

2011 Vegetable Season: During the 2011 growing season, conditions for vegetable development were good to excellent during the spring. Spring and early summer vegetable crops benefited from abundant moisture due to substantial melt from the previous year's snowfall. Dry spells started in early July, and irrigation was needed for most of the vegetable crops. However, in August Hurricane Irene, followed by two tropical storms, dumped more than 20 inches of rain throughout most of the state during just a one month period. As a result, many fields had standing water for more than two weeks. Continued excessive water prevented harvesting of late summer crops. The flooded conditions also caused severe damage to tomatoes, peppers, squash, and pumpkin crops. Much produce rotted in the field as a result. Despite all the damage, this season was rated overall as an above average growing season for New Jersey Vegetables.

Area harvested for the eighteen fresh market, and 5 major processing vegetables, totaled 39,100 acres. This was down 7 percent from 42,000 acres in 2010. Both fresh market and processing vegetable harvested acres declined. Combined production of fresh and processing vegetable was 311,420 tons, 17,900 tons less than 2010. Gross value for all crops was \$204.8 million in 2011, compared with \$183.2 million in 2010, as the results of sharply increasing season average prices.

Vegetables for Fresh Market: There are 18 fresh market vegetables in the USDA-NASS, New Jersey Field Office estimating program. Area planted for these fresh market vegetables in 2011 totaled 37,800 acres with 33,900 acres harvested. This compares to 37,900 acres planted in 2010 and 35,900 acres harvested. Production amounted to 5.24 million hundredweight, a decrease of 4 percent from the 5.46 million hundredweight produced in 2010. Overall yield in 2011 averaged 155 hundredweight per acre, up 3 hundredweight from the previous year. Season average price was \$37.50 per hundredweight compared with \$32.10 in 2010, an increase of \$5.40 per hundredweight.

Among the fresh market vegetables, asparagus, herbs, bell peppers, and snap beans had increased harvested acres in 2011 versus the previous year. Cabbage, cucumbers, lettuce, parsley, pumpkins, spinach, summer & winter squash, and sweet corn had lower harvested acres in 2011 than in 2010. Collards, eggplant, escarole & endive, kale, and tomato acres remained the same. The total value of fresh market vegetables showed an increase of 12.1 percent from \$175.2 million in 2010 to \$196.4 million in 2011.

Ranking New Jersey's fresh market vegetables by value of production, tomatoes replaced bell peppers as the number one commodity with \$31.5 million of value. Bell peppers were second with \$30.4 million. Sweet corn and cucumbers were third and fourth with \$15.8 million and \$15.6 million, respectively. Herbs replaced lettuce, ranking fifth, with \$15.0 million.

Vegetables for Processing: In 2011, harvested acreage of the five major processing vegetables (green peas, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes) totaled 5,200 acres, compared 6,100 acres in 2010. Harvested acres increased for snap beans. Tomato acreage remained the same. And green peas, spinach, and sweet corn acreage decline. Total production, at 49,320 tons, was a 12 percent decrease from the 56,320 tons in 2010. The season average price was \$171.20 per ton, compared with \$141.70 per ton in 2010, up \$29.50 per ton. The 2011 value of production, at \$8.45 million, was up 6 percent from \$7.98 million the previous year.

A special THANK YOU goes to all those producers who participated in our Vegetable Surveys!



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Released: February 2012

2011 NEW JERSEY ANNUAL VEGETABLE REPORT



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New Jersey Principle Vegetables Annual Summary – 2010 and 2011^{1/}

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production		Season Average Price		Value of Production	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
Vegetables for Fresh Market	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- cwt --		-- 1,000 cwt --		-- \$ per cwt --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Asparagus 2/.....	1,100	1,100	900	1,100	42	35	38	39	131.70	132.00	5,005	5,148
Cabbage.....	1,800	1,500	1,700	1,400	280	375	476	525	14.50	17.60	6,902	9,240
Collards 2/.....	800	800	700	700	140	145	98	102	30.00	34.20	2,940	3,488
Cucumbers.....	3,200	3,300	3,200	3,100	210	160	672	496	23.40	31.40	15,725	15,574
Eggplant 2/.....	900	900	900	900	245	255	221	230	28.60	37.70	6,321	8,671
Escarole & Endive 2/.....	600	600	500	500	175	200	88	100	29.30	36.30	2,578	3,630
Other Herbs 2/ 3/.....	2,000	2,200	1,900	2,000	80	115	152	230	51.00	65.40	7,752	15,042
Kale 2/.....	400	400	400	400	100	135	40	54	33.90	34.80	1,356	1,879
Lettuce, All 2/ 4/.....	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,500	210	185	399	278	37.40	42.30	14,923	11,759
Parsley 2/.....	800	800	800	700	180	145	144	102	37.10	63.90	5,342	6,518
Peppers, Bell.....	3,300	3,600	3,300	3,400	325	305	1,073	1,037	31.50	29.30	33,800	30,384
Pumpkins 2/.....	2,400	2,500	2,300	1,700	135	95	311	162	20.50	54.40	6,376	8,813
Snap Beans.....	2,900	3,100	2,600	2,700	30	34	78	92	35.40	55.00	2,761	5,060
Spinach.....	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,200	85	155	119	186	45.90	45.00	5,462	8,370
Squash, Summer 2/.....	2,100	2,100	2,100	1,800	120	170	252	306	29.70	41.50	7,484	12,699
Squash, Winter 2/.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	120	110	120	99	23.50	28.00	2,820	2,772
Sweet Corn.....	8,000	7,400	7,400	7,000	75	85	555	595	27.50	26.60	15,263	15,827
Tomatoes.....	3,100	3,100	2,900	2,900	215	210	624	609	51.90	51.70	32,386	31,485
Total.....	37,900	37,800	35,900	33,900	152	155	5,460	5,242	32.10	37.50	175,196	196,359
Vegetables for Processing 5/	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- tons --		-- tons --		-- \$ per ton --		--\$ 1,000 --	
Total 6/ 7/.....	6,100	5,600	6,100	5,200	9.23	9.48	56,320	49,320	141.70	171.20	7,983	8,445
Total Principal Vegetables	44,000	43,400	42,000	39,100	7.84	7.96	329,320	311,420	556.20	657.60	183,179	204,804

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Not in the Federal Estimating Program, state estimate only. 3/ Includes arugula, basil, chives, coriander, cress, fennel, sage, thyme, etc. 4/ Includes head lettuce, Romaine, and all other lettuce. 5/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations. 6/ Include green peas, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes. 7/ Processing tomatoes are not in the Federal Estimating Program.