

VEGETABLES

Vegetable production in the Mildura Region is valued at over \$58.2 million dollars according to industry estimates in 2003. 4.9% of total Australian vegetables (type listed below) are produced in the Mildura Region with a total of 106,038 tonnes produced annually. Carrots, asparagus and melons are the three main vegetables; with carrots and asparagus producing 24% and 23% of the total Australian production and melons 11% of total Australian production.

The Mildura Region boasts some of Australia's most significant carrot production. Rocky Lamattina and Sons Farms for example has sophisticated technology for large scale production and a state of the art packing and handling facility, ensuring premium quality and efficiency.

Irymple Citrus Products produces carrot juice with an established export market to Japan. The carrots which are crushed for juice are a special variety chosen because of their high beta-carotene levels.

90% of lettuce produced in the Mildura Region is sold for processing for the food service industry. Green asparagus is produced year round predominately for fresh consumption with Japan and Taiwan being valuable export markets. Melon growing is ideally suited to the Mildura region's hot summer climate. Rockmelon, watermelon and honeydew are produced using drip irrigation with produce marketed domestically and small quantities exported. Potato growing occurs mostly on sandhills under centre pivot irrigation with produce sent to fresh markets and processing for potato crisps.

Vegetables	Hectares 03	Mildura Region production (t)	Farm gate value A\$	Estimated total Aust production (t)	Mildura Region % of Aust production 04
Carrot	2,200Ha	64,500t	\$22,600,000	265,000t	24%
Melon	550Ha	18,900t	\$13,900,000	174,000t	11%
Asparagus	670Ha	2,000t	\$8,000,000	8,900t	23%
Potato*	500Ha	14,000t	\$4,200,000	1,400,000t	1%
Lettuce	100Ha	3,000t	\$1,900,000	135,000t	2.2%
Zucchini & Squash	75Ha	1,125t	\$1,100,000	16,400t	6.8%
Capsicum & Chilli	20Ha	480t	\$420,000	41,000t	1%
Eggplant	20Ha	308t	\$308,000	n/a	n/a
Pumpkin	45Ha	1125t	\$303,000	88,000t	1.3%
Sweet Corn	60Ha	600t	\$510,000	57,000t	1%
Other**	-Ha	-	\$5,000,000	-	-
TOTAL	4,240Ha	106,038t	\$58,241,000	2,185,300t	

Source - Horticulture Australia with Department of Primary Industries NSW and Victoria

* Potatoes are grown 40kms beyond the boundary of the Mildura Region at Boundary Bend. **Other vegetables include bean, pea, cauliflower, cucumber, okra, broccoli, spinach, tomato, garlic and onion.

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