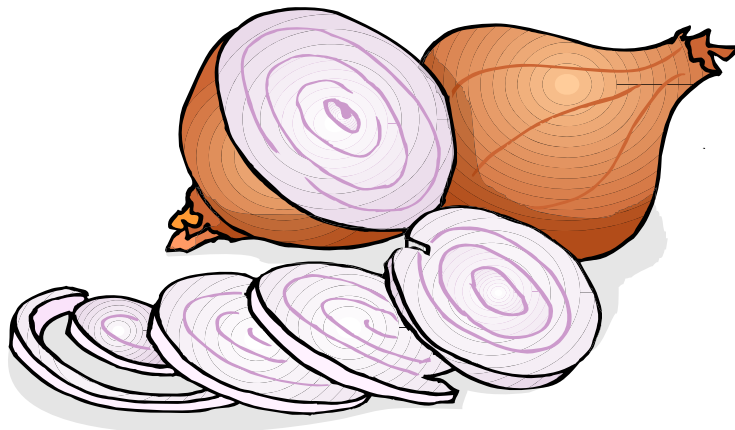


# Marketing U.S. ONIONS

## 2005 Crop



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Federal-State  
Market News Service

*Georgia-Idaho  
State Departments of Agriculture*

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*United State Department of Agriculture  
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# Marketing U.S. ONIONS 2005 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://marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv>

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

The U.S. Onion Monthly Shipments and the Prices for Idaho-Oregon Yellow Onions are examples for the Market News Portal. These were downloaded in Excel and the Prices organized into a Pivot Table.

The *National Potato and Onion Report* is still published and is available by subscription for mail or fax service. To subscribe to this report call 208-525-0166. It is also available on the Web at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/mncs/idnop.pdf>

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

# MARKETING IDAHO AND MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON ONIONS

## 2005 CROP

**ACREAGE:** There were 21,100 acres of onions planted in the two-state district according to NASS, USDA. This was down 14 percent from the 24,500 acres planted in the 2004 crop. 9,700 acres were planted in Idaho (200 acres went unharvested) and 11,400 acres planted in Malheur County, Oregon (200 acres went unharvested).

**PRODUCTION:** The summer storage onion production in Idaho & Malheur County, Oregon, was 14,000,000 cwt. Idaho yields were 640 cwt and Malheur County 680 cwt per acre. Production was down 18 percent from 2004.

Malheur County Oregon accounted for 57 percent of the production. That was 8 million cwt of the 14 million cwt total.

The preliminary shrinkage and loss estimate from NASS was 2.8 million cwt.

**SHIPMENTS:** Fresh shipments for the 2005 season totaled 21,252 400-cwt units. This was down 8 percent from the 23,049 of the 2004 crop. Shipments started in August 2005 and continued through May, 2006. January was the peak-shipping month with 3,366 400-cwt units.

Exports for the season totaled 1019 400-cwt units. This was 2 percent above last season's 1002.

Fresh market shipments, recorded by the Market News Service, do not include "known" processing shipments (although some shipments may end up being processed). The Marketing Order office reported an additional 5,641 400-cwt units of known processing, through April, 2006.

## **PLANTING & GROWING**

**CONDITIONS:** Planting of seeded onions started in mid February which was ahead of the five year average and was finished the week of April 19<sup>th</sup>. Most seed comes from growers in the U.S. although some is imported. The early part of the growing season April-May saw normal temperatures and an above normal rainfall. June through August saw above normal temperatures causing the onions to be stressed and more susceptible thrips. Idaho-Eastern Oregon onions are grown direct seeded and matured into ripe bulbs in five months. In the Idaho-Eastern Oregon production area, most of the yellow onions were Spanish Hybrid varieties. These seed varieties are proprietary and many individual long-day

varieties are grown. Fields were irrigated regularly.

**HARVEST:** Onion harvest started on time the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup>. September brought below normal temperatures and rain which caused some delays in the harvest. Growers were behind the 5 year average most of the time but ended up finishing harvest the end of October. Generally when 25-50 percent of the onion tops were down (fallen over), growers began lifting. Usually after 10 days of curing, mechanical harvesters cut off tops. The weather during the final curing period was warm and dry, near ideal conditions for curing the bulbs and outer wrapper scales.

**MARKETING:** During the first weeks of harvest the area received rain showers which delayed harvest and slowed curing of onions that were already lifted in the field. Transportation was not as much an issue this season as it had been in the past.

Prices for Jumbo Yellows Spanish Hybrids 50-lb sacks U.S. No. 1 opened the season at \$8.00 the week of August 27<sup>th</sup> which was the season high. The season-low price was \$5.00-5.25 set the week of March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Large Whites opened the season at \$11.00 per 50-lb sack U.S. No. 1 the week of August 27<sup>th</sup>. Prices dropped during the season due mostly to the high yields that the Nevada growing district saw, which forced the entire white market down. The weeks of

February 25<sup>th</sup> through the week ending March 11<sup>th</sup> saw the lowest prices of \$7.00-8.00.

Large Reds opened the season at \$7.00-8.00 per 25-lb sack U.S. No. 1 the week of August 27<sup>th</sup>. Prices dropped during harvest to \$6.00-7.00 and remained therefore several weeks. The closing price was \$4.00-4.50 the week of April 25<sup>th</sup> which was also the season low. The low prices on reds were due to the high offering from all growing areas including Colorado, Idaho/OR and mostly Washington.

**PACKAGING:** The dry onions were sized, sorted, graded and packed just prior to shipment from the field or storage. 50-lb sacks remain the dominant package for yellow and white onions and 25-lb sacks for red onions. Cartons for food service and retail are gaining in popularity; some onions were also packed in baled 2, 3, 5 and 10-lb consumer mesh sacks in cartons.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Trucks hauled 81% of the crop to markets. The rest were hauled by rail and piggyback.

## MARKETING IMPERIAL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA ONIONS

### 2005 CROP

**Acreage:** Statewide acreage planted for spring non storage onions in 2005 was 9,100 up 3 percent from 2004s acreage of 8,800. Harvested acreage in 2005 was 8,700 up 1 percent from 2004s acreage of 8,400. Yield per acre in 2005 was 550 hundredweight (cwt), a decrease from 2004s 560 cwt. 2005s production was 4,785,000 cwt, an increase from 2004s production of 4,704,000 cwt.

**Shipments:** Fresh shipments from the Imperial Valley 2005 season totaled 5,066 400-cwt units. This was a 4 percent decrease from the 5,276 400-cwt units shipped in 2004.

Fresh shipments of Yellow onions started shipping the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup> and continued shipping through mid-June. The peak shipping month was May with 3,989 400-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 Imperial Valley reporting region includes the following areas: Brawley, El Centro, Holtville, and Imperial.

**Growing Conditions:** The end of March, scattered rains slowed field activities and cooler temperatures slowed development. Onion fields were weeded and fertilized. Some fungicides were applied to some onion fields during the first week of April.

**Marketing:** 50-lb sacks of Yellow Grano Type jumbo opened the season at \$7.00-8.00 the week of April 30. The price fell every week and the last report was \$4.00-4.50 the week of June 4.

The 2005 season for Whites in the Imperial Valley started the season at \$14.00-16.00 for jumbos in 50-lb sacks the week of April 30. The price declined slightly to \$12.00-14.00, the last report on jumbos the week of May 28.

**Packaging:** Onions were sized, sorted, graded and packed prior to shipment. 50-lb sacks remain the dominant package. Some onions were also packed in baled 2, 3, 5 and 10-lb consumer mesh sacks.

## MARKETING THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

### 2005 CROP

**Acreage:** Statewide acreage planted for spring non storage onions in 2005 was 9,100 up percent from 2004s acreage of 8,800. Harvested acreage in 2005 was 8,700 up 1 percent from 2004s acreage of 8,400. Yield per acre in 2005 was 550 hundredweight (cwt), a decrease from 2004s 560 cwt. 2005s production was 4,785,000 cwt, an increase from 2004s production of 4,704,000 cwt.

**Shipments:** Fresh shipments from the San Joaquin Valley 2005 season totaled 10,865 400-cwt units, a slight increase from 2004s 10,832 400-cwt units.

Shipments began the third week in May and ended in mid-September. July was the peak shipping month with 4,643 400-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 San Joaquin Valley reporting region includes the following areas: Lodi, Ripon, Mantecaa, Modesto, Madera, Riverdale, Fresno, Watsonville, Hollister, Salinas, Santa Maria, Mendota, Stockton, Merced, Oxnard, Somis, Huron, and Bakersfield.

**Crop & Weather:** The end of March, scattered rains slowed field activities and cooler temperatures slowed development. Onion fields were weeded and fertilized. During the first week of April, fungicides were applied to some onion fields. Below normal temperatures during the first week of May, slowed development and rain slowed field activities in all areas, except for the desert. Downey mildew was reported in some onion fields. Onion fields were irrigated and treated with fungicides through the next couple weeks. Warming temperatures stimulated growth the week ending May 22. Fields continued to be irrigated and treated with fungicides. During the last week of May, warm, dry weather benefited field crops. Onions were treated for rust.

Onions were curing in many fields in Fresno County the first week of June. Red onions were being harvested in Tulare County. Dry onion harvest was winding down in Fresno

County mid-June, but continued elsewhere in the San Joaquin Valley. Fungicides were applied for rust control in some onion fields the first week of July. Fungicide application and harvest continued for the rest of the month.

**Marketing:** The first report on Red Flat Type jumbo in 40-lb cartons was issued the week of May 28 at \$16.00-22.00. The market declined steadily until the last report issued the week of July 9 at \$11.00-12.85.

The first report of 50-lb sacks of Yellow Grano Type jumbos was issued during the week of June 4 at \$4.50-5.50. The market fell to a season low during the weeks of June 25 and July 2 of \$4.00-4.50 then it rebounded, rising every week. The last report was issued during the week of September 10 at \$7.00.

Jumbo Whites opened the season at \$12.00-14.00 per 50-lb sacks the week of June 18. The market fluctuated up and down the entire season. The last report was issued during the week of August 18 at \$11.00-12.00.

**Packaging:** Onions were sized, sorted, graded and packed prior to shipments. 50-lb sacks remain the dominate package for yellow and white onions. Red Flat Types were predominately packed in 40-lb cartons, with Red Globes in 25-lb sacks. Some onions were also packed in baled 2, 3, 5, and 10-lb consumer mesh sacks.

## MARKETING NORTH AND EAST POINTS COLORADO ONIONS

### 2005 CROP

**ACREAGE:** There were 10,000 acres of onions planted throughout the state of Colorado according to NASS, USDA. This was down from the 12,500 acres planted in 2004. Of the 10,000 acres 500 were un-harvested.

**SHIPMENTS:** Fresh shipments from the North and East Point Colorado District 2005 season totaled 7395 400-cwt units. 2005 fall storage onion shipments were up 6 percent from the 6948 of the 2004 crop.

Fresh shipments of Yellow onions started shipping the week of July 30th and continued through the week of March 18th. September was the peak-shipping month with 1640 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 North and East Points Colorado reporting areas includes the following counties Weld, Morgan, Adams, Pueblo, and Otero.

**GROWING CONDITIONS:** The onions were all planted by the week of May 14<sup>th</sup> which was normal. Most of the growing season saw normal temperatures and well below normal precipitation.

**HARVEST:** Harvest got underway the first week of August 1<sup>st</sup> which was normal starting time for this area. There were only minimal delays in harvest due to rain, but harvest finished the week of October 31<sup>st</sup> equal to the 5 year average.

**MARKETING:** Prices for Red Globe Type Large in 25 lb sacks opened at \$13.00 the week of August 6<sup>th</sup> which was the season high. Prices weakened the rest of the season. The finishing price was \$7.00 the week of February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Yellow Jumbo opened the season at \$12.00-13.00 per 50-lb sack the week of August 6<sup>th</sup> then went to \$12.00-14.00 for nine weeks that was the season high. As other areas began shipping the price started to decline. They finished the season at \$8.00-8.50 on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

The 2005 season for Large Whites in the North and East Points Colorado District started the season at \$15.00-16.00 the week of August 6<sup>th</sup>. They finished the season at \$9.00-10.00 the week of November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**PACKAGING:** Yellow and white onions are packed in 50-lb mesh sacks, reds are packed in 25-lb mesh sacks.

## MICHIGAN ONIONS – 2005 CROP

### GENERAL COMMENTS

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The onion growing areas of the state experienced one of the hottest and driest summers on record. This resulted in a very small size crop with most onions sizing 2 inches and down. The Michigan onion deal usually runs from mid-August through early April.

#### **ACREAGE & PRODUCTION:**

According to NASS, planted acreage in Michigan increased slightly from 3,700 acres in 2004, to 3,800 acres this season. Harvested acreage also increased from 3,200 acres in 2004, to 3,700 acres this season. Production increased slightly from 928 (1,000 cwt) in 2004, to 962 (1,000 cwt) this season. This season yields decreased coming in at an average of 260 cwt per acre. This was a decrease of about 10 percent from last season.

**HARVESTING:** Most growers waited as long as possible to begin harvesting in hopes that the onions would gain any additional size. Light harvesting began in mid-July but most waited until well into August. Nearly all harvesting was complete by the end of September.

**SHIPMENTS:** The first onion shipments were reported the week ending August 27<sup>th</sup>. As is typical, the month of November was the heaviest month for shipments when 330 loads were shipped. This was down 53 loads from last season. The heaviest shipping week of the season was the week ending November 19<sup>th</sup> when 103 loads were shipped. Shipments were fairly light throughout the rest of the season. The last shipments were reported the week ending March 25, 2006, when 12 loads were shipped.

**MARKETING:** The first FOB was issued the week ending September 24<sup>th</sup>, nearly 3 weeks later than normal as growers waited as long as possible for size. 50-lb sacks of Yellow Globe Type medium sold for \$6.50-7.00, repacker size \$5.50-6.00, and 16 3-lb mesh sacks of medium sold for \$10.00-11.00, repacker size \$7.00-7.50. Prices were fairly steady throughout much of the season then increased slightly near the end of the deal. The final report was issued the week ending March 18, 2006, when 50-lb sacks of medium were sold for \$7.50-8.00 and 16 3-lb mesh sacks of medium were sold for \$9.50-10.00.



**MARKETING SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO ONIONS**  
**2005 CROP**

**ACREAGE:** New Mexico statewide acreage for summer-non processing onions in 2005 was 7,400 this is up 1 percent from last year. Harvested acreage in 2005 was 7,200.

**SHIPMENTS:** Fresh shipments from the New Mexico 2005 season totaled 6,515 400-cwt units. 2005 summer crop fresh onion shipments were down 15 percent from the 7,638 of the 2004 crop.

Fresh shipments started the last week of May 2005 and continued through the first of September 2005. July was the peak shipping month with 3,279 400-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

**GROWING CONDITIONS:** By April 16<sup>th</sup> 100 percent of the onion crop was planted. Throughout the months of April and May growing conditions were normal.

**HARVEST:** The 2005 onion crop started harvest the week of May 21<sup>st</sup> which was normal. There were some delays in harvesting due to rain which caused harvest to finish 3 weeks behind the five year average. Harvest was completed the week of August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**MARKETING:** Prices for Red Globe Type Jumbo in 25-lb sacks opened at \$12.00-14.00 the week of June 4<sup>th</sup>. Prices bounced around to mostly lower prices and ended up finishing at \$9.00-10.00 the week of August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Jumbo Yellows opened the season at \$5.00-6.00 the week of June 4<sup>th</sup>. Prices dropped to a low of \$4.00-4.50 the week of June 25<sup>th</sup>. Yellows closed the season at \$9.00 the last week of August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Jumbo Whites opened the season at \$12.00-14.00 the week of June 4<sup>th</sup>. Whites closed the season at \$13.00-14.00 the week of August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**PACKAGING:** Onions were sized, sorted, graded and packed prior to shipment. 50-lb sacks remain the dominant package for yellow and white onions. Red globe type are packaged primarily in 25-lb sacks. Some onions were also packed in 2, 3, 5 and 10-lb consumer mesh sacks.

## NEW YORK WESTERN & CENTRAL ONIONS 2005 SEASON

### GENERAL COMMENTS

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Hot and dry weather took its toll on this years' crop. It was obvious that the heat had not allowed for proper sizing and that yields would be significantly affected. The Western and Central New York onion deal usually runs from mid-August through early May.

**ACREAGE & PRODUCTION:**

According to NASS, for all of New York State, planted acreage increased this season from 13,500 acres in 2004 to 13,800 acres in 2005. Harvested acreage also increased from 13,000\* acres in 2004, to 13,600 acres in 2005. This was a 5 percent increase in harvested acreage. Yield per acre however, decreased significantly this season from 400 cwt. per acre in 2004, to 280 cwt. per acre in 2005. This was a 30 percent decrease from last season. Production in 1,000 cwt. in 2004 was 5,200\* compared to 3,808 in 2005. This was a 27 percent decrease.

**HARVESTING:** Initial harvesting of early transplanted varieties began in mid August. Most growers delayed harvesting as long as possible to allow for any additional sizing. Most harvesting was complete by early November.

**SHIPMENTS:** The first shipments were reported the week ending August 20<sup>th</sup>. Shipments decreased significantly this season in Western and Central New York by 22 percent from 4,133 loads in 2004 to 3,232 loads in 2005. Again,

March was the heaviest month for shipments when 600 loads were shipped. Peak shipments were reported the week ending March 18<sup>th</sup> when 152 loads were shipped. Most growers and shippers were finished by the end of April.

**MARKETING:** The first FOB was issued the week ending August 27<sup>th</sup> when Yellow Globe Type 50-lb sacks of medium 2 1/4" minimum sold for \$9.50-10.00. 16 3-lb mesh sacks medium 2 1/4" minimum sold for \$10.50 and 2 inch minimum sold for \$9.50-10.00. Prices this season remained nearly unchanged throughout most of the season. Prices for reds this season were depressed due to strong pressure from other growing areas. Red 25-lb sacks of jumbos started at \$6.50-7.00 then declined to \$5.00-5.50. Medium reds started at \$5.00-5.50 and finishing at \$3.00-4.00. The last report was issued the week ending April 29<sup>th</sup>, when 50 lb sacks of yellow medium 2 1/4" minimum were sold for \$8.00-8.50 and 2" minimum were sold for \$6.00-7.00. 16 3-lb mesh sacks of yellow medium 2 1/4" minimum were sold for \$9.00-9.50 and 2" minimum were sold for \$7.50-8.50.

\* - Revised

## NEW YORK ORANGE COUNTY ONIONS 2005 CROP

**HIGHLIGHTS: HOT AND DRY.** One of the hottest and driest summers in recent memory took an enormous toll on the onions this season. In mid July through much of August there were a record number of 90 plus degree days. Water for irrigation was scarce with some growers waiting up to three months to have new wells drilled. The Orange County New York onion deal usually runs from mid August through early April.

**ACREAGE & PRODUCTION:** According to NASS, for all of New York State, planted acreage increased this season from 13,500 acres in 2004 to 13,800 acres in 2005. Harvested acreage also increased from 13,000\* acres in 2004, to 13,600 acres in 2005. This was a 5 percent increase in harvested acreage. Yield per acre however, decreased significantly this season from 400 cwt. per acre in 2004, to 280 cwt. per acre in 2005. This was a 30 percent decrease from last season. Production in 1,000 cwt. in 2004 was 5,200\* compared to 3,808 in 2005. This was a 27 percent decrease.

**HARVESTING:** The first transplanted Reds were harvested near the middle of July. Again, due to the unseasonably hot and dry conditions, it was immediately evident that the size of the onions this season would be a challenge to market for most growers. The majority of the crop was sizing 2 inches and down. Most harvesting was completed by early September.

**SHIPMENTS:** Shipments decreased dramatically in Orange County this season by 43 percent compared to last season and 16 percent from 2004. The first shipments were reported the week ending August 27<sup>th</sup>.

The heaviest month for shipments was November when 270 loads were shipped, a 34 percent decrease from last season. Peak shipments were reported the week ending November 19<sup>th</sup>, when 92 loads were shipped. After November, shipments were light throughout the rest of the season. The last shipments were reported on March 9<sup>th</sup>, when 5 loads were shipped, a full month earlier than normal.

**MARKETING:** The first FOB was issued the week ending September 3<sup>rd</sup>, when 50-lb sacks of Yellow Globe Type medium 2 1/4" minimum were sold for \$10.00-10.75 and 16 3-lb mesh sacks of medium 2 1/4" minimum were sold for \$11.00-11.75. The first Red onions were reported the week ending September 10<sup>th</sup>, when 25-lb sacks of jumbo were sold for \$9.00-9.50 and mediums were sold for \$6.00-7.00. Onions traded within a narrow price range throughout most of the season. The last report was issued the week ending March 11<sup>th</sup>, when 50-lb sacks of medium 2 1/4" minimum sold for \$9.00-10.00 and 2" minimum sold for \$8.00-9.00. 16 3-lb medium 2 1/4" minimum were sold for \$10.00-11.00 and 2" minimum sold for \$8.75-9.50, and 25-lb sacks of Red medium sold for \$4.00-4.50.

\* - Revised

## MARKETING PERU ONIONS

### 2005 CROP

**Shipments:** Limited boat arrivals in containers began coming into various East Coast ports the end of August with light truck shipments beginning shortly thereafter. The number of exporters increased during the month of November and the peak shipping month was December.

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 it is not U.S. Commerce Department Data. Fresh onion shipments from Peru for the 2005 crop totaled 2,725 400-cwt units.

This was an increase from 2004s shipments of 2,323 400-cwt units.

**Marketing:** The first F.O.B. on 40-lb cartons of Yellow Granex jumbos was issued during the week of October 1 at \$20.00-22.00. This was for onions Repacked at Various East Coast Shipping Points. The market decreased steadily until the last report issued during the week ending March 11 at \$12.00.

**Packaging:** Most importers shipped the onions in bulk containers and pack 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-lb cartons.

**MARKETING LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS ONIONS**  
**2005 CROP**

**ACREAGE:** Lower Rio Grande Valley acreage for spring-non processing onions in 2005 was 12,500 this is up 37% from last year. Harvested acreage in 2005 was 11,400.

**SHIPMENTS:** Fresh shipments from the Lower Rio Grande Valley 2005 season totaled 6,057 400-cwt units. 2005 summer crop fresh onion shipments were up 9% from the 5,564 of the 2004 crop.

Fresh shipments started the week of March 19<sup>th</sup> 2005 and continued through the week of June 11<sup>th</sup> 2005. April was the peak shipping month with 4,062 400-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).

**GROWING CONDITIONS:** Planting was delayed in the valley. Because of the delays some growers could not get planted by as early as planned which caused a gap in offerings during the marketing season.

**HARVEST:** The 2005 onion crop started the harvest the week of March 12<sup>th</sup> which was normal. Harvest was completed the week of June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**MARKETING:** Prices for Red Globe Type Jumbo in 25 lb sacks opened at \$9.00-10.00 the week of April 9<sup>th</sup>. Prices peaked the week of May 14<sup>th</sup> and stayed steady at 16.00-18.00 until they finished the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Jumbo Yellows in 50 lb sacks opened the season at \$5.00-6.00 the week of March 26<sup>th</sup>. The opening price was the low of the season. They peaked towards the end of the season reaching 12.00 for two weeks in April. The jumbos finished the season at 9.00-10.00 the week of May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Jumbo Whites opened the season at \$16.00-18.00 the week of April 9<sup>th</sup>. Prices rose to \$22.00-24.00 for two weeks of the season. Whites closed the season at \$18.00-20.00 the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**PACKAGING:** Onions were sized, sorted, graded and packed prior to shipment. Yellow and white onions are packed in 50-lb mesh sacks with some 1015s also packed in 40-lb cartons. Red globe type were packaged primarily in 25-lb sacks. Some onions were also packed in 2, 3, 5 and 10-lb consumer mesh sacks.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The usual loads of onions will consist of 800-850 sacks or 950-1000 cartons.

## MARKETING SAN ANTONIO-WINTER GARDEN-LAREDO AREA ONIONS

### 2005 CROP

**ACREAGE:** There were 4,500 acres of onions planted in the San Antonio-Winter Garden-Laredo area according to NASS, USDA. This was down from the 5,400 acres planted in 2004.

**SHIPMENTS:** Fresh shipments from the San Antonio-Winter Garden-Laredo District 2005 season totaled 3363 400-cwt units. 2005 summer crop fresh onion shipments were up 79 percent from the 1884 of the 2004 crop.

Fresh shipments of Yellow onions started shipping the week of April 30<sup>th</sup> and continued through the week of July 23<sup>rd</sup>. June was the peak-shipping month with 1,606 400-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 San Antonio-Winter Garden-Laredo reporting area included the following areas: Pearsall, Castroville, Devine, Knippa, Uvalde, Batesville, Jourdantan, Charlotte, Bracketville, La Pryor, Crystal City, Carrizo Springs, Qucmado, Eagle Pass, Dilley and Laredo.

**GROWING CONDITIONS:** Wet conditions prevailed during the early part of the planting season delaying it for a couple of weeks. After

the onions were in the ground, fairly normal weather prevailed for most of the growing season.

**HARVEST:** Harvest began on about 2 weeks later than the five year average. During harvest conditions were dry and the area was in need of rain. The harvest finished the week of July 16<sup>th</sup>.

**MARKETING:** Yellow Jumbo opened the season at \$7.00-9.00 per 50-lb sack the week of May 14<sup>th</sup>, which was also the high of the season. Then when other areas started harvesting prices went down to \$5.00-5.50 which is where they finished the season the week of July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The 2005 season for Jumbo Whites in the San Antonio-Winter Garden-Laredo District started the season at \$16.00-18.00 the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>. The season low was \$10.00 which is where they finished the season the week of June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**PACKAGING:** Yellow and white onions are packed in 50-lb mesh sacks with some 1015s also packed in 40-lb cartons; reds are packed in 25-lb mesh sacks.

## MARKETING CENTRAL WISCONSIN ONIONS

### 2005 CROP

**Production:** According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Wisconsin growers planted 2,000 acres in 2005, the same as 2004's 2,000 acres. 2,000 acres were harvested, compared to 1,900 acres in 2004. The yield per acre was 330 hundredweight (cwt) per acres, an increase from 2004's 320 cwt. Production was 660,000 cwt in 2005, an increase from 2004's production of 608,000 cwt.

**Shipments:** Fresh shipments from central Wisconsin totaled 1,742 400-cwt units. This was a 26 percent increase from 2004's 1,387 400-cwt units. The peak shipping month was December with 364 400-cwt units shipped. All of the shipments were delivered by truck.

**Crop & Weather:** In Wisconsin, onions are typically planted in April. Warm temperatures and isolated rainfall during the first part of April, allowed producers to get in the fields. Temperatures were 6 to 14 degrees higher than normal for that time of the year. Precipitation was limited, ranging from .71 to 2.05 inches below normal for that time of the year. Warmer than normal temperatures continued throughout the month of April, until the very end when a cool front moved through. It didn't last long as temperatures began to warm up the first week of May.

A significant amount of much-needed rain fell the middle of May and temperatures

were very close to normal. However, most of the state remained below average for rainfall for the year at the end of May. Temperatures warmed up the beginning of June and kicked into high gear by the middle of June. Temperatures were 7 to 12 degrees above normal. Precipitation varied around the state, with some areas receiving only .84 inches, while others received as much as 4.6 inches of rain.

There were warm temperatures the first week in July, coupled with more rainfall which contributed to better crop conditions. Temperatures were cooler than normal the following week but were much higher than normal in mid-July. After two weeks of scattered showers, dry weather returned the first week of August.

**Marketing:** The first report on Yellow Globe Type onions was issued during the week ending September 17. 50-lb sacks of medium onions were \$6.50-7.75. The market remained fairly steady until February where it fell slightly to \$6.00-7.00 for three weeks then it climbed to \$6.75-7.00 where it stayed until the last report issued during the week ending March 11.

**Packaging:** Onions were sized, sorted and packed prior to shipment. 50-lb sacks remain the dominate package. Onions were also packed in Master containers of 16 3-lb mesh sacks.

**U.S. Onion Shipments 2005-2006**  
in 40,000 lb Units

Origin Name	May-05	Jun-05	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	Grand Total
ARGENTINA	5	1	3					2	4		3		18
ARIZONA	624	634	279									-	1,537
BOLIVIA									2	1	3	1	7
CALIFORNIA-CENTRAL	90	2,829	4,040	3,510	388		6						10,863
CALIFORNIA-IMPERIAL VAL	4,156	425										396	4,977
CALIFORNIA-SOUTH			223	744	757	694	548	350	317	245	197	188	4,263
CANADA	125	116	66	283	412	300	253	198	175	148	180	81	2,337
CHILE	15	16	62	34	2				344	38	35	44	590
CHINA	11	6	8	5	6	9	5	7	7	9	2	3	78
COLOMBIA	5	4	1	2	8		1		1		2	3	27
COLORADO			53	1,649	1,742	1,205	1,263	1,038	765	381	51		8,147
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1												1
ECUADOR				2	28	14	3	12	3	6			68
FRANCE	2	2		1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	20
GEORGIA	1,750	1,124	835	326	2							932	4,969
GUATEMALA	7	6	6	6	5	5	6	6	11	31	39	6	134
IDAHO	105	14	8	294	1,439	1,661	1,588	1,456	1,735	1,595	1,218	215	11,328
IRAN										-			-
ITALY			1										1
MEXICO	524	321	107	22	26	35	26	43	99	755	2,771	1,634	6,363
MICHIGAN				57	214	234	350	271	244	157	56	4	1,587
NETHERLANDS		1				2		2		1			6
NEW MEXICO	90	2,484	2,854	1,057	29								6,514
NEW YORK	76			222	600	634	713	634	558	567	682	300	4,986
NEW ZEALAND	22	8	6	3						1	6	11	57
OREGON	61	44	78	974	1,720	1,905	1,634	1,796	1,966	1,671	1,517	516	13,882
PERU				55	369	537	742	834	669	87			3,293
POLAND	2						1	1	1	1	2		8
PORTUGAL												1	1
SYRIA								1					1
TEXAS	3,326	1,798	407	37							1,027	4,480	11,075
URUGUAY								1					1
UTAH					75	382	352	374	211	93			1,487
WASHINGTON	746	478	744	1,796	2,465	2,389	2,271	2,999	2,799	2,111	1,699	1,130	21,627
WISCONSIN				65	256	217	270	318	271	263	87		1,747
Grand Total	11,743	10,311	9,781	11,144	10,544	10,225	10,033	10,344	10,183	8,164	9,582	9,946	122,000