

# Yuma Arizona Agriculture

There are about 180,000 acres physically in agricultural production in Yuma County. You will see statistics indicating 230,000 or more acres planted, which is true. Almost all fields are planted to two crops per year leading to double counting in some cases. With short season vegetables or herbs, there may be more than two crops per year.

The annual rainfall in Yuma county is 3 to 4 inches a year.

Irrigated cropland ranges in price from \$20 to \$30,000 per acre, depending on soils and location.

A study commissioned by a produce industry association has found that Arizona's leafy green vegetable industry, dominated by Yuma County growers, generates about \$2 billion of economic impact every year, twice the amount most often used to estimate its contribution.



Yuma County has 96.7 percent of the state's acreage of harvested lettuce, but only 30 percent of the number of operations. The other parts of the state are much smaller in size, but are larger in quantity of grower's.

The winter crops are more than 75 varieties of lettuce, baby greens, cauliflower, broccoli, herbs, root vegetables, kales and numerous other vegetable crops. The produce season starts in August and normally ends in early April.

Summer crops or rotation crops include: Sudan grass for hay and seed, hard red wheat, short and long staple cotton, watermelons, cantaloupes, Honeydew, Alfalfa, Bermuda grass for seed, and other crops that fit the April to August growing window.

There are approximately 24 coolers located in Yuma to chill the fresh field produce to 46 degrees. The produce is then held in cold rooms until it is loaded on to one of the 1000 or more trucks a day taking vegetables throughout the United States and Canada. The fresh produce usually leaves Yuma within 24 hours of harvest.



# Cooling, Distribution





# Watermelons Covered For Frost Protection



Vegetable Seed Crops produced in the Yuma Area are demanding high labor inputs during the growing season, which generally are planted the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and are harvested from May thru June. These crops labor needs range from \$500/acre up to \$1,200 to \$1,500/acre depending on the growing season.

Some of the larger acreages of Vegetable Seed Crops

Produced in the Yuma area are:

Hybrid Broccoli & Cauliflower

Hybrid & Open Pollinated Onions

Hybrid & Open Pollinated Carrots

Lettuce

Mustard

Kale

Artichokes





# Hybrid Broccoli Seed





# Hybrid Carrot Seed





# Hybrid Onion Seed





# Vegetable Seed Map Pinning







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# H-2A PROGRAM





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*The H2A temporary agricultural program allows employers who anticipate a shortage of domestic Workers to bring nonimmigrant foreign Workers to the U.S. to perform agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature*

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## FY 2017

10,097 Applications Processed

200,049 Workers Certified

97% Certification Rate

15% increase in Applications over FY2016

32% Increase in use of Labor Contractors

### Top States of H2A Employment

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| 1. Florida    | 25,303 |
| 2. Georgia    | 23,421 |
| 3. N. C.      | 20,713 |
| 4. Washington | 18,535 |
| 5. California | 15,232 |

# H2A Program Workload Trends, FY2014-2017

| Type of Employer              | Applications Filed |              |                         | Workers Certified |              |                         | Deficiency Rates |              | Certification Rates |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
|                               | <i>FY 14</i>       | <i>FY 17</i> | <i>Percent Increase</i> | <i>FY 14</i>      | <i>FY 17</i> | <i>Percent Increase</i> | <i>FY 14</i>     | <i>FY 17</i> | <i>FY 14</i>        | <i>FY 17</i> |
| Individual Farmers/Ranchers   | 4,603              | 6,211        | 35%                     | 56,264            | 83,264       | 48%                     | 48%              | 47%          | 96%                 | 97%          |
| H-2A Labor Contractors        | 660                | 1,410        | 114%                    | 24,961            | 72,463       | <b>190%</b>             | 85%              | <b>82%</b>   | 90%                 | 95%          |
| Association - Filing as Agent | 1,316              | 1,691        | 28%                     | 14,959            | 22,220       | 49%                     | 24%              | 37%          | 99%                 | 99%          |
| Association - Joint Employers | 129                | 639          | 395%                    | 19,948            | 20,630       | 3%                      | 56%              | 30%          | 98%                 | 99%          |

## FY 2017 Program Features

- 10,097 applications processed
- 200,049 workers certified
- 97% certification rate
- 84% applications filed electronically
- 27% applications were incomplete (*i.e., missing required documents*) to issue final decision 30 days before start date of work





# RECRUITMENT PROCESS

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# SAN LUIS RIO COLORADO, SONORA

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# ZAMORA, MICHOACAN





# H2A Orientation





# H2A Orientation





# H2A Interview Process





# CONSULATE APPOINTMENT





# H2A In Route To US Destination





# H2A CABBAGE CREW





# H2A Wrap Lettuce Crews







**H2A Wrap Lettuce Crew**



# TOP & TAIL ROMAINE

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# Top & Tail Romaine Crew

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# CLEAN & CORE

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# H2A Cilantro Bunch Crew





# H2A Parsley Bunch Crew





# H2A Cilantro Bunch Crew





# H2A Citrus Crews







H2A Citrus Crews



# H2A Citrus Crews



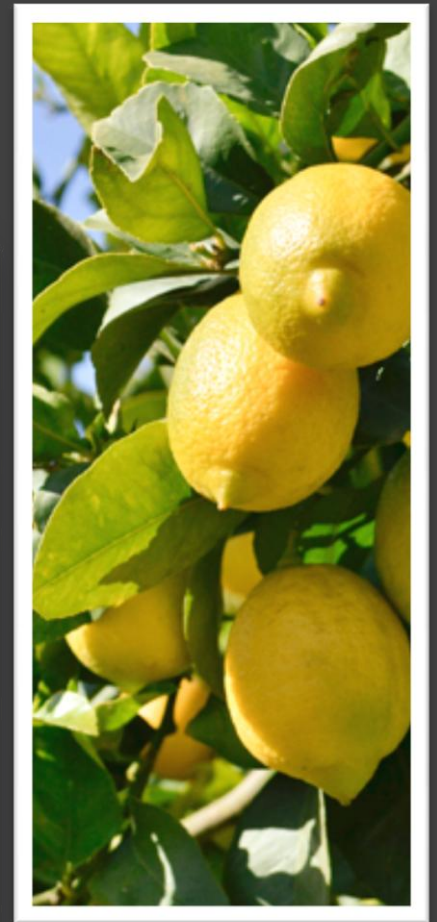


# H2A Citrus Crews





# H2A Lemon Crew





# H2A Date Crews







## H2A Date Crews







## Domestic Mini Watermelon Crews





H2A Housing Complex





H2A Housing





# H2A Housing Area

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# H2A Housing/Boot Washing Facility

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Thank You!