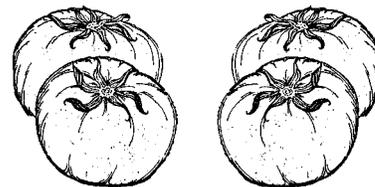


California Processing Tomato Report



Released: May 30, 2003



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

CALIFORNIA PROCESSING TOMATO CONTRACT TONNAGE

As of May 15, California's tomato processors reported they have or will have contracts for 10.5 million tons of processing tomatoes for 2003. This production is 3 percent less than the contracted production of last year.

The production for 2003 is expected to come from 279,000 acres. The estimated acreage is 4 percent less than last year's contracted planted acres. The June acreage is down from the January intentions forecast of 291,000 acres.

Fresno County retains the top spot over all the counties in contracted planted acreage for 2003 with 102,200 acres. Yolo County also held its number two position with 37,500 contracted planted acres. San Joaquin, Colusa, and Kings rounded out the top five counties in 2003 for contracted planted acreage.

The 2003 crop is off to a slower start than normal due to the poor spring weather conditions that existed earlier this year. Some processors report the crop currently as in good condition, but one to two weeks behind normal. Observers have noted similarities between this year's planting conditions and those of 1998, when the processing tomato crop suffered its poorest yields in recent history. Rainy weather provided abundant plant food for stink bugs, which may provide a base for migration into tomato fields. Minor infestations of bacterial speck were observed. While planting continued, the end was in sight for this year's crop. Harvesting was expected to begin during the first week of July.

This early processing tomato estimate is funded by the California League of Food Processors, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The USDA estimate for all states will be issued on July 10.

ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION (CONTRACT AND TOTAL) - CALIFORNIA

Year	Total Crop			Contract Only		
	Planted	Harvested	Production	Planted	Harvested	Production
	Acres		Tons	Acres		Tons
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	8,951,707	280,000	272,000	8,890,240
1994	318,000	311,000	10,745,560	315,000	308,000	10,632,160
1995	331,000	317,000	10,605,787	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	337,000	329,000	12,239,300	332,000	324,000	11,990,270
2000	289,000	271,000	10,286,500	285,000	267,000	10,131,000
2001	258,000	254,000	8,640,140	255,000	251,000	8,563,570
2002	296,000	291,000	11,056,000	290,000	285,000	10,806,400
2003	---	---	---	279,000	---	10,500,000

CALIFORNIA PROCESSING TOMATOES, ACREAGE BY COUNTY

County	2002 Total Crop		2003 Contracted Acreage
	Planted	Harvested	
	Acres		
Colusa	19,000	18,700	18,300
Fresno	107,800	106,900	102,200
Kings	14,000	13,400	17,700
Merced	19,200	18,200	15,400
Sacramento	3,900	3,900	3,600
San Joaquin	32,700	32,600	34,900
Solano	12,600	12,600	10,800
Stanislaus	16,700	16,600	13,900
Sutter	9,400	9,100	7,400
Yolo	41,800	41,600	37,500
Other Counties <u>1/</u>	18,900	17,400	17,300
State Total	296,000	291,000	279,000

1/ Counties combined to avoid disclosure of individual operations include:
 2002 - Contra Costa, Kern, Madera, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Tulare
 2003 - Contra Costa, Glenn, Kern, Madera, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Tulare

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