

Commercial Vegetable Production, 2002

By Natasha L. Bruton

Pennsylvania: Vegetable growers in the state experienced a slow start to the planting season due to late frost, cold temperatures and rain. By mid season hot temperatures replaced the cool early season weather. Vegetable growers experienced lower yields in 2002 due in part to the hot summer. A mild fall allowed growers to harvest into early November.

Production: Pennsylvania's total production of both fresh market and processing principal vegetables for 2002 was 223,550 tons, up 12 percent from 2001. Fresh market production in 2002 was up 17 percent, and processing was up 3 percent.

Sweet corn production decreased 10 percent for fresh market, and processing production increased 36 percent. Fresh tomato production increased 31 percent from 2001. Strawberry production was down 15 percent, while snap bean production decreased 10 percent from a year ago. Total pumpkin production for fresh market and processing was 1,170,000 cwt., up 18 percent from 2001.

Yield: Sweet corn yields decreased 2 percent for fresh market and decreased 37 percent for processing. Tomato yields increased 31 percent for fresh market over the previous year level. Strawberry yields decreased 15 percent; snap bean yields decreased 6 percent over 2001.

Acreage: Total harvested acreage for fresh and processing vegetables was down 1 percent at 40,900 acres. Fresh market harvested acreage decreased 3 percent to 30,400 and total processing harvested acreage increased 3 percent to 10,500.

Value: The combined value of both fresh and processing vegetables was \$69,815,000, an increase of 15 percent from 2001. The fresh market section totaled \$60,560,000, up 18 percent. Processing vegetables totaled \$9,255,000 in 2002, down 2 percent. Fresh market prices per hundredweight were down for cabbage and tomatoes, but up for sweet corn, cantaloups, pumpkins and strawberries. Processing vegetable prices per ton were up for sweet corn but down for snap beans.

Pennsylvania: Total Principal Vegetables, Fresh and Processing, 1986-2002

Year	Fresh				Processing				Total			
	Acreage		Production	Value	Acreage		Production	Value ¹	Acreage		Production	Value
	Planted	Harvested			Planted	Harvested			Planted	Harvested		
	Acres		1,000 Cwt.	1,000 Dols.	Acres		1,000 Tons	1,000 Dols.	Acres		1,000 Cwt.	1,000 Dols.
1986 ²	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	15,300	13,700	65	7,453	43,900	36,000	2,966	43,978
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
2001	37,300	31,180	2,538	51,371	10,550	10,150	73	9,458	47,850	41,330	3,998	60,829
2002	39,000	30,400	2,971	60,560	10,600	10,500	75	9,255	49,600	40,900	4,471	69,815

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 cantaloups. ⁴ Beginning in 2000, fresh market crops include only sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage, cantaloups, pumpkins and bell peppers. Note: Beginning in 2002, bell peppers were dropped from the estimating program.