

## FLORICULTURE



The number of commercial growers decreased for the seventh consecutive year. During 2004, there were 837 growers. The open ground area used to produce floriculture crops in the state was down approximately 9 percent to 963 acres. Greenhouse space for operators exceeding the \$10,000 sales level increased 1 percent to total 24.5 million square feet in 2004. This increase pushed the total covered area (*greenhouse plus shade and temporary structures*) up to 25.1 million square feet, 1 percent more than 2003.

New York floriculture production ranked fifth in the nation for total commercial sales in 2004. Value of sales increased from a year earlier for bedding and garden plants, potted flowering plants, and foliage for indoor or patio use. The overall value of commercial sales increased 7 percent to \$209 million. Bedding and garden plants continued to be the highest component of the total value of sales at \$108 million. Potted flowering plants were second with a value of sales of \$56.2 million, an increase of 30 percent. Propagative materials ranked third at \$8.20 million, a decrease of 9 percent.

Nationally, the total wholesale value of floriculture crops grown by operations exceeding the \$100,000 sales level reached \$4.89 billion in 2004, up 2 percent from the revised 2003 total. These operations, which comprise 41 percent of all growers, account for 94 percent of the total value of floriculture crops. Bedding and garden plants wholesale value, at \$2.53 billion, is the largest contributor to the value of production, up 4 percent from the previous year. Potted flowering plants value, at \$815 million, is up 1 percent from 2003. The foliage category is valued at \$639 million for 2004.



This is down 2 percent from the revised 2003 estimate. Value of cut flowers, at \$422 million, is virtually unchanged, while cut cultivated greens, at \$92.4 million, is down 9 percent from 2003.