

2009 NEW JERSEY



ANNUAL VEGETABLE REPORT

2009 Vegetable Season: The mild winter, sufficient moisture and near normal spring temperatures were favorable for the spring vegetables. But some growers were concerned the weak demand would adversely affect the prices. The major vegetables planted acres were lower than a year earlier. Prolonged wet conditions in late spring had adversely impacted the planting of summer crops. Temperatures were below normal, which slowed the growth of most of the crops. Once entering the summer months, subsoil moistures were varied depending on the localities. Vine crop production in the northeastern and some southern parts of the state was seriously reduced by blights. There were measurable amounts of rainfall in the fall season and temperatures were generally lower than normal. Harvest of vegetable crops was winding down in the second week of October, a week earlier than usual. Also included in 2009 harvested acres was some preserved land which had never been utilized for growing vegetables.

As the season concluded, production of asparagus, collards, eggplant, lettuce, pumpkins, sweet corn, and tomatoes were higher, while cabbage, cucumbers, kale, bell peppers, snap beans, spinach, summer squash, and winter squash had lower production. Production of escarole and endive were unchanged. Total value of production of principal fresh market and processing vegetables showed a 11 percent increase from a year ago.

Vegetables for Fresh Market: There are 16 fresh market vegetables in the USDA-NASS, New Jersey Field Office estimating program. Area harvested for these fresh market vegetables in 2009 totaled 32,600 acres, compared with 32,400 acres in 2008, up 200 acres. Production amounted to 5.1 million hundredweight, a decrease of 3 percent from the 5.3 million hundredweight produced in 2008. Overall yield in 2009 averaged 157 hundredweight per acre, down 5 hundredweight from the previous year. The season average price was \$34.10 per hundredweight compared with \$29.40 in 2008, a sharp increase of \$4.70 per hundredweight.

Among the fresh market vegetables, bell peppers, pumpkins, and snap beans had higher harvested acres in 2009 than in 2008. Spinach, summer squash, and winter squash had lower harvested acres in 2009 than in 2008. Asparagus, cabbage, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, escarole/endive, kale, lettuce, sweet corn, and tomato acres remained the same. Despite the lower production level, the much higher season average price was enough to offset the decline of production. The value of production showed an increase of \$20.2 million to a total of \$175.0 million.

Ranking New Jersey's fresh market vegetables by value of production, tomatoes were first with \$33.9 million, and bell peppers were second with \$31.4 million. Sweet corn, lettuce, and cucumbers were third, fourth, and fifth with \$22.8 million, \$13.8 million, and \$11.3 million, respectively.

Vegetables for Processing: Harvested acreage in 2009 of major processing vegetables totaled 5,300 acres, compared with 6,050 acres harvested in 2008. Harvested acres increased for green peas, sweet corn, and tomatoes, while snap bean acres declined. Spinach acres remained the same. Carrots and cucumber for pickles were no longer in the estimate program. Total production, at 50,790 tons, was a 14 percent decrease from the 58,740 tons in 2008. The 2009 value of production, at \$8.37 million, was up \$1.5 million from \$6.9 million a year earlier for comparable vegetables.

Parsley and Herbs: These two items were added in USDA-NASS, New Jersey Field Office estimating program starting 2009. Results from the 2009 survey will be released in spring 2011 along with the results from the 2010 survey.

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



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Released: January, 2010

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**New Jersey Principle Vegetables
Annual Summary - 2008 and 2009 1/**

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production		Season Average Price		Value of Production	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Vegetables for Fresh Market	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- cwt --		-- 1,000 cwt --		-- \$ per cwt --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Asparagus 2/	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	34	37	34	37	130.00	97.30	4,420	3,600
Cabbage	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,600	360	345	576	552	13.50	15.90	7,776	8,777
Collards 2/	800	800	800	800	135	165	108	132	24.40	30.90	2,635	4,079
Cucumbers	3,200	3,200	3,100	3,100	175	130	543	403	24.10	28.00	13,086	11,284
Eggplant 2/	1,000	900	900	900	290	320	261	288	27.30	29.00	7,125	8,352
Escarole & Endive 2/	600	600	500	500	185	185	93	93	28.30	35.40	2,632	3,292
Kale 2/	400	400	400	400	145	120	58	48	26.30	34.10	1,525	1,637
Lettuce, All 2/ 3/.....	1,900	1,900	1,800	1,800	195	200	351	360	21.70	38.30	7,617	13,788
Peppers, Bell	3,200	3,300	3,100	3,200	360	290	1116	928	29.50	33.80	32,922	31,366
Pumpkins 2/	2,500	2,600	2,100	2,200	105	115	221	253	23.80	29.20	5,260	7,388
Snap Beans	2,600	2,800	2,500	2,800	38	27	95	76	45.00	67.40	4,275	5,122
Spinach	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,500	175	135	280	203	37.20	43.20	10,416	8,770
Squash, Summer 2/	2,300	2,100	2,000	1,900	140	135	280	257	37.40	33.40	10,472	8,584
Squash, Winter 2/	1,100	1,200	1,000	900	80	75	80	68	25.70	26.70	2,056	1,816
Sweet Corn	7,100	7,700	7,100	7,100	75	110	533	781	29.10	29.20	15,510	22,805
Tomatoes	3,000	3,100	2,900	2,900	215	220	624	638	42.70	53.20	26,645	33,942
Total	33,900	34,900	32,400	32,600	162	157	5,253	5,117	29.40	34.10	154,372	174,602
Vegetables for Processing 4/	-- acres --		-- acres --		-- tons --		-- tons --		-- \$ per ton --		1000	
Total 5/ 6/.....	6,050	5,300	6,000	5,300	9.79	9.58	58,740	50,790	192.00	164.70	11,279	8,366
Total Principal Vegetables	39,950	40,200	38,400	37,900	8.37	8.09	321,390	306,640	515.40	596.70	165,651	182,968

1/ Preliminary.

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

3/ Includes head lettuce, Romaine, and all other lettuce.

4/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

5/ Carrots, cucumbers for pickles, and tomatoes are not in the Federal Estimating Program.

6/ 2008 - carrots, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

2009 - green peas, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes.