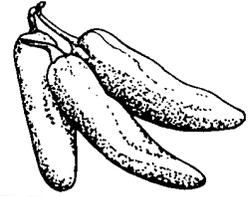


CHILE



CHILE: New Mexico's chile production dropped to 85,360 tons in 2003, 9.1 percent below 2002. Planted acreage was estimated at 15,800 acres, well below the previous year plantings of 18,000 acres, primarily due to the continuing drought conditions. Harvested acreage was 14,700 acres with a large amount of acreage lost to hail damage.

Despite the decrease in harvested acreage, growers maintained the high yields similar to the previous year. The average state yield for green long mild was 12.7 tons per acre while paprika averaged 1.7 tons per acre.

The value of New Mexico chile was estimated at \$41.08 million, 20 percent less than 2002.

2003 Acreage and Production by County

District/County	Planted Acreage ^{1/}			Harvested Acreage			Production (Tons)		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
DISTRICT 70	---	9,100	8,600	9,100	8,400	8,400	48,900	59,030	55,410
Hidalgo	---	2,600	2,900	2,200	2,400	2,800	13,200	13,700	8,630
Luna	---	5,600	5,100	6,200	5,300	5,000	32,900	42,050	43,680
Sierra	---	900	600	700	700	600	2,800	3,280	3,100
DISTRICT 90	---	8,000	6,700	7,500	7,700	5,900	29,300	33,960	28,710
Chaves	---	1,100	1,000	1,400	1,100	500	4,900	2,880	1,450
Doña Ana	---	4,500	3,500	4,200	4,400	3,400	21,000	27,170	24,410
Eddy	---	1,200	600	1,100	1,100	500	1,800	1,910	610
Lea	---	1,200	1,600	800	1,100	1,500	1,600	2,000	2,240
OTHER DISTRICTS^{2/}	---	900	500	1,100	700	400	2,800	3,410	1,240
STATE	---	18,000	15,800	17,700	16,800	14,700	81,000	96,400	85,360

^{1/} Planted acreage not available for 2001.

^{2/} Includes Otero County.