

# Commercial Vegetable Production, 1998

By Eric D. Stout

**Pennsylvania:** Very hot and dry weather conditions dominated the 1998 vegetable growing season. Warm weather allowed early planting in some parts of the State. During the mid to late summer, below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures slowed some crop development. There was good moisture in the air and minimal insect damage. Due to adverse conditions, most vegetable yields varied around the State for all vegetables.

**Production:** Pennsylvania's total production of both fresh market and processing principal vegetables for 1998 was 171,400 tons, up 5 percent from 1997. Fresh market production in 1998 was up 12 percent, while processing was down 3 percent. Sweet corn production increased 17 percent for fresh market, but processing production decreased 7 percent. Fresh tomato production increased 7 percent, but processing tomato production increased 25 percent from 1997. Strawberry production was down 22 percent, while snap bean production decreased 35 percent from a year ago.

**Yield:** Sweet corn yields increased 9 percent for fresh market but decreased 10 percent for processing. Tomato yields decreased 8 percent for fresh market and increased 6 percent for processing over the previous year levels. Strawberry yields decreased 9 percent; snap bean yields decreased 16 percent from 1997 to 1998.

**Acreage:** Total harvested acreage for fresh and processing vegetables was down 1 percent at 35,300 acres. Fresh market harvested acreage increased 8 percent to 24,400 and total processing harvested acreage decreased 16 percent to 10,900.

**Value:** The combined value of both fresh and processing vegetables was \$59,837,000, an increase of 13 percent from 1997. The fresh market section totaled \$51,846,000, up 17 percent. Processing vegetables totaled \$7,991,000 in 1998, down 8 percent. Fresh market prices per hundredweight were up for cabbage, tomatoes, sweet corn, strawberries and cantaloupe. Processing vegetable prices per ton was up for tomatoes and snap beans, but down for sweet corn.

Pennsylvania: Total Principal Vegetables, Fresh & Processing, 1984-1998

Year	Fresh				Processing				Total			
	Acreage		Production	Value	Acreage		Production	Value <sup>2</sup>	Acreage		Production	Value
	Planted	Harvested			Planted	Harvested			Planted	Harvested		
			(000) Cwt.	(000) Dols.			(000) Tons	(000) Dols.			(000) Cwt.	(000) Dols.
1984	22,900	22,100	1,977	30,782	12,700	11,800	91	8,683	35,600	33,900	3,797	39,465
1985	22,500	21,300	1,870	29,231	11,900	11,400	86	8,156	34,400	32,700	3,590	37,387
1986	23,500	22,600	1,467	27,914	11,400	10,900	72	5,951	34,900	33,500	2,907	33,865
1987	26,700	24,300	1,725	30,956	13,000	11,700	53	5,346	39,700	36,000	2,785	36,302
1988	27,900	22,500	1,632	36,874	12,900	11,200	50	5,209	40,800	33,700	2,636	42,083
1989	24,500	22,900	2,339	56,094	9,700	9,400	60	7,120	34,200	32,300	3,533	63,214
1990	25,800	24,600	1,576	36,058	14,100	13,800	76	9,536	39,900	38,400	3,095	45,594
1991	25,400	21,600	1,064	28,305	11,900	10,900	49	5,276	37,300	32,500	2,036	33,581
1992 <sup>1</sup>	28,200	26,800	2,458	43,533	9,000	9,000	65	6,948	37,200	35,800	3,758	50,481
1993	28,300	26,400	2,163	39,742	10,200	10,100	54	5,942	38,500	36,500	3,243	45,414
1994	27,600	25,600	2,346	40,819	11,000	10,900	65	7,185	38,600	36,500	3,646	48,004
1995	27,400	24,700	1,866	32,093	13,100	12,500	70	7,741	40,500	37,200	3,266	39,834
1996	27,200	24,400	2,200	40,781	10,700	9,900	59	7,696	37,900	34,300	3,380	48,477
1997	27,200	22,600	1,872	44,148	13,200	12,900	69	8,690	40,400	35,500	3,252	52,838
1998	27,000	24,400	2,088	51,846	11,200	10,900	67	7,991	38,200	35,300	3,428	59,837

<sup>1</sup> Beginning in 1992 fresh market crops include sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage and cantaloupe. <sup>2</sup> Farm value.