

FLORICULTURE

New York floriculture production ranked seventh in the nation for total commercial sales in 2001. Value of sales increased from a year earlier for potted flowering plants and herbaceous perennial plants. The overall value of commercial sales decreased 4 percent to \$172 million. Bedding and garden plants continued to be the highest component of the total value of sales decreasing 1 percent from 2000 to \$96.8 million. Potted flowering plants were second with a value of sales of \$40.2 million, an increase of 7 percent. Cut flowers ranked third at \$4.51 million, a decrease of 27 percent.

The number of commercial growers decreased for the fourth consecutive year. During 2001, there were 731 growers. The area used to produce floriculture crops in the state was down approximately 10 percent. Greenhouse space decreased 2.73 million square feet from 2000 to total 23.7 million square feet in 2001. This decrease pulled the total covered area (*greenhouse plus shade and temporary structures*) down to 24.4 million square feet, 10 percent less than 2000.

The total wholesale value of floriculture crops grown by U.S. operations exceeding the \$100,000 sales level reached \$4.44 billion in 2001, up 4 percent from 2000's total. Values for each crop category, as compared



with 2000, were mostly up. Bedding and garden plants, the largest component, recorded a 4 percent increase in wholesale value to \$2.18 billion. Potted flowering plants were up 4 percent in value to \$832 million. Foliage gained 4 percent in value at \$585 million. Value of cut flowers fell 1 percent to \$424 million and cut cultivated greens decreased 12 percent to \$111 million.