

# Crops

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Garden State field crops rebounded from the severe drought of 1999, setting new records for corn and soybean yields. Corn for grain yields increased by 97 bushels per acre while soybean yield rose by 16 bushels per acre. Rainfall was plentiful and timely in most localities in the state.

Corn planted in 2000 totaled 90,000 acres, 75,000 of which was harvested for grain. Yield, a record high, increased from 37 bushels in 1999 to 134 bushels per acre in 2000. This increase in yield raised production by 7,830,000 bushels to a level of 10,050,000 bushels. Acres harvested for silage decreased by 11,000 acres to 14,000. Silage yield, at 17 tons per acre, was up 11 tons per acre from 1999's record low of 6 tons per acre. Production was 238,000 tons, 59 percent higher than in 1999. Growers received \$1.90 per bushel for their grain, a decrease of 30 cents per bushel from 1999's price of \$2.20 per bushel. The total crop value of corn for grain increased by 291 percent from 1999's \$4,884,000 to \$19,095,000 in 2000.

Soybean planted acreage decreased by 5,000 acres to 100,000, with harvested acres remaining unchanged at 98,000 acres for 2000. Soybean yield, a record high at 40 bushels per acre, was up from 1999's yield of 24 bushels per acre. Due to the increase in yield, production increased to 3,920,000 bushels from 1999's 2,352,000 bushels. There was a decrease of 20 cents in the price received in 2000 to \$4.40 per bushel, compared to 1999's return of \$4.60 per bushel. Total crop value increased by 59 percent from 1999's \$10,819,000 to \$17,248,000 in 2000.

The 40,000 acres planted to winter wheat in 2000 was 2,000 less than in 1999. Harvested acreage was estimated at 35,000, an increase of 2,000 acres above 1999's harvested acres. Yield at 57 bushels per acre was 1 bushel per acre less than the previous year. Production at 1,995,000 bushels was up 8 percent from 1999. The season average price of \$2.10 was 10 cents less than the price in 1999, producing a 3 percent increase in total crop value to \$4,190,000.

Barley planted acres decreased by 1,000 acres

to 5,000 acres, while harvested acres remained unchanged at 4,000 acres in 2000. Yield, at 78 bushels per acre, was down 1 bushel per acre from 1999's record high. Production decreased by 1 percent from 1999 to 312,000 bushels. The prices received by growers increased by 5 cents per bushel, from 1999's \$1.25 per bushel, to \$1.30 in 2000. The value of barley produced increased 3 percent from 1999 to \$406,000.

Acres of all hay harvested remained unchanged at 130,000 in 2000. Alfalfa and other hay remained unchanged from 1999 at 30,000 and 100,000, respectively. Alfalfa hay yield increased by 11 percent to 3.0 tons per acre and other hay yield increased 6 percent to 1.7 tons per acre from the previous year. The overall yield was 2.0 tons per acre. Alfalfa production was 90,000 tons and other hay production was 170,000 tons; the resulting total hay production was 260,000 tons. The season average price for all hay decreased by \$30 per ton, from 1999's \$139, to \$109 in 2000. Overall, total crop value decreased 16 percent in 2000 to \$28,230,000.

Planted potato acres, at 2,500, were down 100 acres from 1999 while harvested acres remained unchanged at 2,500. Yield was up 14 percent at 285 hundredweight per acre in 2000 from 1999's 250 hundredweight per acre. Total production was up 14 percent from 1999 to 713,000 hundredweight. The season average price increased by 10 cents per hundredweight, from a price of \$5.90 per hundredweight in 1999, to \$6.00 per hundredweight in 2000.

Sweet potatoes planted and harvested acreage increased by 200 acres to 1,200. Yield was 100 hundredweight per acre, unchanged from last year. Total production increased by 20,000 hundredweight to 120,000 hundredweight, 20 percent above 1999. The season average price of \$21.50 was \$1.90 less than 1999's \$23.40 per hundredweight. Total crop value increased by 10 percent to \$2,580,000.