

Commercial Vegetable Production, 2000 By Pamela K. Baker

Pennsylvania: Vegetable growers in the state experienced cool, damp weather during the 2000 growing season, slowing growth and maturity of the vegetable crops. Despite late maturing crops, vegetable growers experienced good yields for 2000. By late September, a few growers reported diseases in the fall vegetable crops, especially pumpkins. A frost the last week of September brought an end to the growing season for most vegetable crops.

Production: Pennsylvania's total production of both fresh market and processing principal vegetables for 2000 was 252,250 tons, up 74 percent from 1999. Fresh market production in 2000 was up 103 percent, and processing was up 34 percent. Sweet corn production increased 39 percent for fresh market, while processing production decreased 6 percent. Fresh tomato production increased 47 percent, and processing tomato production increased 35 percent from 1999. Strawberry production was up 25 percent, while snap bean production increased 65 percent from a year ago.

Pennsylvania bell pepper and pumpkin production was reported individually for the first time in 2000. Total bell pepper production for fresh market and processing was

42,000 cwt. Total pumpkin production for fresh market and processing was 1,090,000 cwt.

Yield: Sweet corn yields increased 16 percent for fresh market and increased 19 percent for processing. Tomato yields increased 40 percent for fresh market and increased 35 percent for processing over the previous year levels. Strawberry yields increased 25 percent; snap bean yields increased 51 percent over 1999.

Acreage: Total harvested acreage for fresh and processing vegetables was up 30 percent at 44,480 acres. Fresh market harvested acreage increased 46 percent to 32,580 and total processing harvested acreage increased less than 1 percent to 11,900.

Value: The combined value of both fresh and processing vegetables was \$75,936,000, an increase of 75 percent from 1999. The fresh market section totaled \$65,857,000, up 80 percent. Processing vegetables totaled \$10,079,000 in 2000, up 47 percent. Fresh market prices per hundredweight were down for sweet corn, but up for cabbage, tomatoes, strawberries and cantaloupe. Processing vegetable prices per ton was up for sweet corn and snap beans, but down for tomatoes.

Pennsylvania: Total Principal Vegetables, Fresh & Processing, 1985-2000

Year	Fresh				Processing				Total			
	Acreage		Production	Value	Acreage		Production	Value ¹	Acreage		Production	Value
	Planted	Harvested			Planted	Harvested			Planted	Harvested		
	Acres		(000) Cwt.	(000) Dols.	Acres		(000) Tons	(000) Dols.	Acres		(000) Cwt.	(000) Dols.
1985 ²	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 ³	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
2000 ⁴	35,600	32,580	3,385	65,857	12,500	11,900	83	10,079	48,100	44,480	5,045	75,936

¹ Farm value. ² Beginning in 1982 fresh market crops include only sweet corn, tomatoes and strawberries. Processing includes snap beans, sweet corn and tomatoes. ³ Beginning in 1992 fresh market crops include only sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage and cantaloupe. ⁴ Beginning in 2000 fresh market crops include only sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage, cantaloupe, bell peppers and pumpkins.

