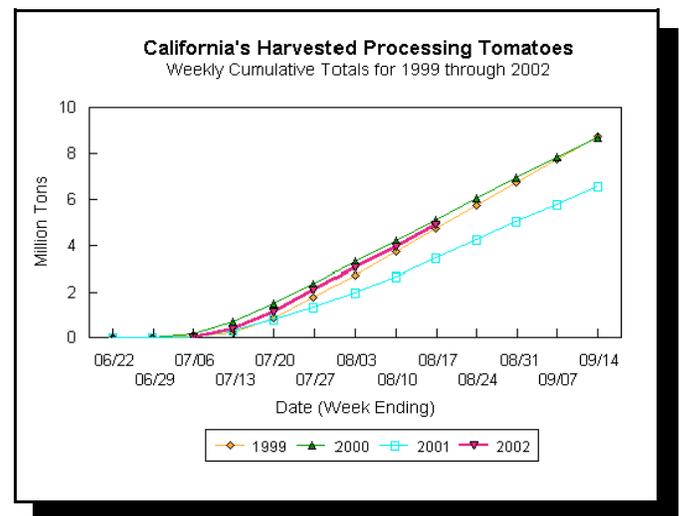
As of August 15, 2002, California's contracted processing tomato production is forecast at 10,700,000 tons. Processors expected this production to come from 285,000 acres producing an average 37.54 tons per acre. The contracted harvested acreage, yield and production are 14, 10 and 25 percent greater, respectively, compared to 2001. Earlier in June, processors estimated the planted acreage at 282,000 acres. In August, however, processors made slight adjustments to their acreage estimates. Therefore, the estimate of planted acreage was revised upward to 289,000.

Moderate spring weather provided good growing conditions for processing tomatoes. Fruit setting was good with only minor infestations of beet leafhoppers reported. Later, a July heat wave resulted in some instances of sunburn and softer fruit. However, early varieties have shown better than average color overall, and in general, yield and quality have been good. High temperatures also accelerated maturity in mid-season plantings.

As of August 17, the total Statewide inspected tonnage of tomatoes delivered (4,880,691 tons) was 42 percent higher compared to the same time one year ago. In addition, while the total is 5 percent lower compared to two years ago, it is 3 percent higher compared to the same time in 1999.

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.

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 6.



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	289,000	271,000	37.96	10,286,500	285,000	267,000	37.94	10,131,000
2001	258,000	254,000	34.02	8,640,140	255,000	251,000	34.12	8,563,570
2002	---	---	---	---	289,000	285,000	37.54	10,700,000