

# 2008 NEW JERSEY ANNUAL VEGETABLE REPORT

**2008 Vegetable Season:** A mild winter, favorable weather in early spring, dry conditions in early summer followed by frequent thunderstorms in late summer, and wet weather in fall, all had varying effects on the vegetable crops this growing season. Planting started early, but the planting intentions were lower because of concerns about rising fertilizer fuel costs. Harvesting was early and yield and quality were generally good for spring vegetables. Summer planting was on schedule. Irrigation was needed for most areas due to the dry conditions. Frequent thunderstorms caused some crop loss. The tomato, peppers, and squash crops were hurt the most. Once entering the fall, frequent rains and lack of sunlight delayed pumpkin coloring and caused rot damage to squash crops. Despite some unfavorable conditions, it was still a good growing season for vegetable growers. Prices were high throughout the entire year. As the season concluded, production



of asparagus, cabbage, eggplant, kale, all lettuce, bell peppers, pumpkins, snap beans, spinach, summer squash, and tomatoes were higher, while collards, cucumbers, escarole and endive, winter squash, and sweet corn had lower production.

Total value of production of all principal fresh market vegetables and processing vegetables showed a 20 percent and 17 percent increase, respectively.

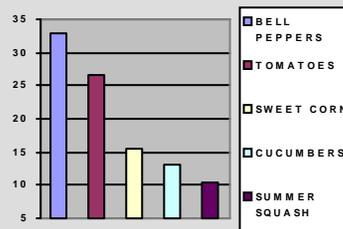
**Vegetables for Fresh Market:** There are 16 fresh market vegetables in the USDA-NASS, New Jersey Field Office estimating program. Area harvested for these vegetables in 2008 totaled 32,400 acres, down 100 acres from 2007. Production amounted to 5.25 million hundredweight, an increase of 6.8 percent from the 4.92 million hundredweight produced in 2007. Overall yield in 2008 averaged 162 hundredweight per acre, up 11 hundredweight from the previous year. Season average price was \$29.40 per hundredweight compared with \$26.10 in 2007, up \$3.30 per hundredweight.

**A**mong the fresh market vegetables, eggplant, all lettuce, bell peppers, summer squash, and winter squash had higher harvested acres in 2008 than in 2007. Harvested acres remained unchanged for asparagus, cabbage, collards, escarole & endive, kale, pumpkins, and tomatoes. Cucumbers, snap beans, spinach, and sweet corn had lower harvested acres in 2008 than in 2007. With 100 acres less harvested, a 7 percent higher yield resulted in a 7 percent higher total production than a year ago. The value of production increased almost 20 percent as the result of higher season average prices and production.



Ranking New Jersey's fresh market vegetables by value of production, bell peppers were first with \$32.9 million, and tomatoes were second with \$26.6 million. Sweet corn, cucumbers, and summer squash were third, fourth, and fifth with \$15.5 million, \$13.1 million, and \$10.5 million, respectively.

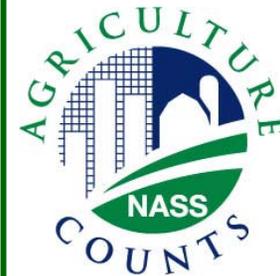
Value of Production (Millions)



**Vegetables for Processing:** In 2008, harvested acreage of the seven major processing vegetables (carrots, cucumbers, green peas, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes) totaled 6,000 acres, unchanged from 2007. Harvested acres increased for carrots, snap beans, spinach, and sweet corn. Acreage declined for tomatoes, green peas, and cucumbers. Total production, at 58,740 tons, was an 8 percent increase from the 54,310 tons in 2007. The season average price was \$192.00 per ton, compared with \$177.10 per ton in 2007, up \$14.90 per ton. The 2008 value of production, at \$11.3 million, was up 17 percent from \$9.62 million in 2007.



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

## New Jersey Principle Vegetables Annual Summary - 2007 and 2008 <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production		Season Average Price		Value of Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
<b>Vegetables for Fresh Market</b>	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- cwt --		-- 1,000 cwt --		-- \$ per cwt --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Asparagus <sup>2</sup> .....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	25	34	25	34	115.00	130.00	2,875	4,420
Cabbage .....	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,600	345	360	518	576	13.80	13.50	7,148	7,776
Collards <sup>2</sup> .....	800	800	800	800	145	135	116	108	25.70	24.40	2,981	2,635
Cucumbers .....	3,400	3,200	3,400	3,100	190	175	646	543	17.80	24.10	11,499	13,086
Eggplant <sup>2</sup> .....	900	1,000	900	900	255	290	230	261	21.50	27.30	4,945	7,125
Escarole & Endive <sup>2</sup> .....	600	600	500	500	195	185	98	93	25.40	28.30	2,489	2,632
Kale <sup>2</sup> .....	400	400	300	400	155	145	47	58	24.80	26.30	1,166	1,525
Lettuce, All <sup>2,3</sup> .....	1,700	1,900	1,500	1,800	177	195	266	351	18.70	21.70	4,968	7,617
Peppers, Bell .....	3,100	3,200	3,100	3,100	300	360	930	1,116	31.50	29.50	29,295	32,922
Pumpkins <sup>2</sup> .....	2,500	2,500	2,200	2,100	85	105	187	221	16.20	23.80	3,029	5,260
Snap Beans .....	2,700	2,600	2,700	2,500	30	38	81	95	47.00	45.00	3,807	4,275
Spinach .....	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	100	175	160	280	42.60	37.20	6,816	10,416
Squash, Summer <sup>2</sup> .....	2,000	2,300	2,000	2,000	120	140	240	280	27.60	37.40	6,624	10,472
Squash, Winter <sup>2</sup> .....	1,000	1,100	1,000	1,000	105	80	105	80	20.70	25.70	2,174	2,056
Sweet Corn .....	7,300	7,100	7,100	7,100	95	75	675	533	22.30	29.10	15,053	15,510
Tomatoes .....	3,000	3,000	2,900	2,900	205	215	595	624	39.70	42.70	23,622	26,645
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>33,700</b>	<b>33,900</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>32,400</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>4,919</b>	<b>5,253</b>	<b>26.10</b>	<b>29.40</b>	<b>128,491</b>	<b>154,372</b>
<b>Vegetables for Processing <sup>4</sup></b>	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- tons --		-- tons --		-- \$ per ton --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
<b>Total <sup>5,6</sup> .....</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>6,050</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>9.05</b>	<b>9.79</b>	<b>54,310</b>	<b>58,740</b>	<b>177.10</b>	<b>192.00</b>	<b>9,617</b>	<b>11,279</b>
<b>Total Principal Vegetables ..</b>	<b>39,900</b>	<b>39,950</b>	<b>38,500</b>	<b>38,400</b>	<b>7.80</b>	<b>8.37</b>	<b>300,260</b>	<b>321,390</b>	<b>460.00</b>	<b>515.40</b>	<b>138,108</b>	<b>165,651</b>

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> Not in the Federal Estimating Program, state estimate only.

<sup>3</sup> Includes head lettuce, Romaine, and all other lettuce.

<sup>4</sup> Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

<sup>5</sup> Carrots, cucumbers, lima beans and tomatoes are not in the Federal Estimating Program.

<sup>6</sup> Processing vegetables include carrots, cucumbers, green peas, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes.