

★ ★ 2006 NEW JERSEY ANNUAL VEGETABLE REPORT ★ ★

Released: February 2007

2006 Vegetable Season: A mild winter, favorable weather in early spring, thunder storms followed by dry conditions in early summer, and late fall wet weather, all had varying effects on the vegetable crops this growing season. Planting and harvesting were on schedule, but the planting intentions were lower than usual because of concerns about rising fuel and labor costs. Yield and quality were generally good for spring vegetables. Summer planting was lower than last year. Early summer high temperatures and adequate moisture were beneficial to summer crops, but frequent thunder storms caused some acreage loss. The tomato crop was hurt the most, and yield was almost at disaster level. Fall planting was lower than usual because of unstable weather conditions in late summer. As the season concluded, production of asparagus, cabbage, collards, cucumbers, bell peppers, pumpkins, spinach, and sweet corn were higher, while eggplant, escarole and endive, kale, lettuce, snap beans, summer squash, winter squash, and tomatoes had lower production. Total value of production of all principal fresh market vegetables and processing vegetables showed a 12 percent and 11 percent increase, respectively.

Vegetables for Fresh Market: There are 17 fresh market vegetables in the USDA-NASS, New Jersey Field Office estimating program. Area harvested for these fresh market vegetables in 2006 totaled 31,200 acres, compared with 32,500 acres in 2005, down 1,300 acres. Production amounted to 4.77 million hundredweight, an increase of 7 percent from the 4.45 million hundredweight produced in 2005. Overall yield in 2006 averaged 153 hundredweight per acre, up 16 hundredweight from the previous year. Season average price was \$27.30 per hundredweight compared with \$26.20 in 2005, up \$1.10 per hundredweight.

Among the fresh market vegetables, cucumbers and eggplant had higher harvested acres in 2006 than in 2005. Harvested acres remained unchanged for escarole & endive, other lettuce, and bell peppers. Asparagus, cabbage, collards, kale, head lettuce, pumpkins, snap beans, spinach, summer squash, winter squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes had lower harvested acres in 2006 than in 2005. The higher yield was enough to offset the lower harvested acres, resulting in a higher total production than a year ago. The value of production showed an increase of \$13.9 million, as the result of higher season average price and production.

Ranking New Jersey's fresh market vegetables by value of production, bell peppers were first with \$27.8 million, and tomatoes were second with \$19.6 million. Sweet corn, cucumbers, and spinach were third, fourth, and fifth with \$19.0 million, \$13.4 million, and \$10.0 million, respectively.

Vegetables for Processing: In 2006 harvested acreage of the eight major processing vegetables (carrots, cucumbers, green peas, lima beans, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes) totaled 7,500 acres, compared with 8,250 acres in 2005. Harvested acres increased for snap beans, cucumbers, and tomatoes. Carrot acres remained the same, while acreage declined for the remaining processing vegetables. Total production, at 55,970 tons, was an 8 percent decrease from the 61,150 tons in 2005. The season average price was \$151.70 per ton, compared with \$125.50 per ton in 2005, up \$26.20 per ton. The 2006 value of production, at \$8.49 million, was up 11 percent from \$7.67 million in 2005.

***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 - 2005 and 2006**

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production		Season Average Price		Value of Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Vegetables for Fresh Market	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- cwt --		-- 1,000 cwt --		-- \$ per cwt --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Asparagus 1/	1,100	1,000	1,100	1,000	30	40	33	40	100.00	95.00	3,300	3,800
Cabbage	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,400	260	290	390	406	17.80	14.80	6,942	6,009
Collards 1/	700	700	700	650	135	160	95	104	22.20	24.80	2,109	2,579
Cucumbers	3,200	3,300	3,200	3,300	150	175	480	578	20.20	23.10	9,696	13,352
Eggplant 1/	800	900	800	900	260	230	208	207	18.90	22.80	3,931	4,720
Escarole & Endive 1/	600	600	500	500	190	170	95	85	21.50	23.80	2,043	2,023
Kale 1/	400	400	400	350	225	180	86	63	22.00	24.30	1,892	1,531
Lettuce, Head	600	500	500	400	190	90	95	36	35.00	20.00	3,325	720
Lettuce, Other 1/	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,100	205	190	226	209	16.00	19.00	3,616	3,971
Peppers, Bell	3,500	3,200	3,200	3,200	260	295	832	944	24.70	29.50	20,550	27,848
Pumpkins 1/	1,900	1,900	1,600	1,400	88	135	141	189	16.50	21.40	2,327	4,045
Snap Beans	3,100	2,900	2,900	2,800	40	25	116	70	47.00	48.50	5,452	3,395
Spinach	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,700	105	175	200	298	30.90	33.70	6,180	10,043
Squash, Summer 1/	2,200	2,000	2,100	1,900	95	100	200	190	29.50	32.60	5,900	6,194
Squash, Winter 1/	900	900	900	700	88	85	80	60	25.30	23.50	2,024	1,410
Sweet Corn	7,500	7,200	7,100	7,000	80	110	568	770	21.50	24.70	12,212	19,019
Tomatoes	3,000	3,100	3,000	2,900	200	180	600	522	41.50	37.60	24,900	19,627
Total	34,300	33,300	32,500	31,200	137	153	4,445	4,771	26.20	27.30	116,399	130,286
Vegetables for Processing	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- tons --		-- tons --		-- \$ per ton --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Total 2/.....	8,600	8,050	8,250	7,500	7.41	7.46	61,150	55,970	125.50	151.70	7,673	8,489

1/ Not in the Federal Estimating Program, state estimate only.

2/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations. Processing vegetables include carrots, cucumbers, green peas, lima beans, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Carrots, cucumbers, and lima beans are not in the Federal Estimating Program, and are state estimates only.