

Commercial Vegetable Production, 1999

By Eric D. Stout

Pennsylvania: Vegetable growers in the state experienced below normal weather conditions due to the drought during the 1999 growing season. Precipitation and soil moisture remained well below normal throughout the balance of the growing season. Record breaking high temperatures in early July, followed by continued hot, dry weather through August contributed to an overall decrease in production levels for 1999. Some areas did not see relief until September.

Production: Pennsylvania's total production of both fresh market and processing principal vegetables for 1999 was 145,300 tons, down 15 percent from 1998. Fresh market production in 1999 was down 20 percent, while processing was down 7 percent. Sweet corn production decreased 32 percent for fresh market, and processing production decreased 26 percent. Fresh tomato production increased 8 percent, but processing tomato production decreased 7 percent from 1998. Strawberry production was up 4 percent, while snap bean production increased 12 percent from a year ago.

Yield: Sweet corn yields decreased 27 percent for fresh market and decreased 26 percent for processing. Tomato yields increased 25 percent for fresh market, but decreased 13 percent for processing over the previous year levels. Strawberry yields decreased 5 percent; snap bean yields remained the same as last year.

Acreage: Total harvested acreage for fresh and processing vegetables was down 3 percent at 34,100 acres. Fresh market harvested acreage decreased 9 percent to 22,300 but total processing harvested acreage increased 8 percent to 11,800.

Value: The combined value of both fresh and processing vegetables was \$43,362,000, a decrease of 19 percent from 1998. The fresh market section totaled \$36,525,000, down 20 percent. Processing vegetables totaled \$6,837,000 in 1999, down 16 percent. Fresh market prices per hundredweight were up for sweet corn, but down for cabbage, tomatoes, strawberries and cantaloupe. Processing vegetable prices per ton was down for sweet corn, tomatoes and snap beans.

Pennsylvania: Total Principal Vegetables, Fresh & Processing, 1984-1999

Year	Fresh				Processing				Total			
	Acreage		Production	Value	Acreage		Production	Value ²	Acreage		Production	Value
	Planted	Harvested			Planted	Harvested			Planted	Harvested		
			(000) Cwt.	(000) Dols.			(000) Tons	(000) Dols.			(000) Cwt.	(000) Dols.
1984	22,900	22,100	1,977	30,782	12,700	11,800	91	8,683	35,600	33,900	3,797	39,465
1985	22,500	21,300	1,870	29,231	11,900	11,400	86	8,156	34,400	32,700	3,590	37,387
1986	23,500	22,600	1,467	27,914	11,400	10,900	72	5,951	34,900	33,500	2,907	33,865
1987	26,700	24,300	1,725	30,956	13,000	11,700	53	5,346	39,700	36,000	2,785	36,302
1988	27,900	22,500	1,632	36,874	12,900	11,200	50	5,209	40,800	33,700	2,636	42,083
1989	24,500	22,900	2,339	56,094	9,700	9,400	60	7,120	34,200	32,300	3,533	63,214
1990	25,800	24,600	1,576	36,058	14,100	13,800	76	9,536	39,900	38,400	3,095	45,594
1991	25,400	21,600	1,064	28,305	11,900	10,900	49	5,276	37,300	32,500	2,036	33,581
1992 ¹	28,200	26,800	2,458	43,533	9,000	9,000	65	6,948	37,200	35,800	3,758	50,481
1993	28,300	26,400	2,163	39,742	10,200	10,100	54	5,942	38,500	36,500	3,243	45,414
1994	27,600	25,600	2,346	40,819	11,000	10,900	65	7,185	38,600	36,500	3,646	48,004
1995	27,400	24,700	1,866	32,093	13,100	12,500	70	7,741	40,500	37,200	3,266	39,834
1996	27,200	24,400	2,200	40,781	10,700	9,900	59	7,696	37,900	34,300	3,380	48,477
1997	27,200	22,600	1,872	44,148	13,200	12,900	69	8,690	40,400	35,500	3,252	52,838
1998	27,000	24,400	2,088	45,587	11,200	10,900	67	8,182	38,200	35,300	3,428	53,769
1999	28,600	22,300	1,666	36,525	12,800	11,800	62	6,837	41,400	34,100	2,906	43,362

¹ Beginning in 1992 fresh market crops include sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage and cantaloupe. ² Farm value.

