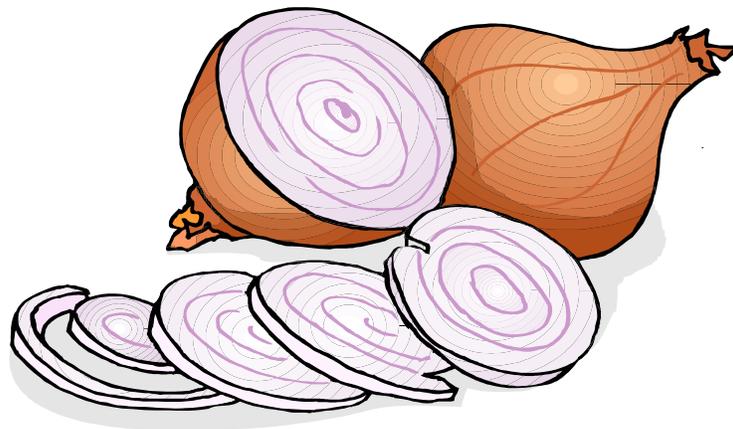


Marketing U.S. ONIONS

2012 Crop



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Marketing U.S. ONIONS

2012 CROP

Foreword

This abbreviated summary is the result of new technology that allows you to select only the prices and shipments you are interested in. You can access the Fruit and Vegetable Market News Portal at <http://www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv>.

This will be the last Marketing U.S. Onion Summary that will be issued by this office. Budget cuts to the National Agricultural Statistics Service has caused cancellation of reports necessary to the completion of this report.

Historical shipment and price information can be obtained by using **Run a Custom Report** or using the **Custom Averaging Tool**.

The *National Potato and Onion Report* is available by free email service. To receive this report by email call 208-525-0166. It is also available on the Web at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/mncs/idop.pdf>

If you have any questions, call the Idaho Falls Market News office at 208-525-0166.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS**2012 Season**

California, Imperial Valley	4-5
California, San Joaquin Valley	6-8
Colorado, North & East Points	9
Georgia, Vidalia District	10-11
Idaho/Malheur County Oregon	12
Michigan	13
New Mexico, Southern	14
New York	15
Texas, Lower Rio Grande Valley	16
Texas, San Antonio-Winter Garden- Laredo District	17
Washington, Columbia Basin/Umatilla Basin Oregon	18-19
Washington, Walla Walla	20
Mexican Crossings through South Texas	21
Peru	22

MARKETING IMPERIAL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA ONIONS

2012 CROP

Acreage: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, statewide acreage planted for spring non-storage onions in 2012 was 6,700 acres, an increase from 2011 acreage of 6,500 acres. Harvested acreage in 2012 was 6,500 acres, an increase from 2011 acreage of 6,300 acres. Yield per acre in 2012 was 400 hundredweight (cwt), the same as what it was in 2011. Production for 2012 was 2,600,000 cwt, a slight increase from 2011 production of 2,520,000 cwt.

Shipments: Fresh shipments from the Imperial Valley's 2012 season totaled 2,931 400-cwt units. This was a 14 percent increase from 2011 shipments of 2,581 400-cwt units.

Fresh shipments started the week ending April 21, 2012, and continued through the week ending June 16, 2012. The peak shipping month was May with 2,579 400-cwt units being shipped.

Fresh market shipments, recorded by the Federal-State Market News Service in Idaho Falls, Idaho, do not include "known" processing shipments (although some shipments may end up being processed). The Imperial Valley reporting region includes the following areas: Brawley, El Centro, Holtville, and Imperial.

Crop & Weather: California's weather underwent a significant change the first week of November, 2011. Starting with mild temperatures statewide, the weather became more like winter with chilly temperatures and widespread showers, however, Southern California was unaffected by this system. By the end of the week, a cold front driven by a low pressure trough moved into the area bringing precipitation to the entire State. The last week

of November saw cool, showery weather lingering over portions of extreme Northern California at the start of the week as a low pressure trough exited the State. By Tuesday, weak high pressure had built over the State resulting in dry conditions statewide. An offshore flow pattern began to develop for Southern California, bringing unseasonably warm and dry conditions to the south, while Northern California had near normal temperatures, with areas of fog developing across the valleys. Another weather disturbance passed across the north on Thanksgiving Day, creating widespread showers across Northern and Central California. Southern California remained dry and warm. By Saturday, a high pressure ridge began to build over the State, providing paradoxically dry and foggy weather across the northern and central portions of the State, while the south continued to bask in warm sunshine through the weekend.

The first week of December began with a strong, but dry, low pressure system centered in Arizona and brushing Southern California. This produced dry and gusty conditions which brought increased concerns about wildfire hazards to the Southland. Northern California was under a stable, cool air mass which produced widespread freezing conditions across much of the central valley. Freeze warnings were issued as the sub-freezing temperatures persisted for several hours on several mornings in that region. This pattern persisted through the week. In mid-December, a cold upper level low pressure system located over Southern California was producing moderate to heavy rains across the southern counties. High pressure over the north resulted in a dry and cold weather regime for Northern California, with widespread freezes across the central valley. Southern California had dried out as high pressure pushed the rain producing low

pressure system out of the area. The rest of the week was a mixture of wind and rain through Southern California. Overall, the week produced more precipitation for Southern California than for Northern California. There was widespread freezing which occurred across much of the central valley this week.

During the weekending January 22, 2012, after almost two months of mostly dry weather, a dynamic, high pressure ridge broke over California. This allowed the jet stream to bring several storms into the State. The heavy rain began in the extreme northern portion of California near Crescent City. By mid-week, some stem river flooding was occurring along the Smith and Van Duzen Rivers, with over 6 inches of rain falling in 24 hours in Del Norte and Humboldt counties. Heavy rain and snow began to move southward the end of the week, bringing 1 to 4 inches of rain to the northern valley. Heavy snow fell in the mountains. Rain began to fall in Southern California by the end of the week but not as intense. The mountains above 4,000 feet received 1 to 5 feet of new snow from Blue Canyon to the Donner Summit. The storm track moving over the Golden State broke the long, dry spell with some impressive 7 day totals for the week: 8 to 11 inches of rain along the coastal region, 2 to 4 inches of rain in the central valley, 1 to 2 inches of rain in Southern California, and up to 6 feet of new snow at the highest elevations.

In mid-February, weather was affected by a series of rather weak cold fronts which passed over the persistent high pressure ridge that had been in place just off the west coast. The strongest of the storm systems brought widespread showers to the entire State, spreading from the north coast early Monday and sweeping south and east across California. Light to moderate rains were associated with this system, with moderate snowfall across the northern mountains and the Sierra Nevada. At least two other weak frontal systems then passed across California as the week progressed. In between systems, gusty offshore flow brought

drying conditions to Southern California. The last of the cold fronts moved through during the weekend. These storms brought just light amounts of precipitation to the Golden State. Seasonal precipitation still remains far below seasonal normal. The last week in February was a warmer, drier week for most of the State.

The weather weekending March 18 was dominated by a broad low pressure area which remained off the west coast for most of the week. For most of the week, Southern California missed the precipitation. The low pressure system driving these storms remained stationary for much of the week, but by Friday night it finally began to move inland. By the end of the week, the low pressure moved across California and brought widespread rain and mountain snow to the entire State, even to Southern California. Harvest began in the Imperial Valley mid-April and was complete by mid-June.

Marketing: 50-pound sacks of Yellow Grano jumbos opened the season at \$5.00-6.00 the weekending May 5, 2012. The last report was issued during the weekending June 2, 2012 at \$6.00-7.00.

50-pound sacks of White onions were in too few hands to establish a market in the 2012 season. No F.O.B. was issued.

25-pound sacks of Red Globe Type jumbos opened the season at \$16.00 the weekending May 5, 2012. The last report was issued during the weekending June 2, 2012 at \$14.0-16.00.

Packaging: Onions were sized, sorted, graded and packed prior to shipments. 50-pound sacks remain the dominant package for Yellow and White types. The most widely used package for Red Globe Type onions are the 25-pound sacks. Some onions were also packed in baled 2, 3, 5, and 10-pound consumer mesh sacks.

MARKETING SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA ONIONS

2012 CROP

Acreage: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, statewide acreage planted for summer non-storage onions in 2012 was 7,500 acres, an increase from 2011 acreage of 6,900 acres. Harvested acreage in 2012 was 7,400 acres, an increase from 2011 acreage of 6,700 acres. Yield per acre in 2012 was 445 hundredweight (cwt), an 8 percent decrease from the 590 cwt it was in 2011. Production for 2012 was 4,033,000 cwt, a slight increase from 2011 production of 3,953,000 cwt.

Shipments: Fresh shipments from the San Joaquin Valley's 2012 season totaled 9,983 400-cwt units. This was nearly the same as 2011 shipments of 9,985 400-cwt units.

Fresh shipments started the week ending May 19, 2012, and continued through the week ending March 16, 2013. The peak shipping month was July with 3,884 400-cwt units being shipped.

Fresh market shipments, recorded by the Federal-State Market News Service in Idaho Falls, Idaho, do not include "known" processing shipments (although some shipments may end up being processed). The San Joaquin Valley reporting region includes the following areas: Lodi, Ripon, Manteca, Modesto, Madera, Riverdale, Fresno, Watsonville, Hollister, Salinas, Santa Maria, Mendota, Stockton, Merced, Oxnard, Somis, Huron, and Bakersfield.

Crop & Weather: California's weather underwent a significant change the first week of November, 2011. Starting with mild temperatures statewide, the weather became more like winter with chilly temperatures and widespread showers, however, Southern California was unaffected by this system. By the end of the week, a cold front driven by a low pressure trough moved into the area bringing precipitation to the entire State. In Fresno Country, winter onions were being planted. The last week of November saw cool, showery weather lingering over portions of extreme Northern California at the start of the week as a low pressure trough exited the State. By Tuesday, weak high pressure had built over the State resulting in dry conditions statewide. An offshore flow pattern began to develop for Southern California, bringing unseasonably warm and dry conditions to the south, while Northern California had near normal temperatures, with areas of fog developing across the valleys. Another weather disturbance passed across the north on Thanksgiving Day, creating widespread showers across Northern and Central California. Southern California remained dry and warm. By Saturday, a high pressure ridge began to build over the State, providing paradoxically dry and foggy weather across the northern and central portions of the State, while the south continued to bask in warm sunshine through the weekend. The first week of December began with a strong, but dry, low pressure system centered in Arizona and

brushing Southern California. This produced dry and gusty conditions which brought increased concerns about wildfire hazards to the Southland. Northern California was under a stable, cool air mass which produced widespread freezing conditions across much of the central valley. Freeze warnings were issued as the sub-freezing temperatures persisted for several hours on several mornings in that region. This pattern persisted through the week. In Fresno County, onions were reportedly growing at a good rate. Onions were being planted in Sutter County.

In mid-December, a cold upper level low pressure system located over Southern California was producing moderate to heavy rains across the southern counties. High pressure over the north resulted in a dry and cold weather regime for Northern California, with widespread freezes across the central valley. Southern California had dried out as high pressure pushed the rain producing low pressure system out of the area. The rest of the week was a mixture of wind and rain through Southern California. Overall, the week produced more precipitation for Southern California than for Northern California. There was widespread freezing which occurred across much of the central valley this week. Onions were growing well in Sutter County. Field cultivation and preparation was ongoing.

During the weekending January 22, 2012, after almost two months of mostly dry weather, a dynamic, high pressure ridge broke over California. This allowed the jet stream to bring several storms into the State. The heavy rain began in the extreme northern portion of California near Crescent City. By mid-week,

some stem river flooding was occurring along the Smith and Van Duzen Rivers, with over 6 inches of rain falling in 24 hours in Del Norte and Humboldt counties. Heavy rain and snow began to move southward the end of the week, bringing 1 to 4 inches of rain to the northern valley. Heavy snow fell in the mountains. Rain began to fall in Southern California by the end of the week but not as intense. The mountains above 4,000 feet received 1 to 5 feet of new snow from Blue Canyon to the Donner Summit. The storm track moving over the Golden State broke the long, dry spell with some impressive 7 day totals for the week: 8 to 11 inches of rain along the coastal region, 2 to 4 inches of rain in the central valley, 1 to 2 inches of rain in Southern California, and up to 6 feet of new snow at the highest elevations.

During the first two weeks of February, onions were being irrigated and fertilized in Fresno County. In mid-February, weather was affected by a series of rather weak cold fronts which passed over the persistent high pressure ridge that had been in place just off the west coast. The strongest of the storm systems brought widespread showers to the entire State, spreading from the north coast early Monday and sweeping south and east across California. Light to moderate rains were associated with this system, with moderate snowfall across the northern mountains and the Sierra Nevada. At least two other weak frontal systems then passed across California as the week progressed. In between systems, gusty offshore flow brought drying conditions to Southern California. The last of the cold fronts moved through during the weekend. These storms brought just light amounts of precipitation to the Golden State.

Seasonal precipitation still remains far below seasonal normal. The last week in February was a warmer, drier week for most of the State.

Strong, southerly winds impacted the central valley with valley peak gusts up to 60 mph the first week of March. The second week saw fall planted onions continuing to emerge in Fresno County and growing well. The weather weekending March 18 was dominated by a broad low pressure area which remained off the west coast for most of the week. For most of the week, Southern California missed the precipitation. The low pressure system driving these storms remained stationary for much of the week, but by Friday night it finally began to move inland. By the end of the week, the low pressure moved across California and brought widespread rain and mountain snow to the entire State, even to Southern California.

Fresno County onions continued to emerge and grow well as farmers irrigated and fertilized through March and into April. By the end of the first week of April they had established a good start. Growers also treated fields with herbicides for volunteer wheat. By the end of April, early varieties were being harvested in Tulare County and sold at roadside stands. Harvest of the Red Sweet Flat onions began mid-May. With the exception of isolated thunderstorm activity, no rain fell in Fresno County throughout most of May so growers needed to irrigate the onions. Onions were progressing well in the San Joaquin Valley.

Onions were treated with herbicides the second week of June and continued to grow well in Fresno County. Light harvest began in San Joaquin County mid-June. Throughout the rest

of the month fields were being irrigated and fertilized. Harvest began in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Sutter Counties. Harvest continued in the San Joaquin growing area throughout June, July, August, and was generally complete by mid-September.

Marketing: The first report of Red Flat Type jumbos in 40-pound cartons was issued the weekending May 26, 2012 at \$25.00-27.95. The last report was issued during the weekending July 14, 2012 at \$18.00-20.95.

50-pound sacks of Yellow Hybrid jumbos opened the season at \$6.00-7.00 the weekending June 9, 2012. The last report was issued during the weekending August 25, 2012 at \$7.00-10.00.

50-pound sacks of White onions jumbos opened the season during the weekending June 23, 2012 at \$9.00-10.00. The last report was issued during the weekending August 4, 2012 at \$9.00-12.00.

25-pound sacks of Red Globe Type jumbos opened the season at \$14.00-15.00 during the weekending June 9, 2012. The last report was issued during the weekending August 25, 2012 at \$10.00-16.00. Red Flat Type jumbos opened the season at \$12.00-16.95 during the weekending June 9, 2012. The last report was issued during the weekending July 14, 2012 at \$11.00-12.95.

Packaging: Onions were sized, sorted, graded and packed prior to shipments. 50-pound sacks remain the dominant package for Yellow and White types. The most widely used package for Red Globe Type onions are the 25-pound sacks. Some onions were also packed in baled 2, 3, 5, and 10-pound consumer mesh sacks.

MARKETING THE NORTH AND EAST POINTS COLORADO ONIONS

2012 CROP

Acreage: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6,500 acres of storage onions planted in Colorado in 2012, which was a 13 percent decrease from the 2011 total of 7,500 acres. Harvested acreage in 2012 was 6,200 compared to 6,900 acres in 2011. Yield in 2012 was 420 hundredweight (cwt) per acre, an increase from the 2011 yield of 415 cwt. Production in 2012 was 2,604,000 cwt, a 9 percent decrease from 2011 production of 2,864,000 cwt.

Shipments: Fresh shipments from the North and East Points Colorado District 2012 season totaled 3,520 400-cwt units, a 40 percent decrease from 2011s 5,870 400-cwt units.

Fresh shipments started the weekending July 18, 2012 and continued through the weekending March 09, 2013. August was the peak shipping month with 628 400-cwt units shipped. Fresh market shipments, recorded by the Federal-State Market News Service in Idaho Falls, Idaho, do not include “known” processing shipments (although some shipments may end up being processed).

The North and East Points Colorado reporting areas include the following counties: Weld, Morgan, Adams, Pueblo, and Otero.

Growing Conditions: Conditions the first week of March across the State were warm and dry. Most of the State experienced precipitation levels below average for that time of year. During the weekending March 20, conditions across Colorado continued to be extremely dry. The following week Colorado continued to experience below average precipitation levels. Temperatures were above normal. The crop was 18 percent planted compared to 24 percent in 2011. Colorado received some much needed moisture weekending April 29 but precipitation levels were still well below average. Temperatures were normal for the week.

Colorado precipitation levels continued to be below normal most of growing season. By weekending May 13 the onion crop was 99 percent planted which was 4 percent ahead of the 5 year average of 96 percent.

Harvest started the middle of July and was complete by the end of October.

Marketing: Due to many growers not growing onions for the 2012 season, we were unable to report shipping point process for this district.

Packaging: Yellow and White onions are packed in 50-pound mesh sacks. Red Globe Types are packed in 25-pound mesh sacks.

MARKETING VIDALIA DISTRICT, GEORGIA ONIONS

2012 CROP

Production: The Vidalia District production area is located in the southeastern section of the State. The Georgia Department of Agriculture first defined the production area in 1986 to include all or parts of approximately twenty southeastern counties. Legislation requires onions to be of the Granex Type in order to carry the Vidalia Sweet Onion label. According to the Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service of the USDA, growers planted 12,700 acres in 2012, a decrease from 2011's 13,600 acres. Harvested onion acreage in 2012 was 10,600 acres, a decrease from 2011's acreage of 12,100 acres. Yield per acre was 230 hundredweight (cwt), a decrease from 2011's yield of 245 cwt. Total production in 2012 was 2,438,000 cwt, compared to 2011 production of 2,965,000 cwt.

Shipments: Fresh shipments from the Vidalia District in Georgia were 4,410 400-cwt units, a 22 percent decrease from the 2011 shipments of 5,618 400-cwt units. May was the peak shipping month with 1,680 400-cwt units shipped. Of the 4,410 units shipped, 22 400-cwt units were organic. Onions are marketed and shipped commercially by truck. There is also a

considerable amount marketed via roadside stands and mail order.

Weather & Crop: Precipitation estimates for the last week in October, 2011 ranged from no rain to one inch. The week's average temperatures ranged from the lower 50s to the mid 60s. Four percent of the onions had been transplanted which was earlier than the 2011 crop. By the end of November, 51 percent of the onions had been transplanted compared to 29 percent for the 2011 crop.

January's climate varied only slightly from Decembers. Precipitation estimates for the month ranged from 0.5 inches on the southeast coast up to 9.5 inches in the northern Appalachian area of the State. The month's average temperature ranged from the lower 40s to the upper 50s. Georgia was warmer than normal for this time of year and received only half of the chill hours that were received in January of 2011. Rains had given some relief from the exceptional drought; however, extreme drought still covered roughly 67 percent of the State compared to less than 7 percent on year ago.

Georgia's February climate warmed slightly from January. Precipitation estimates for the month ranged from an inch in the eastern Piedmont region of the State up to 5 inches in the southwestern Coastal Plain area. The month's average temperature ranged from the lower 40s to the upper 50s. All of Georgia was warmer than normal for that time of year and received less chill hours than were received in February 2011. Rains had given some relief from the exceptional drought; however, extreme drought still covered over 2/3 of the State compared to zero percent one year ago.

By the end of March, the onion crop was rated at 30 percent fair condition, 65 percent good condition, and 5 percent excellent condition. By the end of the first week in April, continued warm temperatures and lack of rain was affecting crop condition. Harvest began mid-April with 18 percent completed compared to 13 percent in 2011. Condition continued to decline with 15 percent of the crop in poor condition, 59 percent in fair, 25 percent in good, and only 1 percent of the crop reported to be in excellent

condition. By the end of April, harvest was 37 percent complete, compared to 54 percent in 2011. Crop condition had improved slightly.

By mid-May, harvest was 77 percent complete, compared to 60 percent in 2011. Harvest was generally complete by the end of May, 2012.

Marketing: The first report was issued during the weekending April 14, 2012. 40-pound cartons of U.S. One Yellow Granex – Marked Sweet jumbos were \$14.00-16.00. The last report was issued during the weekending July 14 at \$24.00. The first report of Organic was issued during the weekending May 12, 2012. 40-pound cartons of U.S. One Yellow Granex – Marked Sweet Organic jumbos was \$24.00. The last report was issued during the weekending June 9, 2012 at \$26.00.

Packaging: The most widely used package for the Yellow Granex – Marked Sweet onion in 2012 was the 40-pound carton. Shippers also used master container 12 3-pound, 16 3-pound, 24 2-pound, and 8 5-pound mesh sacks.

MARKETING THE IDAHO AND MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON ONIONS

2012 CROP

Acreage & Production: There were 19,400 acres of onions planted in the two-State district in 2012, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (8,700 acres in Idaho and 10,700 acres in Malheur County, Oregon). This was a 4 percent decrease from the 2011 acreage of 20,700 acres (9,400 acres in Idaho and 11,300 acres in Malheur County). 19,100 acres were harvested in 2012 (8,500 acres in Idaho and 10,600 acres in Malheur County), a 7 percent decrease from the 20,500 acres harvested in 2011.

The yield per acre in Idaho was 730 cwt per acre, a 6 percent decrease from the 780 cwt per acre yield in 2011. The yield per acre in Malheur County was 750 cwt per acre, a 3 percent increase from the 730 cwt per acre yield in 2011. Production in Idaho was 6,205,000 cwt and in Malheur County it was 7,950,000 cwt for a total of 14,155,000 cwt. This was an 8 percent decrease from the 2011 production of 15,425,000 cwt.

Shipments: Fresh shipments for the 2012 season totaled 22,849 400-cwt units. This was a 7 percent decrease from the 2011 shipments of 24,692 400-cwt units.

Shipments started July 2012 and continued through June 2013. October was the peak shipping month with 3,180 400-cwt units shipped.

Exports for the season totaled 1,287 400-cwt units, a 20 percent decrease from the 2011 exports of 1,609 400-cwt units.

Fresh market shipments do not include “known” processing shipments (although some shipments may end up being processed).

Planting, Growing, & Harvest: Onions were being planted by Idaho growers by the first week of March. By the end of the weekending April 2, 60 percent of the crop had been planted

and none had begun to emerge. By mid-April, temperatures across the State were mostly normal. All regions of the State reported below normal precipitation. By weekending April 23, planting was completed which was ahead of last year and the average. Emergence, was comparable to 2011 numbers with 20 percent of the crop was emerged compared to 18 percent in 2011. By the weekending May 07, emergence was 100 percent compared to 2011s 42 percent.

Warm, dry weather continued through July and August and harvest started at the end of the third week of July. By the end of August harvest was 10 percent complete, compared to 4 percent in 2011. By mid-October harvest was complete which was the ahead of 2011 by 13 percent and ahead of the five year average by 14 percent.

Marketing: The first report for Yellow Spanish Hybrid jumbo 50-pound sacks U.S. One was issued during the weekending August 11, 2012 at \$12.00. The last report was issued during the weekending April 27, 2013 at \$7.00-8.00.

The first report for White Type large 50-pound sacks U.S. One was issued during the weekending August 25, 2012 at \$12.00. The last report was issued during the weekending April 20, 2013 at \$25.00.

The first report for Red Globe Type large U.S. One was issued during the weekending August 25, 2013 at \$13.00-15.00. The last report was issued during the weekending April 20, 2013 at \$25.00.

Packaging: The dry onions were sized, sorted, graded and packed just prior to shipment from the field to storage. 50-pound sacks remain the dominant package for Yellow and White onions and 25-pound sacks for Red onions. Cartons for food service and retail are gaining in popularity; some onions were also packed in 2, 3, 5, and 10-pound consumer mesh sacks in cartons.

MARKETING MICHIGAN ONIONS

2012 CROP

Acreage and Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, planted acreage in Michigan decreased about 23 percent from 3,900 acres in 2011 to 3,000 this season. Harvested acreage decreased by 18 percent from 3,400 acres in 2011, to 2,800 acres this season. Production decreased from 816 (1,000 cwt) in 2011 to 644 (1,000 cwt) this season. This was a decrease of 21 percent. This season, yields decreased slightly coming in at an average of 230 cwt per acre. This was a decrease of 4 percent from last season but was again well below the 350 cwt per acre in 2009.

Harvesting: Light harvest began mid-July and most growers were finished by late September.

Shipments: The first shipments were reported the week ending August 24, 2012. A total of 1,041 loads were shipped this season compared to 1,170 loads last season. This was a decrease

of 11 percent from last season. The last shipments were reported the week ending February 9, 2013, nearly six weeks earlier than normal.

Marketing: The first F.O.B. was issued the week ending September 1, 2012. Yellow Globe Type 16 3-pound mesh sacks of medium sold for \$12.00-13.00 with repacker size at \$10.00-11.00. The first report for Red Globe Type was reported the week ending November 10, 2012 when 25-pound sacks of jumbo were sold for \$8.50-10.50. The final report was issued the week ending February 9, 2013 when 16 3-pound Yellow medium sold for \$14.00-16.50 and repacker size at \$10.00-11.00. The last report for Reds was issued the week ending January 26, 2013 when 25-pound sacks of jumbo sold for \$20.00-23.00 and medium brought \$14.00-16.00.

MARKETING SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO ONIONS

2012 CROP

Acreage: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, New Mexico statewide acreage for summer non-processing onions in 2012 was 5,500 acres, a decrease from 6,100 acres in 2011. Harvested acreage in 2012 was 5,400 acres, compared to 5,900 acres in 2011. The yield per acre in 2012 was 530 hundredweight (cwt), a 15 percent increase from the 2011 yield of 460 cwt. Production in 2012 was 2,862,000 cwt, which was 5 percent more than the 2011 production of 2,714,000 cwt.

Shipments: Fresh shipments for the 2012 season totaled 7,022 400-cwt units, which was a decrease of 2 percent from the 2011 shipments of 7,199 400-cwt units. Fresh shipments started the weekending May 26, 2012 and continued through the weekending September 08, 2012. The peak shipping month was July with 2,947 400-cwt units.

Fresh market shipments, recorded by the Federal-State Market News Service in Idaho Falls, Idaho, do not include “Known” processing shipments (although some shipments may end up being processed).

The Southern New Mexico reporting area includes the following areas: Las Cruces, Hatch, Demming, Anthony, New Mexico and Fabins, Texas.

Crop & Weather: Temperatures were mostly normal for much of the planting season. Growers were able to get 100 percent of the crop planted by the first of April. During much of the growing season temperatures averaged from near to a few degrees above normal.

Weekending May 27 harvest was 17 percent complete which was ahead of the five year average which was 7 percent. Onion condition percentages was 47 fair, 34 good, and 19 excellent. By the end of June, onions were 60 percent harvested, compared to 35 percent last year.

During the last week of July harvest was 90 percent complete, compared to 89 percent in 2011. Harvest was complete by the first part of August.

Marketing: The first report for Yellow Grano jumbos in 50-pound sacks was issued during the weekending June 02, 2012 at \$8.00-9.00. The last report was issued the weekending August 11, 2012 at \$14.00.

The first report for White Type jumbo onions in 50-pound sacks was issued during the weekending June 02, 2012 at \$14.00. The last report was issued the weekending August 04, 2012 at \$12.00-14.00.

The first report for Red Globe Type jumbo onions in 25-pound sacks was issued during the weekending June 02, 2012 at \$15.00-16.00. The last report was issued the weekending August 11, 2012 at \$13.00-16.00.

Packaging: Onions were sized, sorted, graded and packed prior to shipment. 50-pound sacks remain the dominant package for Yellow and White onions. Red Globe Type is packaged primarily in 25-pound sacks. Some onions were also packed in 2, 3, 5, and 10-pound consumer mesh sacks.

MARKETING NEW YORK ONIONS

2012 CROP

Acreage and Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, planted acreage in New York increased significantly this season to 10,200 acres, compared to 8,100 acres last season, a 20 percent increase. Harvested acreage increased dramatically by 39 percent from 6,200 acres in 2011, to 10,100 acres this season. Yield per acre increased slightly this season from 305 cwt per acre in 2011 to 310 cwt per acre in 2012. Production in 1,000 cwt in 2011 was 1,891 compared to 3,131 this season. This was a 40 percent increase and much closer to average for the state.

Harvesting: Initial harvesting of early seeded varieties began in late August and was complete by the middle of October. Fortunately, hurricane Sandy didn't hit the region until late October after harvesting was complete.

Shipments: The first shipments were reported the weekending July 28, 2012 when 50 loads were shipped. A total of 4,743 loads were shipped this season compared to 1,327 loads last

season. This was a dramatic increase of 68 percent from last season. The last shipments were reported the weekending May 4, 2013 when 65 loads were shipped.

Marketing: The first F.O.B. was issued the weekending August 11, 2012 when Yellow Globe Type 16 3-pound mesh sacks of medium 2 1/4 inch minimum sold for \$9.00-10.00 with 2 inch minimum at \$9.50-11.00. The first report for Red Globe Type was reported the weekending August 18, 2012 when 25-pound sacks of jumbo were sold for \$14.00-15.00 and medium at \$10.00-11.00. The final report was issued the weekending April 27, 2013 when 50-pound sacks of yellow medium 2 1/4 minimum sold for \$10.00-11.00, 2 inch minimum at \$9.00-10.00, 16 3-pound yellow medium 2 1/4 minimum sold for \$14.00-15.00 and 2 inch minimum at \$13.00-14.00. The last report for Reds was issued the weekending January 26, 2013 when 25-pound sacks of jumbo sold for \$24.00-28.00.

MARKETING LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS ONIONS

2012 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Lower Rio Grande Valley acreage for spring non-processing onions in 2012 was 7,320 acres, which was a decrease of 28 percent from the 2011 acreage of 10,237 acres.

Shipments: Fresh shipments from the Lower Rio Grande Valley 2012 season totaled 3,235 400-cwt units, a 41 percent decrease from the 2011 fresh shipments of 5,494 400-cwt units.

Fresh shipments started the weekending March 12, 2012 and continued through the weekending June 12, 2012. April was the peak shipping month with 1,957 400-cwt units shipped.

Fresh market shipments, recorded by the Federal-State Market News Service in Idaho Falls, Idaho, do not include “known” processing shipments (although some shipments may end up being processed).

Growing Conditions: By the end of October 2011 the onions were making good progress in South Texas and irrigation of onions was active. Harvest was began in March and continued through the end of May.

Marketing: The first report for Yellow Grano jumbos in 50-pound sacks was issued during the weekending March 31, 2012 at \$8.00. The last

report was issued during the weekending May 12, 2012 at \$10.00.

The first report for Yellow Grano Type – Marked Sweet jumbos in 40-pound cartons was issued during the weekending March 24, 2012 at \$12.00. The last report was issued during the weekending May 05, 2012 at \$12.00.

The first report for White Type jumbos in 50-pound sacks was issued during the weekending April 14, 2012 at \$16.00-18.00. The last report was issued during the weekending May 12 2012 at \$14.00-16.00.

The first report for Red Globe Type jumbos in 25-pound sacks was issued during the weekending April 07, 2012 at \$14.00-16.00. The last report was issued during the weekending May 12, 2012 at \$18.00-20.00.

Packaging: Onion were sized, sorted, graded, and packed prior to shipment. Yellow and White onions are packed in 50-pound mesh sacks with some Yellow Grano Type also packed in 40-pound cartons. Red Globe Type is packaged primarily in 25-pound sacks. Some onions were also packed in 2, 3, 5, and 10-pound consumer mesh sacks.

Transportation: The usual load of onion will consist of 800-860 50-pound sacks or 960-1008 40-pound cartons.

MARKETING SAN ANTONIO-WINTERGARDEN-LAREDO AREA ONIONS

2012 CROP

Acreage: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 2,109 acres of onion planted in the San Antonio-Winter Garden-Laredo area in 2012. This was a 25 percent decrease from the 2011 acreage of 2,827 acres.

Growing & Harvesting: Producers in San Antonio-Winter Garden-Laredo area were preparing land for onions in early October, 2011 and planting them by mid-October. Harvest began the first week of April, 2012 and ended the end of June.

Shipments: Fresh shipments from the San Antonio-Winter Garden-Laredo District 2012 season totaled 2,575 400-cwt units, a 9 percent increase from 2011s shipments of 2,361 400-cwt units.

Fresh shipments started the weekending April 12, 2012 and continued until the weekending July 12, 2012. May was the peak shipping month with 1141 400-cwt units shipped. Fresh market shipments, recorded by the Federal-State Market News Service in Idaho Falls, Idaho, do not include “known” processing shipments (although some shipments may end up being processed).

The San Antonio-Winter Garden-Laredo reporting area includes the following areas: Pearsall, Castroville, Devine, Knippa, Uvalde, Batesville, Jourdantan, Charlotte, Bracketville, La Pryor, Crystal City, Carrizo Springs, Quemado, Eagle Pass, Dilley, and Laredo.

Marketing: The first report of Yellow Grano jumbos in 50-pound sacks was issued during the weekending May 05, 2012 at \$7.50. The last report was issued during the weekending June 16, 2012 at \$7.50.

The first report of White Type jumbos in 50-pound sacks was issued during the weekending May 05, 2012 at \$17.00. The last report was issued during the weekending June 16, 2012 at \$12.00.

The first report of Red Globe Type jumbos in 25-pound sacks was issued during the weekending May 05, 2012 at \$20.00. The last report was issued during the weekending June 02, 2012 at \$17.00.

Packaging: Yellow and White onions are packed in 50-pound mesh sacks with some Yellow Grano Type also packed in 40-pound cartons. Red Globe Type is packed in 25-pound mesh sacks.

MARKETING COLUMBIA BASIN WASHINGTON & UMATILLA BASIN OREGON ONIONS

2012 CROP

Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, 23,500 acres of onions were planted and harvested in 2012 in the Columbia Basin, an 18 percent increase from the 20,000 acres planted and harvested in 2011. The yield per acre was 590 hundredweight (cwt) in 2012, which was 8 percent lower than the 2011 yield of 650 cwt per acre. Production in 2012 was 13,865,000 cwt, a increase of 7 percent from 2011 production of 13,000,000 cwt. There is no individual production information available for the Umatilla Basin Oregon growing area.

Shipments: Fresh shipments from the Columbia Basin Washington 2012 season totaled 26,547 400-cwt units, an 8 percent decrease from the 2011 shipments of 28,848 400-cwt units. Fresh shipments from the Umatilla Basin Oregon 2012 season totaled 6,329 400-cwt units.

The peak shipping month for the Columbia Basin Washington was January with 3,248 400-cwt units shipped. The peak shipping month for Umatilla Basin Oregon was September with 844 400-cwt units shipped.

Fresh market shipments, recorded by the Federal-State Market News Service in Idaho Falls, Idaho, do not include “known” processing shipments (although some shipments may end up being processed).

Growing Conditions: Spring was cool and wet which delayed planting and slowed crop development. During May, more than twice the average precipitation than normal was received. Some over-wintered onions were harvested the end of June and then transplant harvest began in July. August and September saw normal to above normal temperatures which allowed harvest to progress quickly.

Harvest continued through September and October and was generally complete by the end of October.

Marketing: The first report of 50-pound sacks of Yellow Hybrid jumbos was issued the weekending June 30, 2012 at \$7.00-8.00. The last report was issued during the weekending May 11, 2013 at \$8.00-9.00.

The first report of 40-pound cartons of Yellow Hybrid – Marked Sweet jumbos was issued the weekending August 25, 2012 at \$12.00. The last report was issued during the weekending January 05, 2013 at \$11.00-13.00.

The first report of 50-pound sacks of White Type jumbos was issued during the weekending August 25, 2012 at \$12.00. The last report was issued during the weekending March 09, 2013 at \$20.00-22.00.

The first report of 25-pound sacks of Red Globe Type jumbos was issued during the weekending August 25, 2012 at \$11.00-12.00. The last report was issued during the weekending April 6, 2013 at \$22.00-24.00.

Packaging: Onions were sized, sorted, graded and packed prior to shipments. The Yellow Hybrid jumbo size onion is considered to be 3 inches and larger, medium size are considered to be 2 ¼ -3 inches. 50-pound sacks remain the dominant package for Yellow Hybrids and Whites and 25-pound sacks remain the dominant package for the Red Globe Type. Some onions were also packed in 2, 3, 5, and 10-pound consumer mesh sacks. Onions for offshore export are packed in 20-kilogram (44-pound) mesh sacks. Washington onions are not covered by marketing orders or inspection requirements.

MARKETING THE WALLA WALLA WASHINGTON ONIONS

2012 CROP

Acreage: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, 3,100 acres of Walla Walla and other non-storage onions were planted and harvested in 2012, which was a increase of 41 percent from what was planted and harvested in 2011. The yield per acre in 2012 was 370 hundredweight (cwt) per acre, a increase from the 2011 yield of 350 cwt per acre. Production in 2012 was 1,147,000 cwt, which was up 49 percent from the 2011 production of 770,000 cwt.

Shipments: Fresh shipments from the Walla Walla District 2012 season were 556 400-cwt units (68 400-cwt units were exports). This was an 8 percent decrease from 2011 shipments of 603 400-cwt units. July was the peak shipping month with 288 400-cwt units.

Growing Conditions: Weather during the first week of April had above normal precipitation and delayed field work. May was warmer than normal and ended up having average rainfall. Weather through much of the growing season was normal to above average temperatures which allowed the crop to be harvested on time. Harvest started the end of June and was generally complete by the end of July.

Marketing: The first report was released during the weekending June 30, 2012 with 40-pound cartons of Walla Walla Sweet jumbos at \$16.00. The last report was issued during the weekending August 11, 2012 at \$15.00.

Packaging: Onions were sized, sorted, and packed prior to shipment. 40-pound cartons and 50-pound sacks remain the dominant packages. Some onions are also packed in consumer and gift packs as well.

MARKETING MEXICO CROSSINGS THROUGH SOUTH TEXAS ONIONS

2012 CROP

Crossings: Light crossings through South Texas border stations started in early September 2012. Imports are gathered by APHIS officers and provided to Market News on a daily basis. Imports continued to enter the United States until August, 2013.

2012 Mexican crossings through South Texas totaled 6,668 400-cwt units. This was a 6 percent decrease from the 2011 crossings through South Texas of 7,110 400-cwt units. The peak crossings month was March with 2,089 400-cwt units shipped.

Marketing: The first report on 50-pound sacks of Yellow Grano jumbos was issued the weekending January 21, 2012 at \$8.50. The last report was issued the weekending April 21, 2012 at \$7.50.

The first report on 40-pound cartons of Yellow Grano Type – Marked Sweet jumbos was issued the weekending January 14, 2012 at \$13.00.

The last report was issued the weekending April 14, 2012 at \$11.00.

The first report of 50-pound sacks of White Type jumbos was issued the weekending March 03, 2012 at \$27.50. The last report was issued the weekending April 21, 2012 at \$18.00.

The first report on 25-pound sacks of Red Globe Type jumbos was issued the weekending March 03, 2012 at \$6.00. The last report was issued the weekending April 21, 2012 at \$13.00.

Packaging: Yellow and White onions were packed in 50-pound mesh sacks. The Yellow Grano Type – Marked Sweet were packed in 40-pound cartons. Red Globe Type is packed in 25-pound sacks.

MARKETING PERU ONIONS

2012 CROP

Shipments: Limited boat arrivals in containers began coming into various East Coast ports in July with light truck shipments also beginning in July. The number of importers remained limited throughout August.

Imports arrived at many different ports including: Miami, FL, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Savannah, GA, Charleston, SC, Houston, TX, and Newark, NJ.

Movement from U.S. inland packing sheds or ports is as reported by the Market News Service, U.S. Commerce data is not used. Fresh onion shipments from Peru for the 2012 crop totaled 3,462 400-cwt units. This was a 4 percent decrease from the 2011 shipments of 3,588 400-cwt units. The peak shipping month was December with 665 400-cwt units shipped.

Marketing: The first report on a 40-pound carton of Yellow Granex – Marked Sweet jumbo that was repacked at various East Coast Shipping Points was issued the weekending August 11, 2012 at \$22.00-24.00. The last report was issued the weekending February 12, 2013 at \$22.00-25.00.

Packaging: Most importers shipped the onions in bulk containers and packed the onions in the United States. A few onions were sized, graded, stickered and boxed prior to shipment from Peru. Jumbo and colossal onions were both primarily packed in 40-pound cartons.