

# U.S. Produce Imports from Mexico

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Heather Stamps

U.C.-Davis

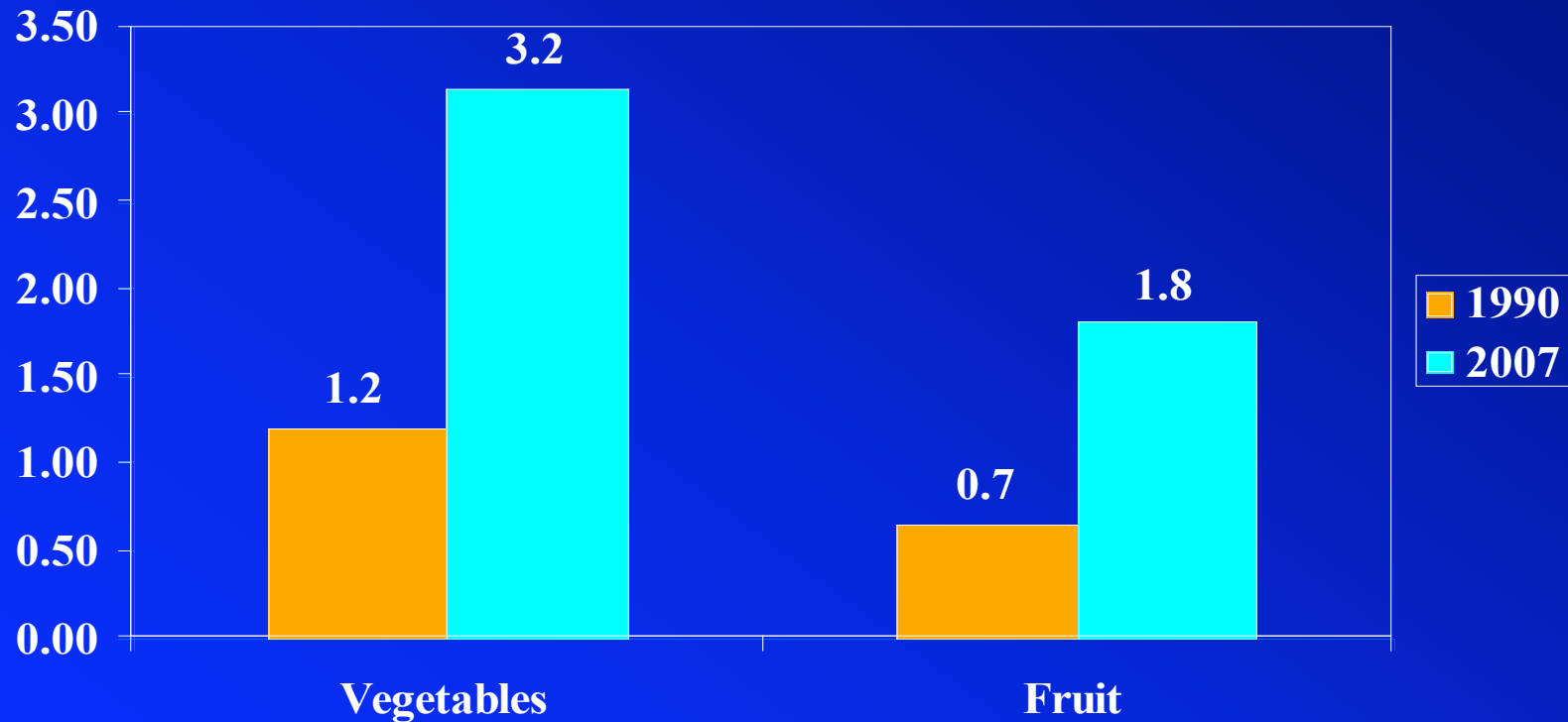
Immigration Reform: Implications for  
Farmers, Farm Workers, and Communities.

Washington, DC—May 8-9, 2008



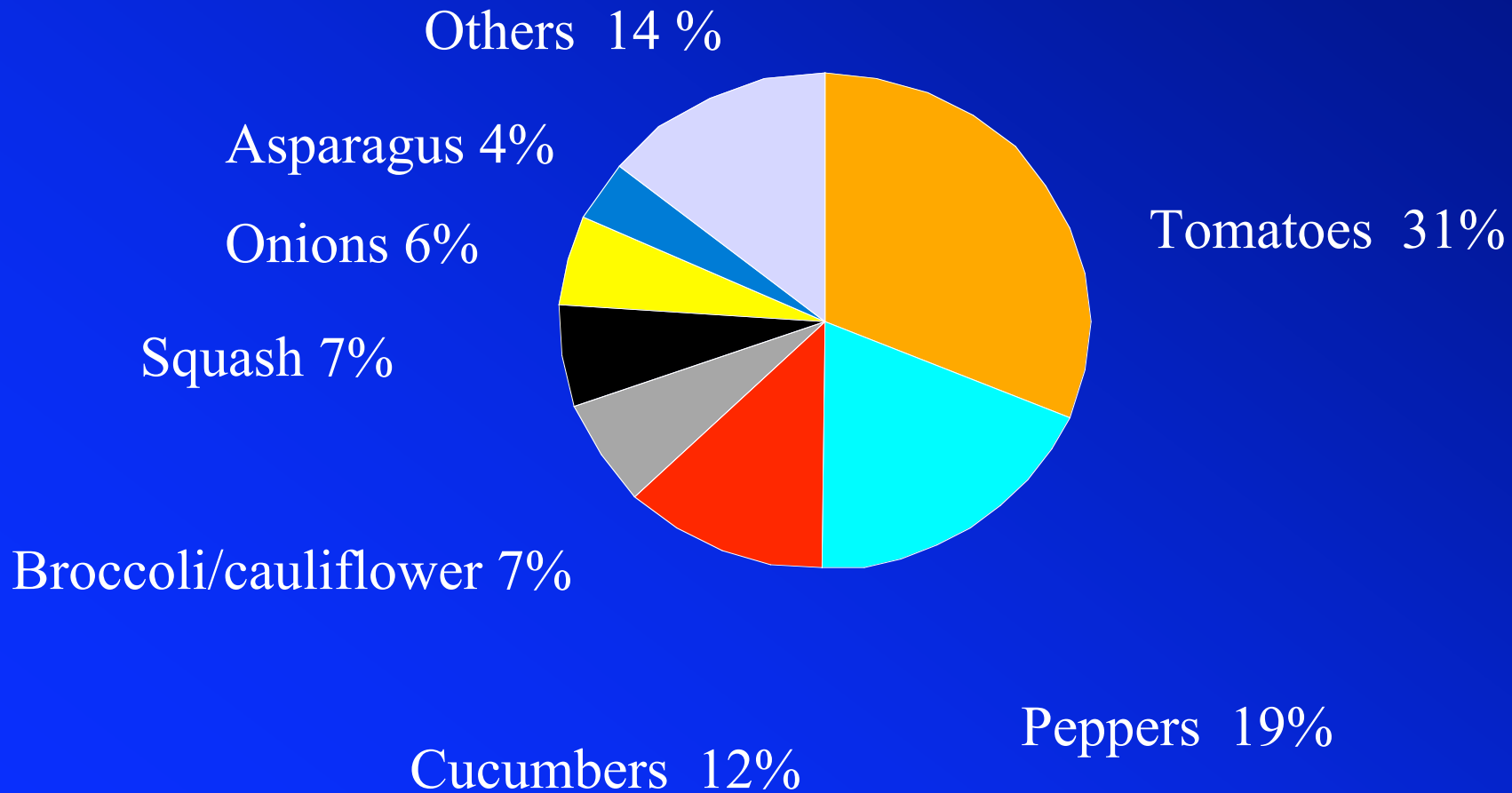
# U.S. imports of Mexican fruit and vegetables (fresh and frozen)

Million mts

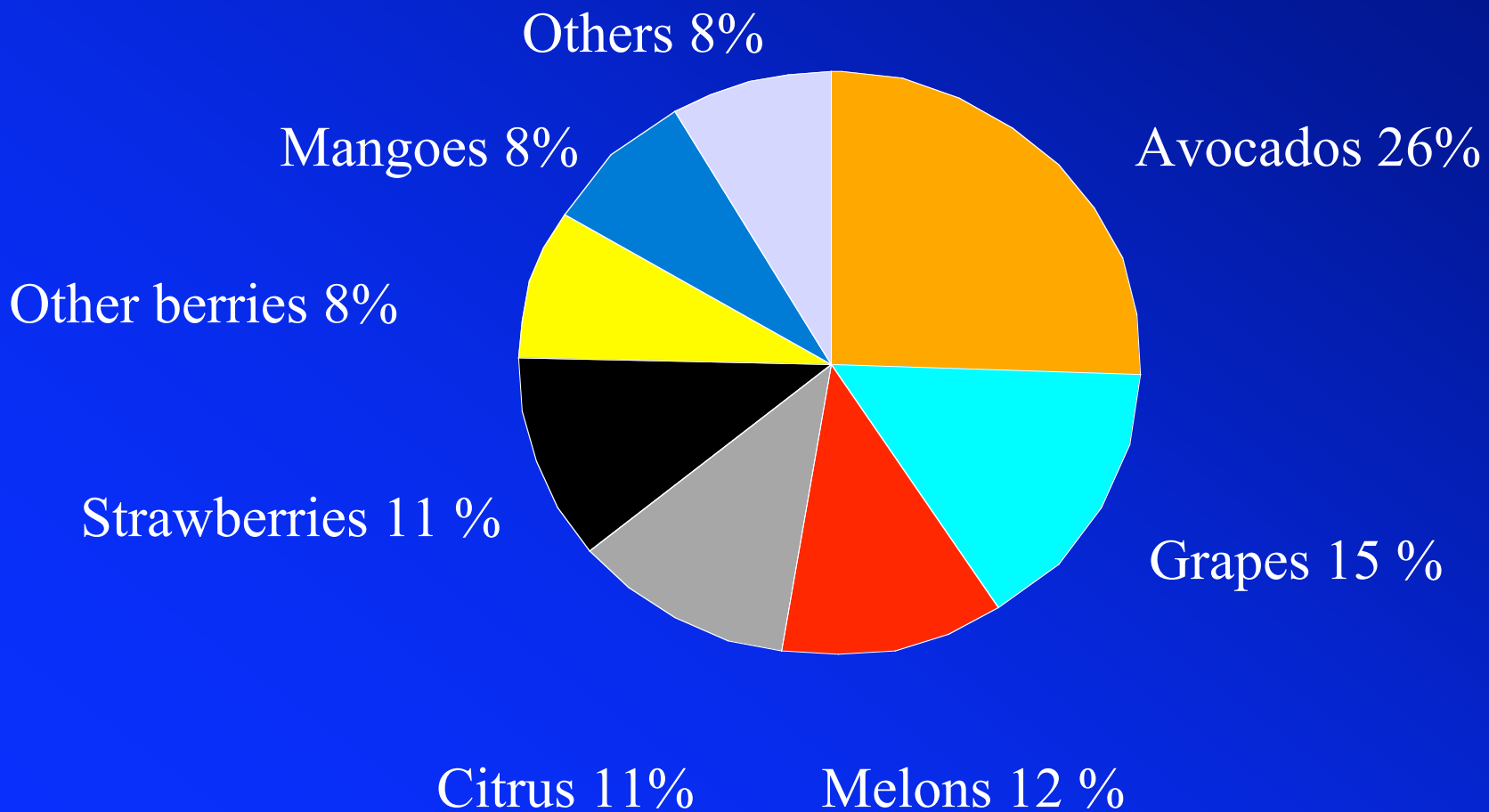


U.S. Department of Commerce

# U.S. imports of Mexican fresh vegetables, 2007



# U.S. imports of Mexican fresh fruit, 2007



# U.S. tomato situation

	1990	2007	Change
	<i>Percent</i>		
U.S. per capita consumption	-	-	29
U.S. production	-	-	22
Imports from Mexico	-	-	170
MX share of U.S. consumption	20	34	71
MX share of U.S. imports	98	89	-9

# Technology: U.S.-Canadian fresh tomato trade



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

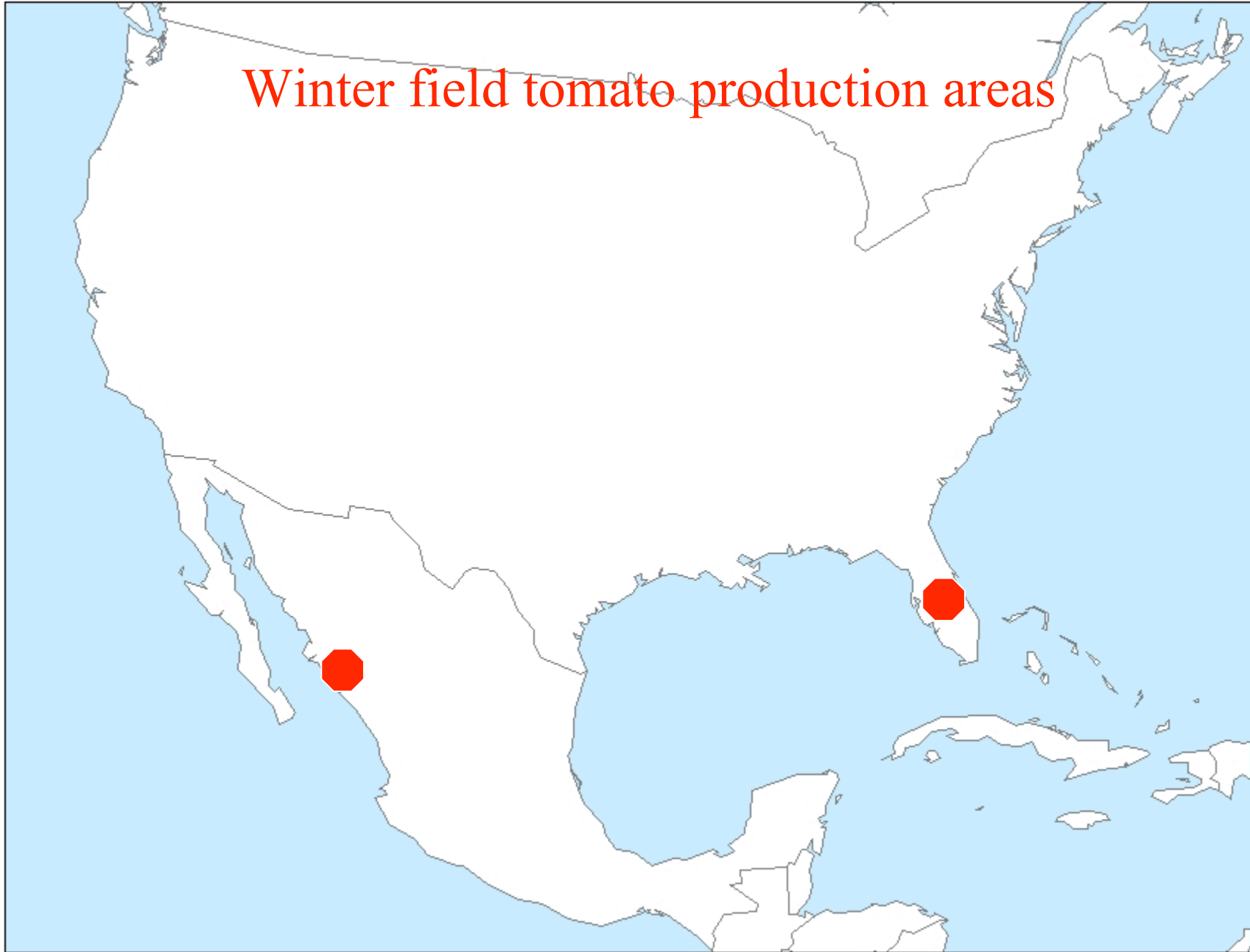
# Factors Affecting Trade

- Climate and biology
- Labor costs
- Phytosanitary barriers
- Food safety problems

# Climate and biology

- Winter

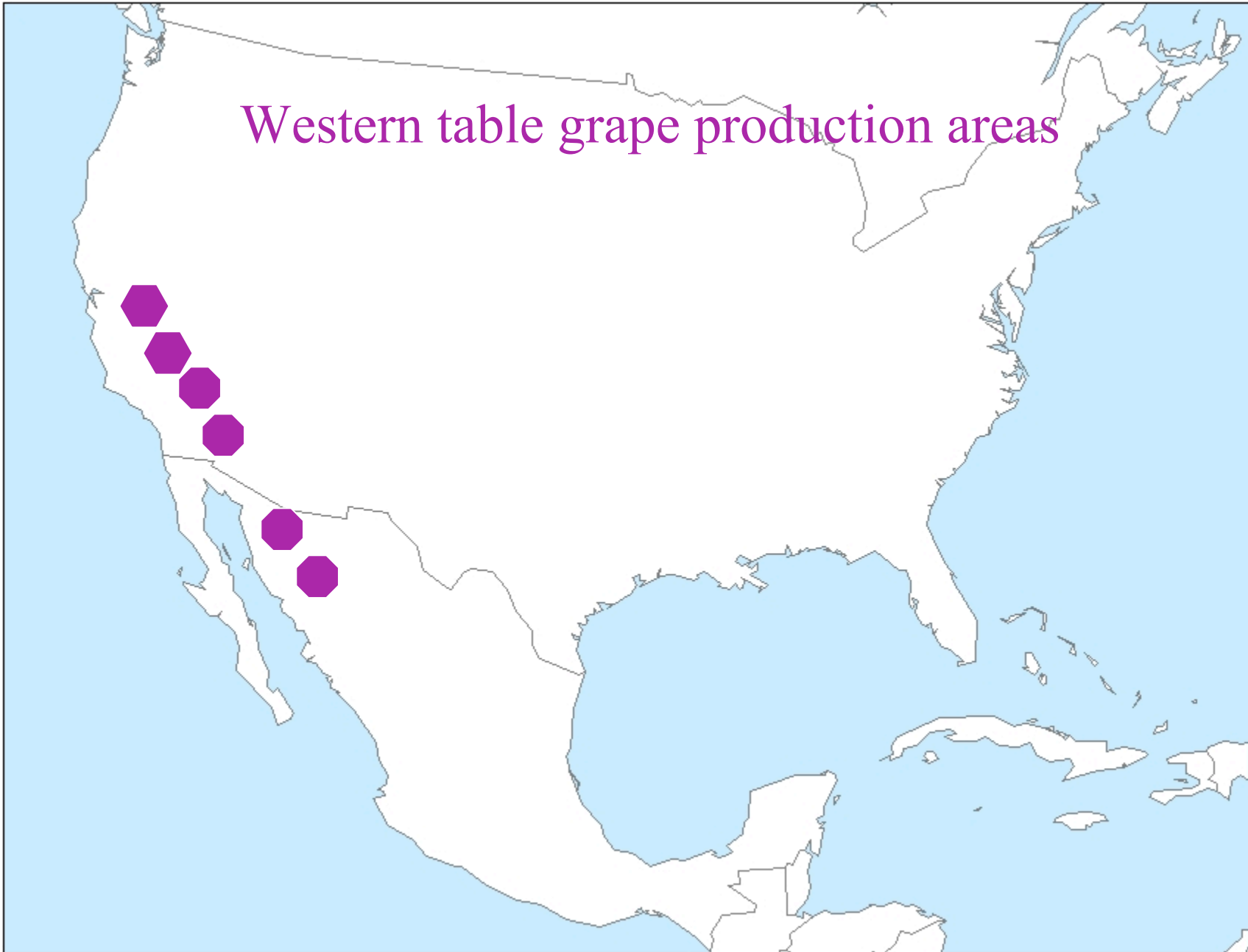
Winter field tomato production areas



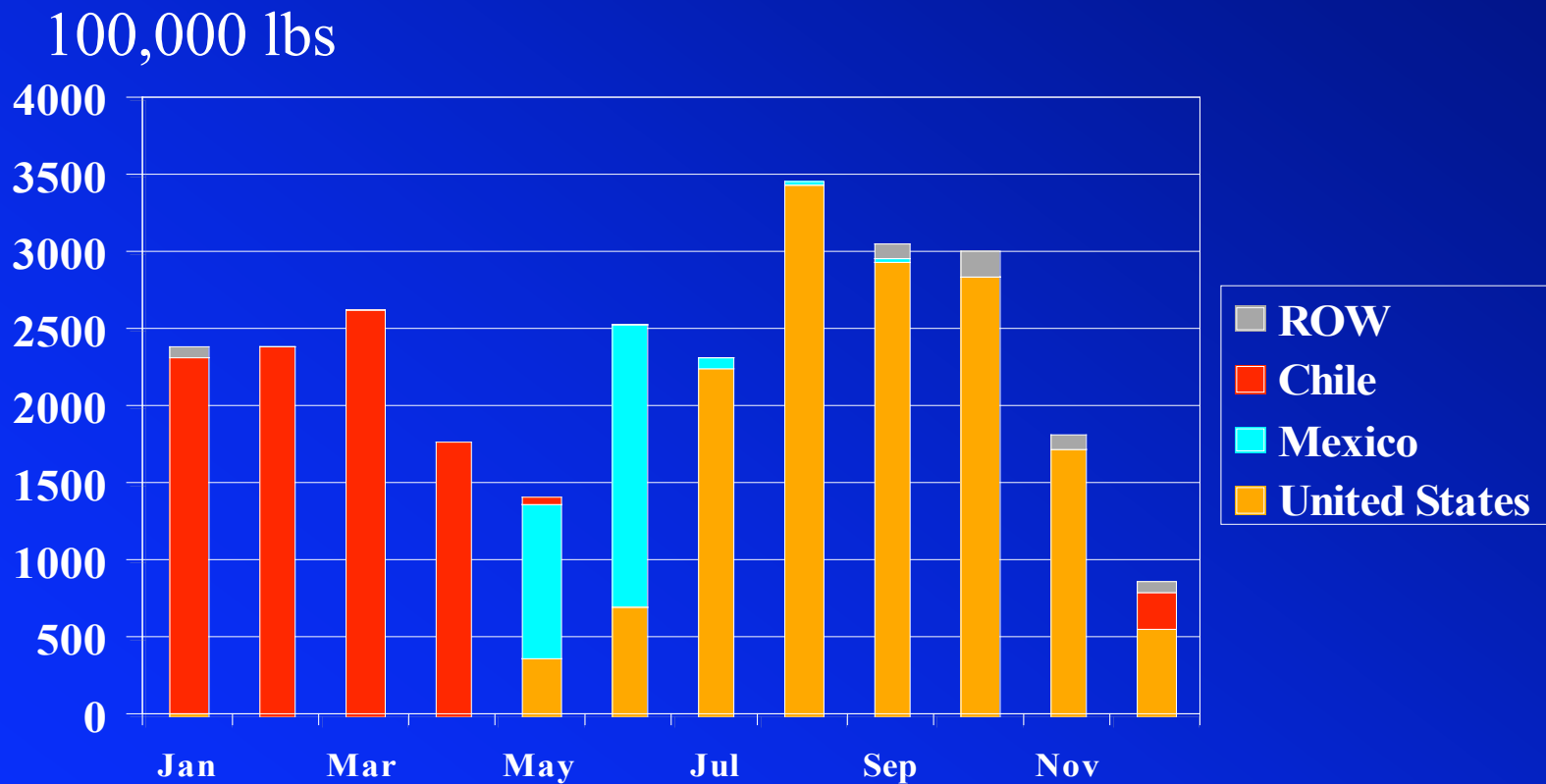
# Climate and biology

- Winter
- Perennial crops

## Western table grape production areas



# U.S. shipments of grapes, 2007



Source: AMS, Market News

# U.S.-Mexico trade in fresh grapes, 1990-2007

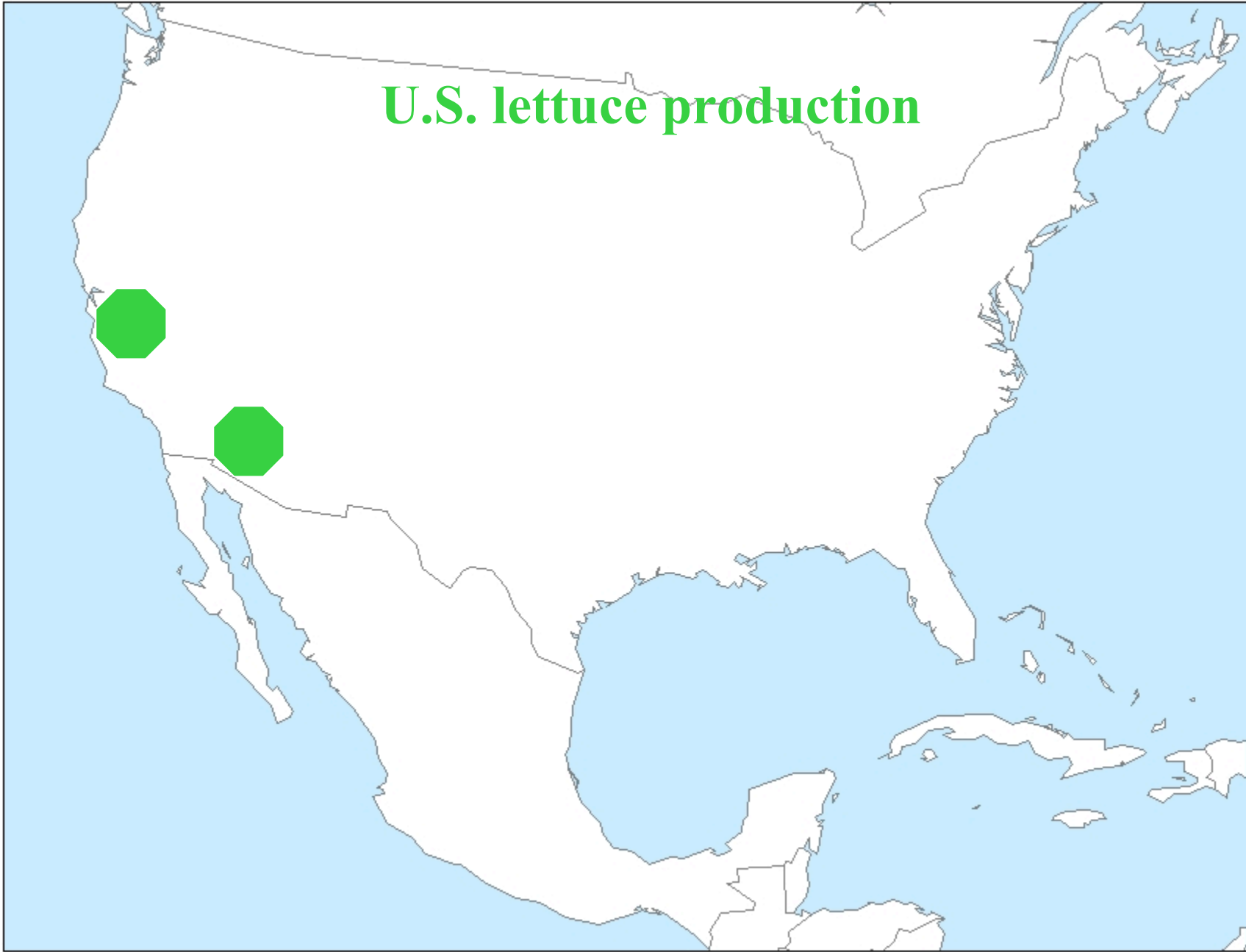


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

# Climate and biology

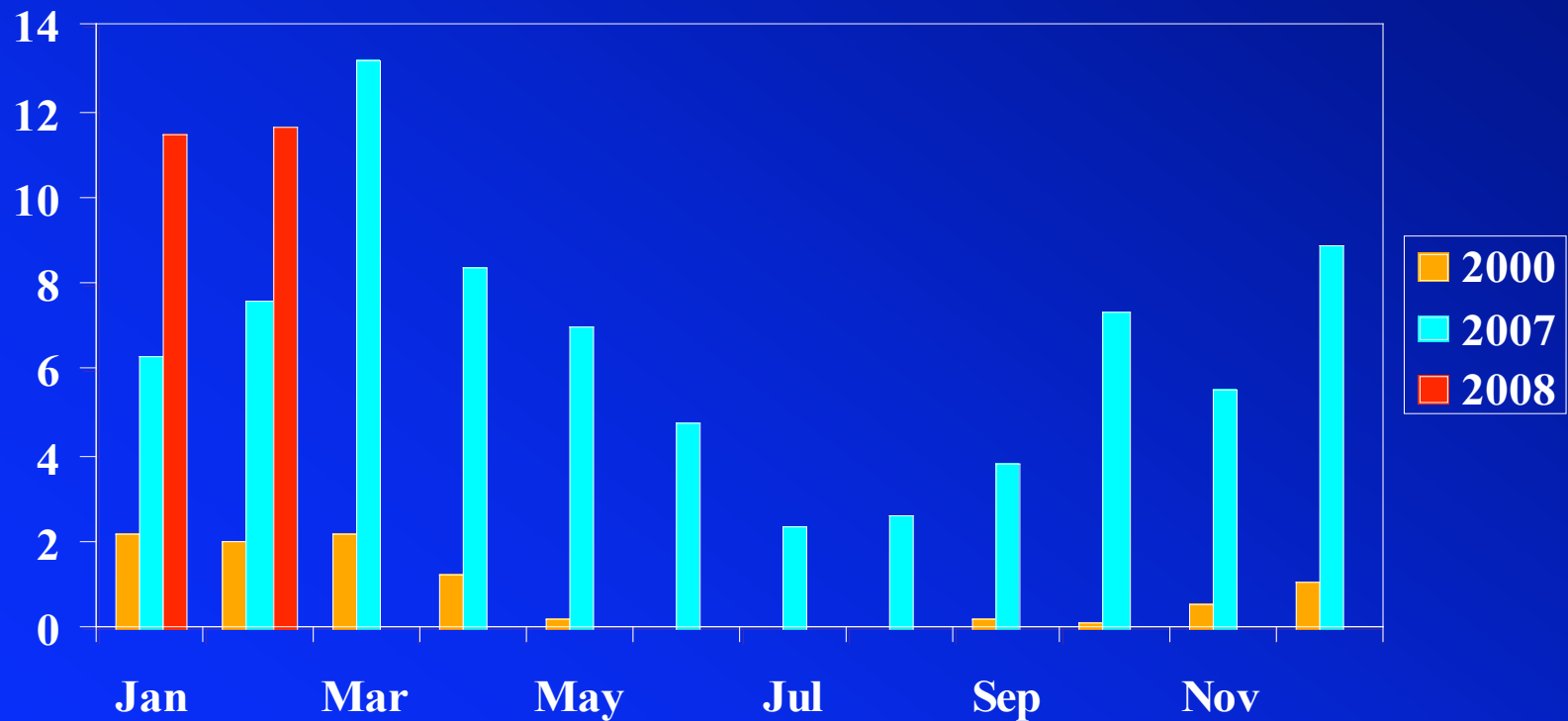
- Winter
- Perennial crops
- Weather-induced shortages

# U.S. lettuce production



# U.S. imports of Mexican lettuce

1000 mts

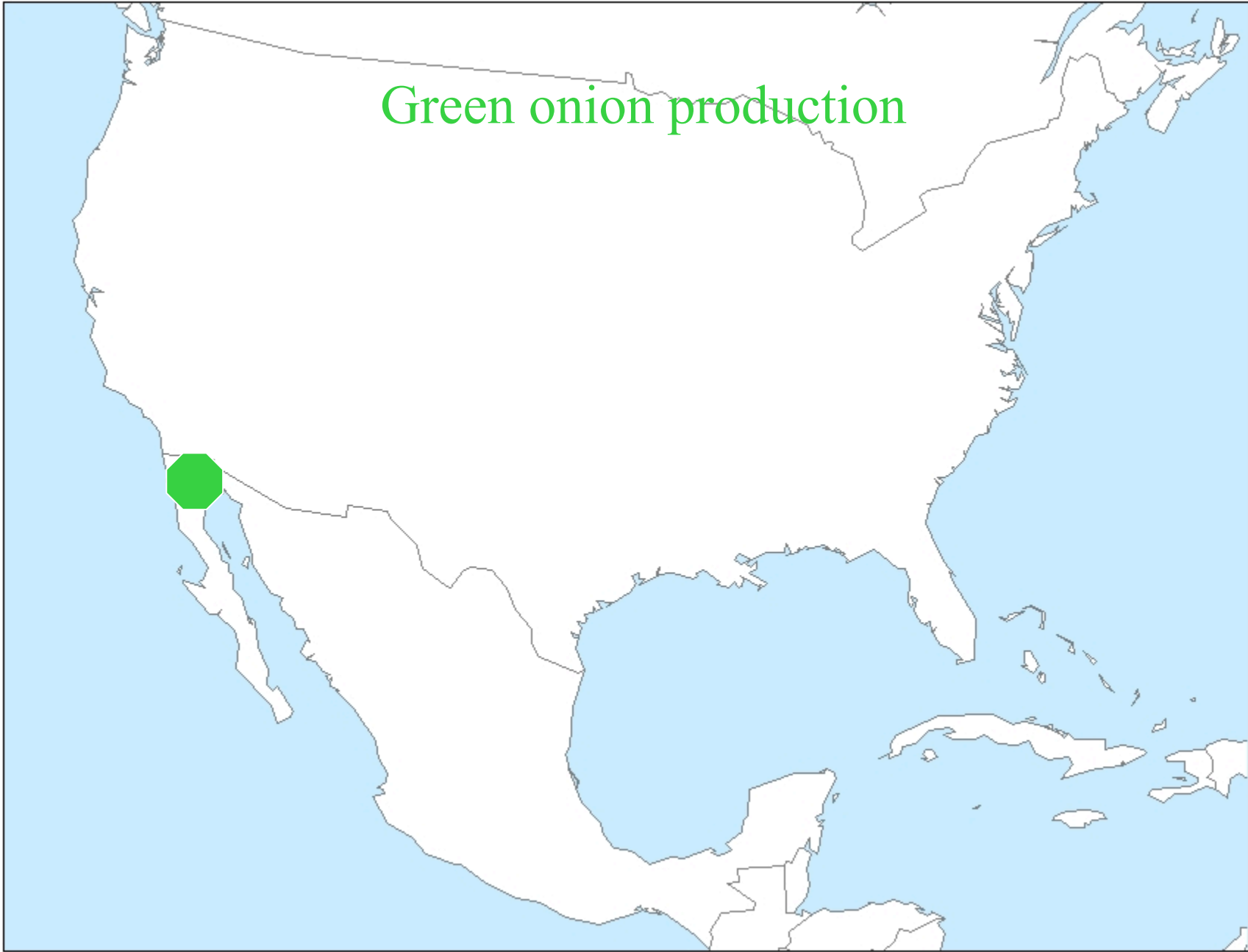


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

# Labor costs

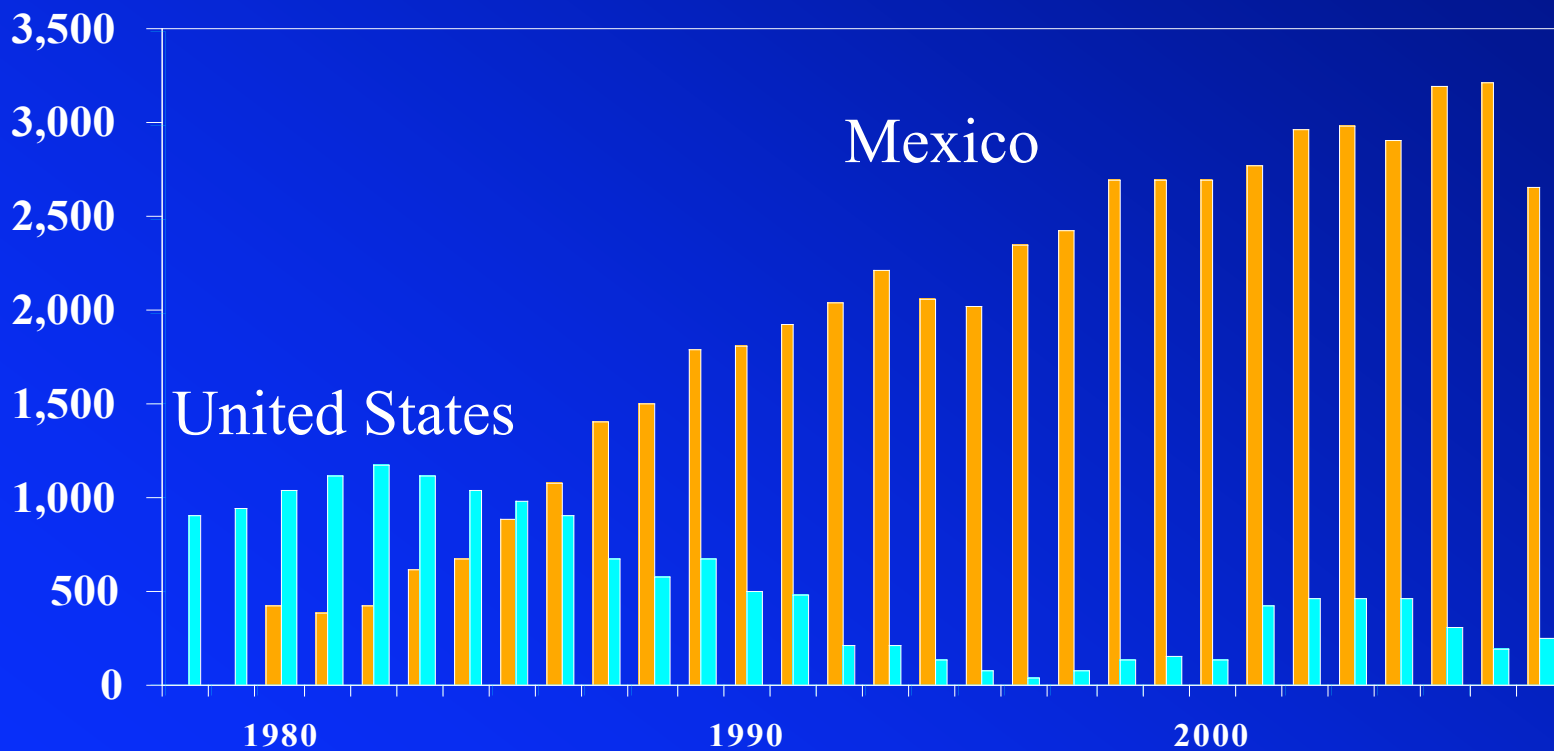
- Green onions
- Frozen broccoli
- Fresh asparagus

Green onion production



# U.S. shipments of green onions

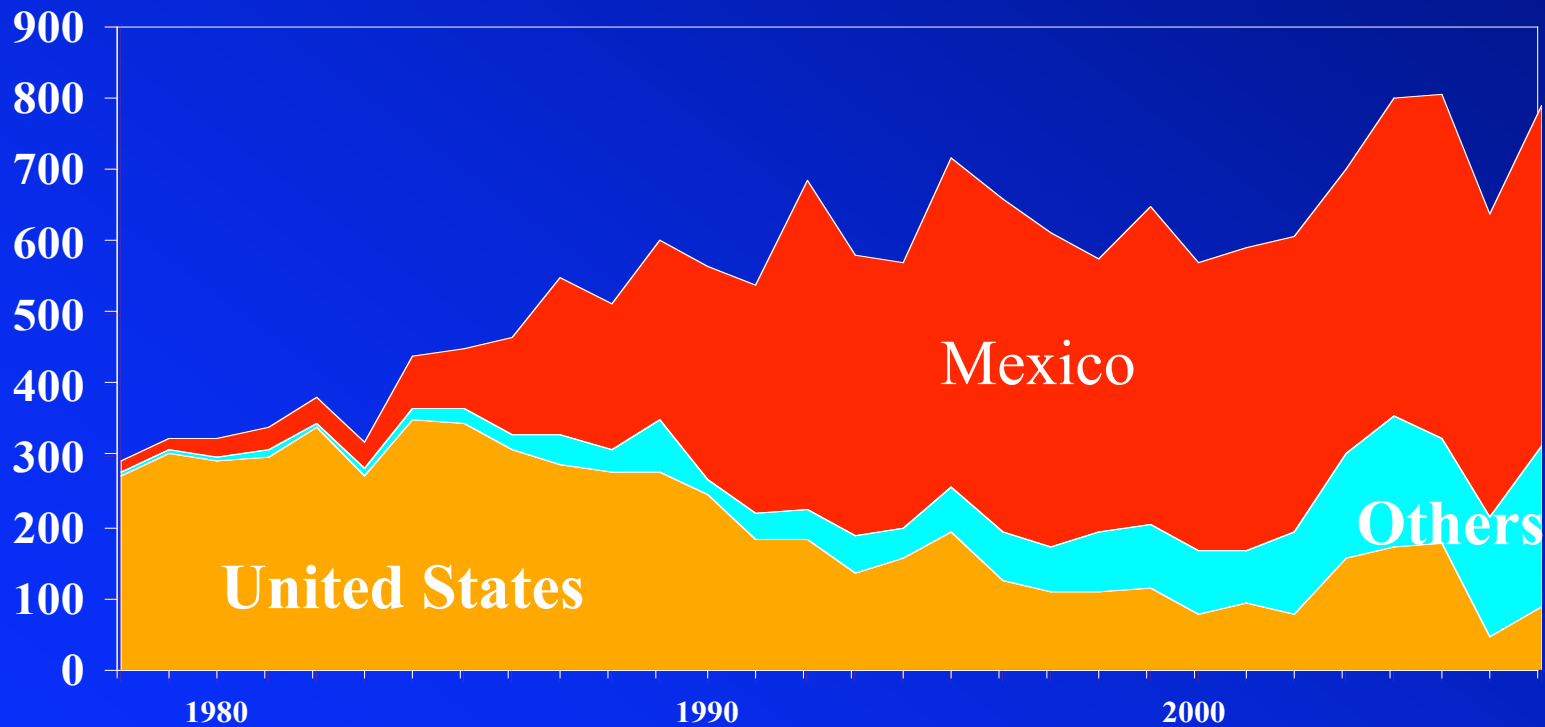
100,000 lbs



Source: USDA, AMS

# U.S. frozen broccoli supply, 1978-2007

Million lbs



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, ERS

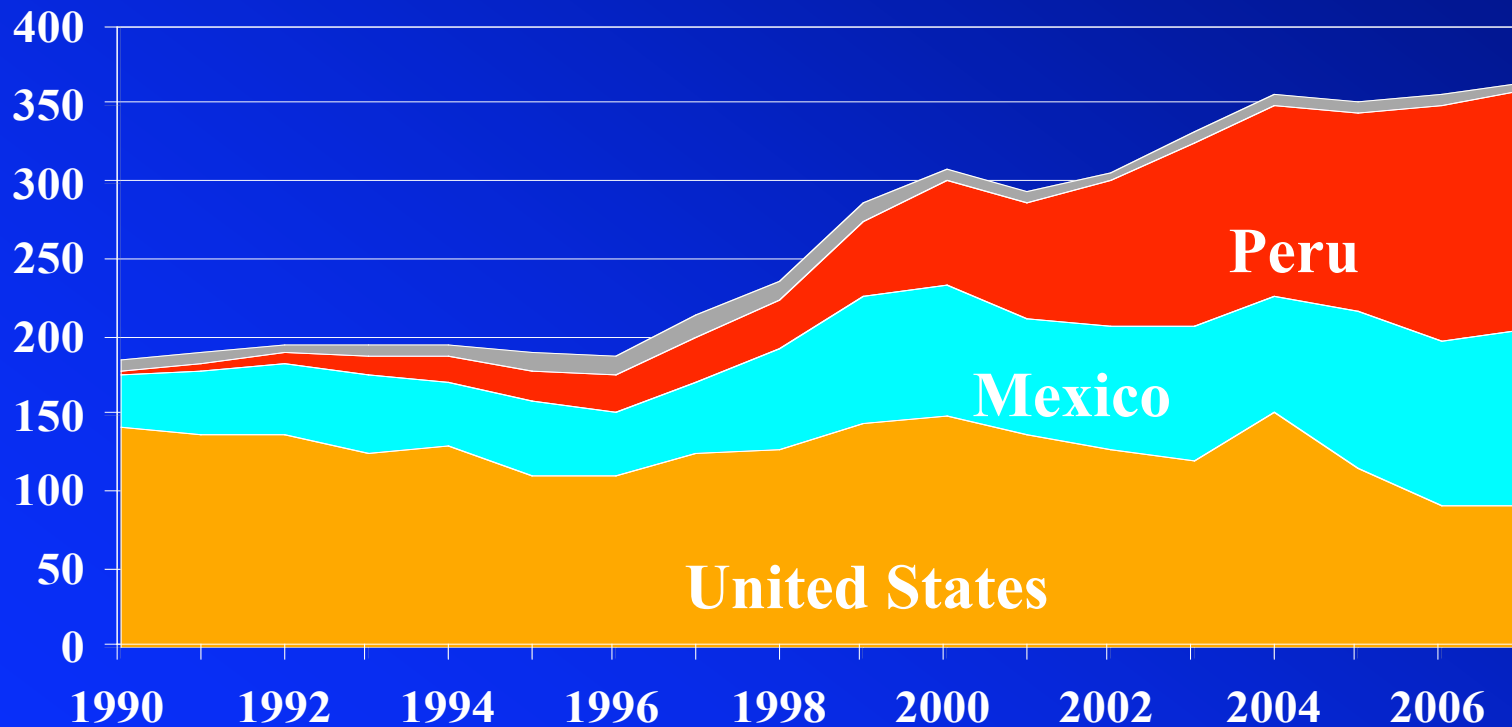
# Broccoli imports, 2007

		Frozen
Import share of consumption		87
Import share:		
Mexico		68
Guatemala		16
Ecuador		10
China		5
Canada		*

# Broccoli imports, 2007

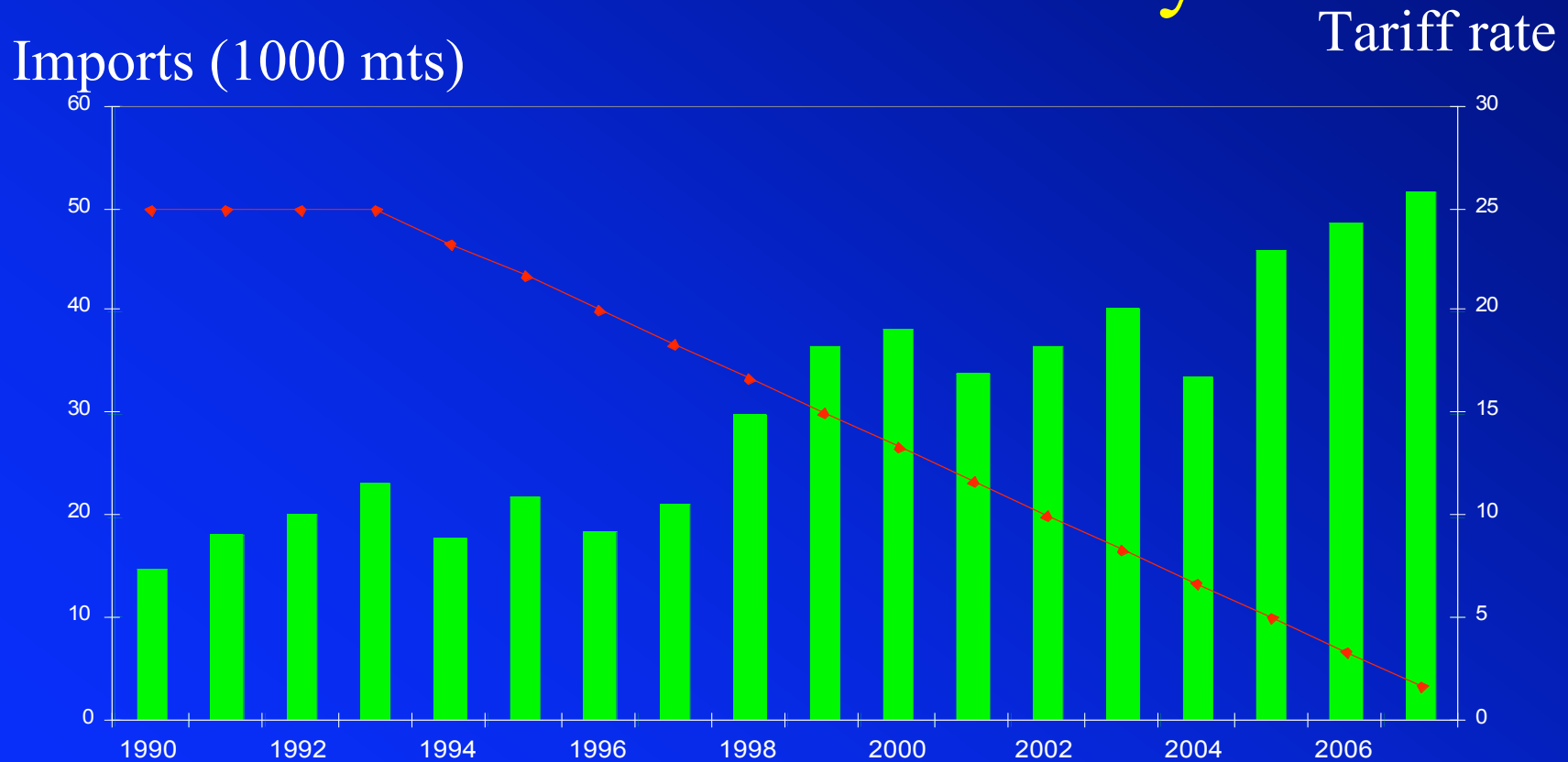
	Fresh	Frozen
Import share of consumption	10	87
Import share:		
Mexico	94	68
Guatemala	*	16
Ecuador	*	10
China	0	5
Canada	6	*

# U.S. supply of fresh asparagus, 1900-2007



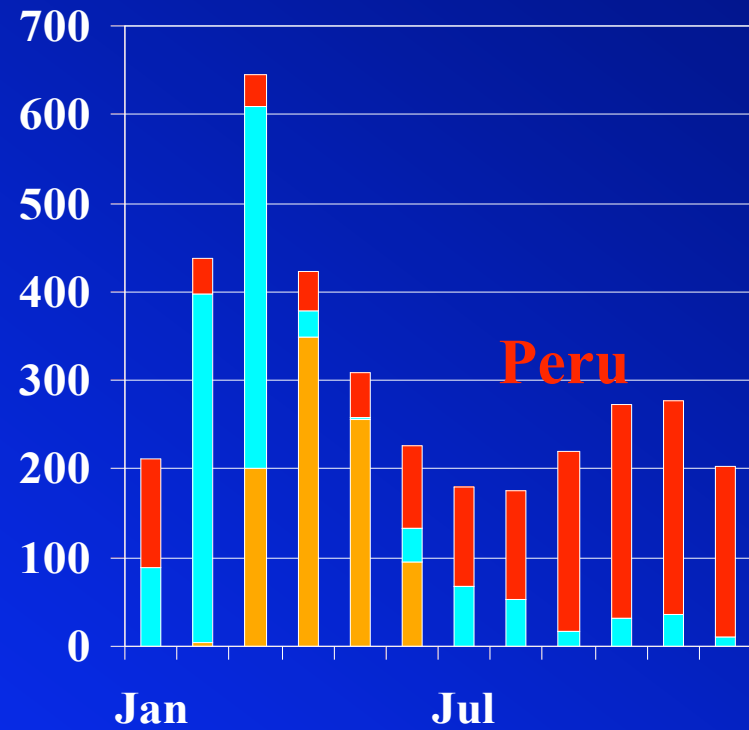
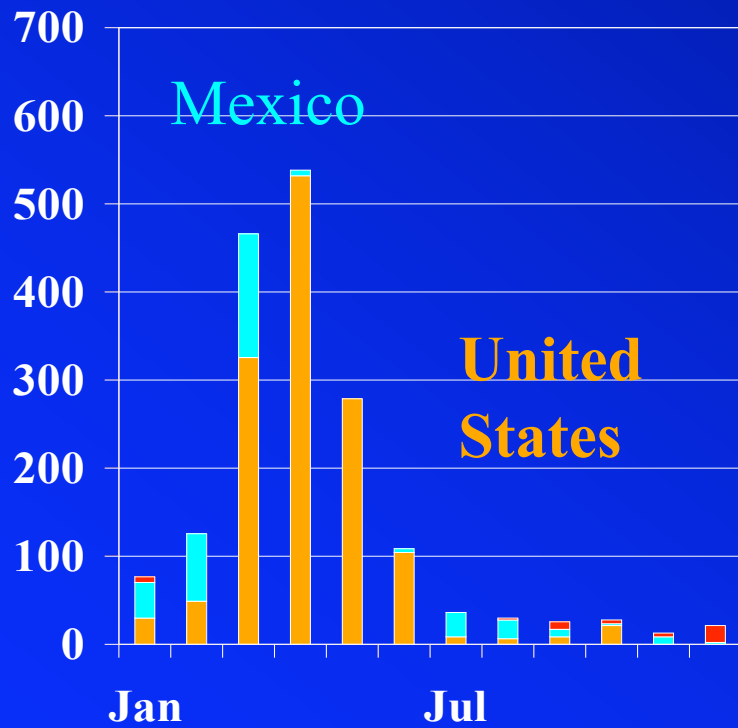
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

# U.S. asparagus imports from Mexico and tariff rate for February-June



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

# Asparagus shipments, 1900 and 2007



Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service

# Phytosanitary barriers

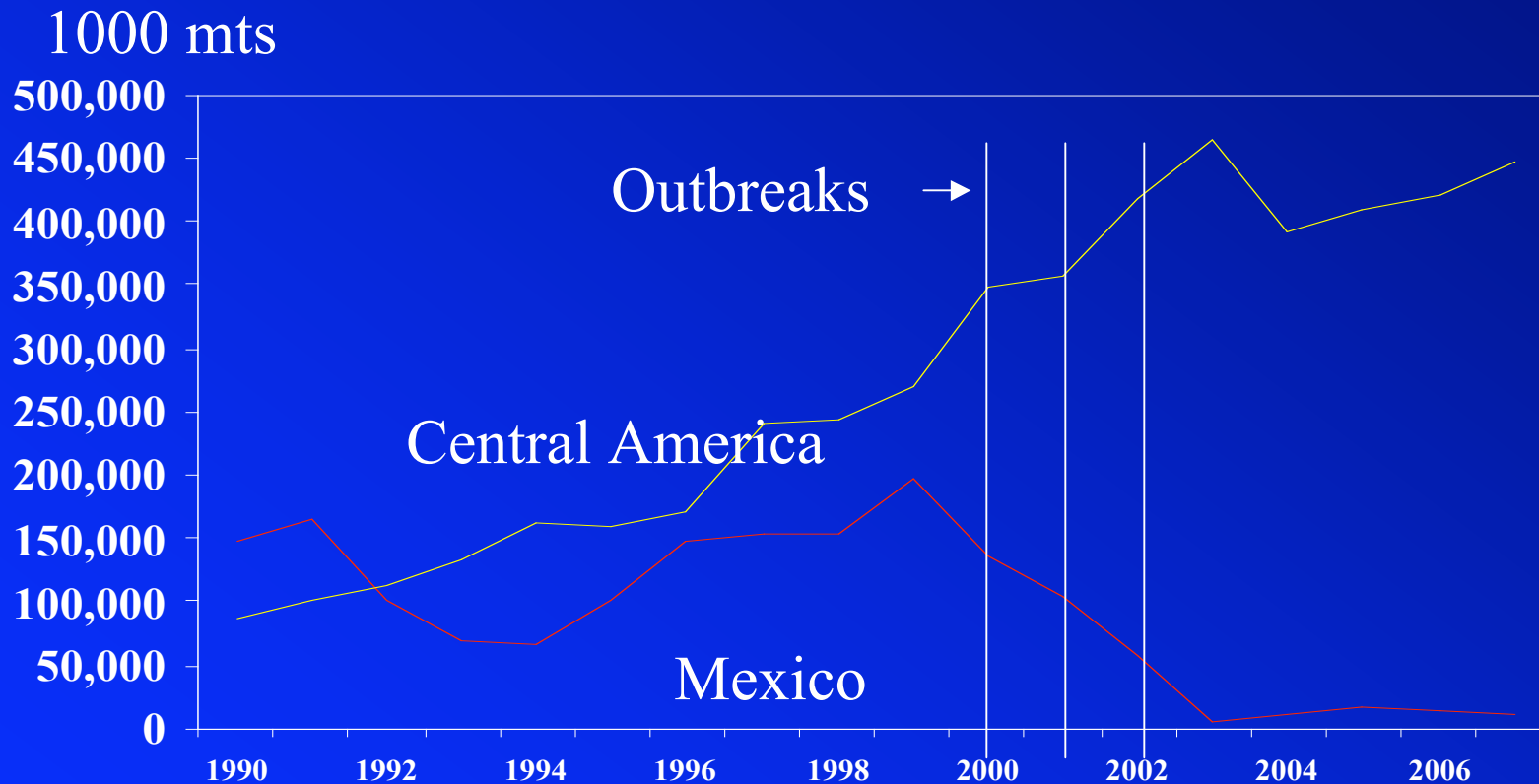
## U.S. avocado imports, 1990-2006

Million lbs



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

# Food Safety Problems: U.S. imports of cantaloupe



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

# Summary

- Imports of fruit and vegetables from Mexico have increased
- Many factors affect trade levels
  - Climate and biology
  - Labor costs
  - Phytosanitary barriers
  - Food safety problems



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