

2012 Vegetable Season: Spring came early this year, and the growing season started ahead of schedule. The average temperature reached near 50 degrees in late March and early April. In spite of a late frost, all spring and early summer crops were in excellent shape. Top soil moisture was adequate up to the early summer months. Signs of drought occurred in many areas in early June, however timely rainfall provided some relief. The dry conditions reduced plant and fungal diseases. Some irrigation was needed. A shortage of labor for picking the matured vegetables was a major concern among growers. Dry spells during summer months reduced crop yields. August storms also caused some localized crop loss. An early frost happened second week of October in North Jersey. Hurricane Sandy, followed by another large rain storm at the end of October, dumped a significant amount of water in the fields. Wet field conditions prevented harvest of late season crops. Some produce rotted in the fields. As the season concluded, the increase in harvested acres and production were able to offset lower season average prices as the total value of production rose by 1.2% from last year.

Area harvested for the eighteen **fresh market** and 5 major **processing vegetables**, totaled 41,550 acres. This was up 6% from 39,100 acres in 2011. Both fresh market and processing vegetable harvested acres increased. Combined production of fresh and processing vegetable was 360,550 tons, up 16% from 2011. Gross value for all crops increased 2% to \$208.3 million in 2012, compared with \$204.8 million in 2011, despite a 12% decrease in 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 2012 totaled 38,300 acres with 36,200 acres or 95% harvested. This compares to 37,800 acres planted in 2011 and 33,900 acres or 90% harvested. Production amounted to 6.09 million hundredweight, an increase of 16 % from the 5.24 million hundredweight produced in 2011. Overall yield in 2012 averaged 168 hundredweight per acre, up 13 hundredweight from the previous year. Season average price, at \$32.60 per hundredweight, decreased 13% from \$37.50 in 2011.

Among the fresh market vegetables, only tomatoes harvested declined from a year ago. Asparagus, cabbage, cucumbers, lettuce, parsley, bell peppers, pumpkins, spinach, summer squash, and sweet corn all had higher harvested acres in 2012 than in 2011. Collards, eggplant, escarole/endive, herbs, kale, snap beans, and winter squash acres remained unchanged. Despite lower season average prices, the total value of fresh market vegetables showed an increase of 1.2% from \$196.4 million in 2011 to \$198.8 million in 2012. The increase in value was due to much higher production levels as compared to last year.

Ranking New Jersey's fresh market vegetables in terms of value of production, the top four vegetables remained unchanged from last year. Tomatoes ranked first at \$30.9 million, bell peppers were second at \$28.9 million. Sweet corn and cucumbers were third and fourth at \$23.1 million and \$15.7 million respectively. Summer squash ranked fifth at \$15.2 million, replacing herbs.

Vegetables for Processing: In 2012, harvested acreage of the five major processing vegetables (green peas, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes) totaled 5,350 acres, compared 5,200 acres in 2011. Harvested acres increased for green peas, sweet corn, and tomatoes while snap beans and spinach acreage declined. Total production, at 55,950 tons, increased 13% from the 49,320 tons in 2011. The season average price was \$171.00 per ton, compared with \$171.20 per ton in 2011, down \$0.20 per ton. The 2012 value of production, at \$9.57 million, was up 9 % from \$8.45 million the previous year.

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



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New Jersey Principle Vegetables Annual Summary – 2011 and 2012^{1/}

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production		Season Average Price		Value of Production	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Vegetables for Fresh Market	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- cwt --		-- 1,000 cwt --		-- \$ per cwt --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Asparagus 2/.....	1,100	1,300	1,100	1,200	35	36	39	43	132.00	146.00	5,148	6,278
Cabbage.....	1,500	1,600	1,400	1,500	375	480	525	720	17.60	14.60	9,240	10,512
Collards 2/.....	800	750	700	700	145	120	102	84	34.20	30.60	3,488	2,570
Cucumbers.....	3,300	3,400	3,100	3,400	160	215	496	731	31.40	21.50	15,574	15,717
Eggplant 2/.....	900	900	900	900	255	200	230	180	37.70	28.30	8,671	5,094
Escarole & Endive 2/.....	600	600	500	500	200	265	100	133	36.30	39.30	3,630	5,227
Other Herbs 2/ 3/.....	2,200	2,200	2,000	2,000	115	100	230	200	65.40	44.70	15,042	8,940
Kale 2/.....	400	450	400	400	135	125	54	50	34.80	31.00	1,879	1,550
Lettuce, All 2/ 4/.....	2,000	2,100	1,500	1,900	185	205	278	390	42.30	29.30	11,759	11,427
Parsley 2/.....	800	800	700	800	145	110	102	88	63.90	46.50	6,518	4,092
Peppers, Bell.....	3,600	3,700	3,400	3,700	305	325	1,037	1,203	29.30	24.00	30,384	28,872
Pumpkins 2/.....	2,500	2,500	1,700	2,100	95	115	162	242	54.40	42.90	8,813	10,382
Snap Beans.....	3,100	2,800	2,700	2,700	34	31	92	84	55.00	44.20	5,060	3,713
Spinach.....	1,400	1,500	1,200	1,400	155	185	186	259	45.00	48.90	8,370	12,665
Squash, Summer 2/.....	2,100	2,200	1,800	2,200	170	150	306	330	41.50	46.10	12,699	15,213
Squash, Winter 2/.....	1,000	1,000	900	900	110	115	99	104	28.00	24.40	2,772	2,538
Sweet Corn.....	7,400	7,500	7,000	7,200	85	95	595	684	26.60	33.80	15,827	23,119
Tomatoes.....	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,700	210	210	609	567	51.70	54.40	31,485	30,845
Total.....	37,800	38,300	33,900	36,200	155	168	5,242	6,092	37.50	32.60	196,359	198,754
Vegetables for Processing 5/	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- tons --		-- tons --		-- \$ per ton --		--\$ 1,000 --	
Total 6/ 7/.....	5,600	5,550	5,200	5,350	9.48	10.46	49,320	55,950	171.20	171.00	8,445	9,569
Total Principal Vegetables	43,400	43,850	39,100	41,550	7.96	8.68	311,420	360,550	657.60	577.80	204,804	208,323

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.