

## VEGETABLES

**Vegetables:** Vegetables in Washington accounted for \$366 million in 2004, down 13 percent from last year's total of \$420 million. Vegetable production resulted from 207,600 acres being harvested, a 5,300 acre decrease from last year's 212,900 acres harvested. The value per harvested acre for all vegetables was \$2,069, down from \$2,330 in 2003.

**Onions:** In terms of value of production, storage onions were the State's leading vegetable crop in 2004 and added \$74.7 million to the State's agricultural economy. This was a decline of 39 percent from the 2003 value of \$123.3 million. Storage onion prices fell to \$7.85 per cwt., \$5.65 below the 2003 price received of \$13.50. Non-storage onion growers harvested 1,500 acres in 2004, 100 acres more than 2003. Non-storage onion prices in the last ten years have ranged from \$15.40 in 1995 to \$23.00 per cwt in 2004. This is much higher than the storage onion crop because Washington's non-storage onion, the "Walla Walla" sweet, is a unique, specialty onion with a low pungency flavor for fresh consumption.

**Asparagus:** Washington's asparagus harvested acreage for 2004 dropped again to 14,000 acres. Growers continued to be concerned about labor, marketing and prices for their commodity. Prices averaged \$82.10 per cwt. in 2004, the highest price since records began in 1923 and well above the \$77.50 per cwt received in 1997,

the second highest price. Total production for 2004 was 60.2 million pounds, with yields averaging 43 cwt. per acre. Asparagus added \$49.4 million to Washington's agricultural economy. With 54 percent of the Nation's production, Washington ranks as the number two asparagus state.

**Carrots:** Washington's processing carrot growers are the top producers in the Nation. They grew 157,700 tons for the 2004 crop, 37 percent of the U. S. production. Processing carrots accounted for \$11.0 million of Washington's agricultural economy during 2004.

**Sweet Corn:** Processing sweet corn added \$57.9 million during 2004 to the agricultural sector, and was the number two vegetable crop in Washington in terms of value of production. The current 2004 crop of 826,140 tons was slightly more than the previous year.. Fresh market sweet corn production has remained fairly stable during the past ten years with 2,800 acres harvested in 2004. With fairly strong prices in 2004, fresh sweet corn added \$10.6 million to the farming economy, up nearly \$3 million from the 2003 crop.

**Other Vegetables:** The processing **green pea** crop added \$20.3 million to the agricultural economy during 2004, while **other fresh and processing vegetables** contributed an additional \$130 million.