

★ ★ 2007 NEW JERSEY ANNUAL VEGETABLE REPORT ★ ★

Released: February 2008

2007 Vegetable Season: The season started early because of mild temperatures in the winter and early spring. The planting intentions were low due to the rising concerns of high production costs. Yield and quality of spring vegetables were generally good and the prices were fair. Summer plantings were also lower compared with last year. High temperatures and adequate moisture in the early summer were beneficial to the growth of summer crops. The low price of summer crops was the major concern among growers. This was especially true for the eggplant growers. Frequent thunderstorms caused some acreage loss for pepper and tomato fields. Dry conditions in late summer reduced fall plantings, but fall harvest was normal and the quality of crops was generally good. Harvest of fall crops continued into mid-November because of mild temperatures.

As the season concluded, the total planted acres dropped 6.2% while the harvested acres dropped 3.1%. Overall production declined 6.0 % from 294,520 tons in 2006 to 276,860 tons in 2007. Despite the 17 % increase of processing vegetable price, the overall price was 4.6% lower than a year ago. Total value of production of all principal fresh market vegetables and processing vegetables showed a 10.3% decrease as the result of lower production combined with a lower season average price.

Vegetables for Fresh Market: There are 17 fresh market vegetables in the USDA-NASS, New Jersey Field Office estimating program. Area planted for these fresh market vegetables in 2007 totaled 32,600 acres with 31,500 acres harvested, compared with 33,300 acres planted in 2006 and 31,200 acres harvested. Production amounted to 4.45 million hundredweight, a decrease of 6.7% from the 4.77 million hundredweight produced in 2006. Overall yield in 2007 averaged 141 hundredweight per acre, down 12 hundredweight from the previous year. Season average price was \$25.80 per hundredweight compared with \$27.30 in 2006, a drop of \$1.50 per hundredweight.

Among the fresh market vegetables, cabbage, collards, cucumbers, pumpkins, summer and winter squash, and sweet corn had higher harvested acres in 2007 than in 2006. Harvested acres remained unchanged for asparagus, eggplant, escarole/endive, all lettuce, and tomatoes. Kale, bell peppers, snap beans, and spinach had lower harvested acres in 2007 than in 2006. Despite the 1% increase in harvested acres which was not able to offset the 7.8% decline of yield, resulting in a 6.7% reduction of total production than a year ago. The value of production also showed a decrease of \$15.4 million, as the result of lower season average price and production.

Ranking New Jersey's fresh market vegetables by value of production, tomatoes replaced the bell peppers ranked first with \$23.6 million, bell peppers were second with \$17.6 million. Sweet corn, cucumbers, and cabbage were third, fourth, and fifth with \$15.1 million, \$11.5 million, and \$7.1 million, respectively.

Vegetables for Processing: In 2007, harvested acreage of the seven major processing vegetables (carrots, cucumbers, green peas, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes) totaled 6,000 acres, compared with seven major processing vegetables (carrots, cucumbers, green peas, snap beans, lima beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes) of 7,500 acres in 2006. There were no lima bean acres contracted this year. Harvested acres increased for cucumbers, and tomatoes. All other acreage declined. Total production, at 54,310 tons, was a 3 percent decrease from the 55,970 tons in 2006. The season average price was \$177.10 per ton, compared with \$151.70 per ton in 2006, up \$25.40 per ton. The 2007 value of production, at \$9.62 million, was up 13 percent from \$8.49 million in 2006.



United States
Department of Agriculture,
National Agricultural
Statistics Service



New Jersey Field Office
P.O. Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: 1(800)328-0179

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GOES TO ALL THOSE PRODUCERS
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**New Jersey Principle Vegetables
Annual Summary - 2006 and 2007 1/**

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production		Season Average Price		Value of Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Vegetables for Fresh Market	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- cwt --		-- 1,000 cwt --		-- \$ per cwt --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Asparagus 2/	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	40	25	40	25	95.00	115.00	3,800	2,875
Cabbage	1,500	1,600	1,400	1,500	290	345	406	518	14.80	13.80	6,009	7,148
Collards 2/	700	700	650	700	160	145	104	102	24.80	25.70	2,579	2,621
Cucumbers	3,300	3,400	3,300	3,400	175	190	578	646	23.10	17.80	13,352	11,499
Eggplant 2/	900	900	900	900	230	255	207	230	22.80	21.50	4,720	4,945
Escarole & Endive 2/	600	600	500	500	170	195	85	98	23.80	25.40	2,023	2,489
Kale 2/	400	400	350	300	180	155	63	47	24.30	24.80	1,531	1,166
Lettuce, All 2/ 3/.....	1,700	1,700	1,500	1,500	187	177	245	266	19.10	18.70	4,691	4,968
Lettuce, Head	500	4/	400	4/	90	4/	36	4/	20.00	4/	720	4/
Lettuce, Other 2/	1,200	4/	1,100	4/	190	4/	209	4/	19.00	4/	3,971	4/
Peppers, Bell	3,200	3,100	3,200	3,100	295	180	944	558	29.50	31.50	27,848	17,577
Pumpkins 2/	1,900	1,700	1,400	1,500	135	85	189	128	21.40	16.20	4,045	2,074
Snap Beans	2,900	2,700	2,800	2,700	25	30	70	81	48.50	47.00	3,395	3,807
Spinach	2,000	1,700	1,700	1,600	175	100	298	160	33.70	42.60	10,043	6,816
Squash, Summer 2/	2,000	2,000	1,900	2,000	100	121	190	242	32.60	27.50	6,190	6,643
Squash, Winter 2/	900	800	700	800	85	100	60	80	23.50	19.60	1,410	1,568
Sweet Corn	7,200	7,300	7,000	7,100	110	95	770	675	24.70	22.30	19,019	15,053
Tomatoes	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,900	180	205	522	595	37.60	39.70	19,627	23,622
Total	33,300	32,600	31,200	31,500	153	141	4,771	4,451	27.30	25.80	130,282	114,871
Vegetables for Processing 4/	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- tons --		-- tons --		-- \$ per ton --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Total 5/ 6/.....	8,050	6,200	7,500	6,000	7.46	9.05	55,970	54,310	151.70	177.10	8,489	9,617

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Not in the Federal Estimating Program, state estimate only.
3/ Includes head lettuce and all other lettuce.
4/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.
5/ Carrots, cucumbers, lima beans and tomatoes are not in the Federal Estimating Program.
6/ Processing vegetables include carrots, cucumbers, green peas, lima beans, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes for 2006.
Processing vegetables include carrots, cucumbers, green peas, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes for 2007.