

Floriculture 2003

The floriculture statistics presented on the following page were compiled from interviews of all known growers of floriculture crops in New Jersey. Growers must have annual gross sales exceeding \$10,000 of all floriculture crops to be included. Individual crop details, including quantity sold, price, and value, are summarized only from growers whose gross sales of floriculture crops exceed \$100,000.

The 2003 expanded wholesale value of floriculture crops was down 6 percent from the revised 2002 value. New Jersey ranked ninth in the nation in expanded wholesale value of floriculture crops. The total crop wholesale value for all New Jersey growers with \$10,000 or more in sales was estimated at \$149 million compared with \$160 million for 2002. The 2003 United States expanded wholesale value of floriculture crops was down less than 1 percent from the year 2002.

The number of growers with sales over \$10,000 in New Jersey totaled 424 in 2003, a decline of 10 percent compared with the 2002 revised count of 473. This followed the national trend of an 8 percent decline in the total number of growers. The number of growers in New Jersey with sales of \$100,000 or more showed a 4 percent decrease to 190, from 198 in 2002.

Total covered area for floriculture crop production in the Garden State was recorded at 18.3 million square feet, 4 percent less than the revised area of 19 million square feet in 2002.

Nationally, total covered area for floriculture production was down 3 percent from 2002. Greenhouse space in New Jersey accounted for 98 percent of the total covered area with 17.8 million square feet, down 3 percent from 2002. Film plastic structures, at 12.9 million square feet, were down 6 percent from the revised 2002 figure. Fiberglass and other rigid plastic covers were up 32 percent for the year, while glass greenhouse area, at 4.4 million square feet, was up 3 percent from the revised 2002 area. Shade and temporary cover constituted the remaining 444,000 square feet of covered area, down 23 percent from 2002. Open ground usage totaled 3,091 acres, 1 percent over the 2002 total.

The total wholesale value of floriculture crops grown in New Jersey by operations exceeding the \$100,000 sales level reached \$139 million in 2003, down 7 percent from the 2002 total. These operations, which comprised 45 percent of all growers, accounted for 93 percent of the total expanded value of floriculture crops.

Total bedding and garden plants, the largest contributor to total value of sales for growers with \$100,000 or more of sales, recorded a decrease of 8 percent in wholesale value of sales to \$83.9 million. Potted flowering plants were also down 4 percent in value to \$32 million. The foliage for indoor use category was valued at \$4.33 million in 2003, a decrease of 2 percent from the revised 2002 estimate. The value of cut flowers decreased by 2 percent, to \$7.2 million.

NEW JERSEY GROWING AREA: BY TYPE OF COVER, 2002-2003

Type of Cover	All Operations with \$10,000 + Sales		All Operations with \$100,000 + Sales	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
<u>1,000 Square Feet</u>				
Total Greenhouse Cover	18,455	17,819	15,227	15,117
Glass Greenhouses	4,301	4,427	3,761	4,090
Fiberglass and Other Rigid Greenhouses	403	530	288	390
Film Plastic Greenhouse	13,751	12,862	11,178	10,637
Shade and Temporary Cover	576	444	514	371
Total Covered Area	19,031	18,263	15,741	15,488
<u>Acres</u>				
Open Ground	3,074	3,091	2,401	2,562