



Michigan Floriculture Sales Ranked Third Nationally

Michigan remains in third place in national ranking in value of wholesale sales of floriculture products in 2015, behind California and Florida, according to the USDA, NASS, Great Lakes Regional Office. Reports from Michigan's 556 commercial growers (with \$10K or more in gross sales) showed an estimated wholesale value of \$409.1 million for all surveyed floriculture crops, down \$4.9 million from last year. This estimate includes sales data reported by growers with \$100K or more in sales, plus a calculated wholesale value of sales for operations with sales from \$10,000 to \$99,999.

The leading crop category breakdowns for Michigan operations with more than \$100K in sales were:

- First, **annual bedding/garden plants** with \$208.7 million in sales.
- Second, **herbaceous perennial plants** with \$61.9 million in sales.
- Third, **potted flowering plants** with \$31.1 million in sales.
- Fourth, **foliage plants** with \$6.3 million in sales.

Michigan leads the nation in value of sales for 12 floriculture crops:

- Begonias Flats** with 817,000 flats sold, valued at \$6.2 million.
- Impatiens Flats (other)** with 1.1 million flats sold, valued at \$8.9 million.
- Petunias Flats** with 1.4 million flats sold, valued at \$12.0 million.
- Begonias Hanging Baskets** with 513,000 baskets sold, valued at \$3.2 million.
- Geranium Hanging Baskets (cuttings)** with 794,000 baskets sold, valued at \$5.9 million.
- Impatiens Hanging Baskets (other)** with 592,000 sold, valued at \$3.0 million.
- Petunias Hanging Baskets** with 1.1 million baskets sold, valued at \$6.6 million.
- Other Flowering and Foliar Hanging Baskets** with 3.5 million baskets sold, valued at \$25.2 million.
- Potted Geraniums (seeds)** with 6.9 million pots sold, valued at \$5.3 million.
- Potted Petunias** with 4.1 million pots sold, valued at \$10.3 million.
- Potted Hostas** with 2.5 million pots sold, valued at \$6.8 million.
- Potted Easter Lilies** with 1.5 million pots sold, valued at \$6.0 million.

Total covered area for all operations in the state was 47.0 million square feet. This includes both rigid and film plastic greenhouses, glass greenhouses, shade, and temporary cover. Only California and Florida had more total cover.

Nationally, the 2015 wholesale value of floriculture crops is up 4 percent from the revised 2014 valuation. The total crop value at wholesale for the 15 State program for all growers with \$10,000 or more in sales is estimated at \$4.37 billion for 2015, compared with \$4.20 billion for 2014. California continues to be the leading State with crops valued at \$1.08 billion, up 1 percent from the 2014 value. Florida, the next largest producer, is up 12 percent from the prior year to \$1.03 in wholesale value. These two States account for 49 percent of the 15 State total value. For 2015, the top 5 States are California, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, and Ohio which account for \$3.00 billion or 69 percent of the 15 State program total value.

The number of producers for 2015, at 5,913, is up 5 percent in the 15 States compared with the 2014 count of 5,606. Total covered area for floriculture crop production was 767 million square feet, down slightly from the revised 2014 figure. Greenhouse space for 2015, at 409 million square feet, is down 6 percent from 2014. This accounts for 53 percent of the total covered area. Shade and temporary cover is up 8 percent, to 358 million square feet. Open ground totaled 40,042 acres, down 34 percent from the revised 2014 total.

The average peak number of hired workers employed on operations in the 15 State program in 2015 is 18.3, down 12 percent from a revised average of 20.8 peak workers in 2014. A total of 4,407 operations hired workers during 2015 compared with 4,202 a year earlier. Overall, 75 percent of operations used some hired labor during 2015, down slightly from 2014.