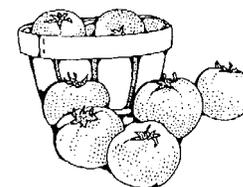


2003 California Processing Tomato Report



Released: August 29, 2003



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

2003 PROCESSING TOMATO PRODUCTION

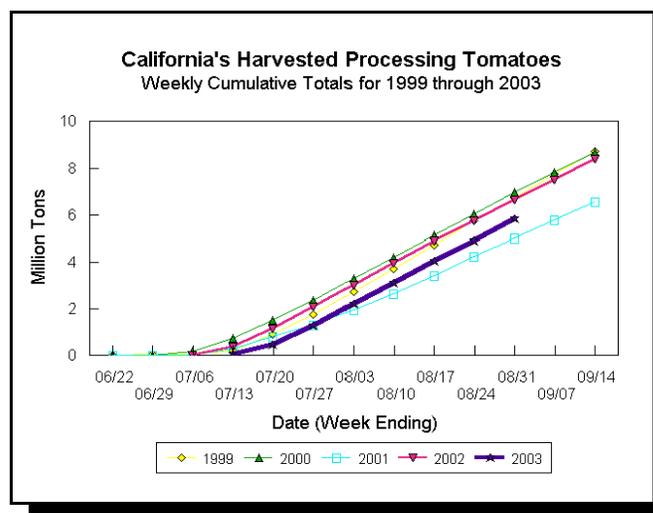
As of August 15, 2003, California's contracted processing tomato production is forecast at 10,500,000 tons, unchanged from the May forecast, but 3 percent lower than the 2002 season. Processors expected this production to come from 279,000 acres producing an average 37.63 tons per acre.

Cool, wet conditions in early spring hindered planting activity, causing the harvest to fall somewhat behind schedule. Later, the hot weather accelerated maturity in mid-season plantings. California tomatoes have been reported as having instances of sunburned fruit, which is affecting yields in some areas. Recent rainfall delayed harvesting activities, and some growers have been reporting the presence of mold.

As of August 16, the total Statewide inspected tonnage of tomatoes delivered (4,030,379 tons) was 17 percent lower compared to the same time one year ago.

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 5.



Source: California Processing Tomato Advisory Board

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	296,000	291,000	37.99	11,056,000	290,000	285,000	37.54	10,806,400
2003	---	---	---	---	284,000	279,000	37.63	10,500,000