

# A Look at *New Jersey* Agriculture

Capital: Trenton

Population: 8,899,339

Founded: December 18, 1787 (3<sup>rd</sup>)

State Bird: Eastern Goldfinch

State Tree: Red Oak

State Flower: Purple Violet

Number of Counties: 21

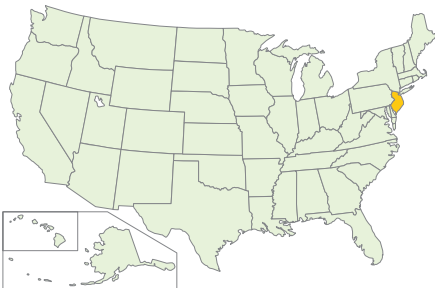
Largest City: Newark - 281,402

Nickname: Garden State

Number of Farms: 10,300

Average Farm Size: 71 acres

Total Farmland: 733,450 acres



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## Climate & Soil

- The average annual rainfall is 45" per year.
- The average temperature in January is 33° F, and in July it is 74° F.
- In the summer, New Jersey is hot and humid, but the afternoons are often marred by thunderstorms.
- The state soil of New Jersey is the Downer Soil.
- Downer soils occur on 291,319 acres in New Jersey. These soils are dominantly in the 11 counties of southern New Jersey.
- Downer soils are used mostly as woodlands, but some areas are cultivated for high-value vegetable and fruit crops.
- They have medium natural fertility and require fertilization for maximum crop production.
- The Downer series was established in Gloucester County, New Jersey, in 1960.

## Crops & Livestock

- The market value of agricultural products sold in the state in 2012 was \$1.14 billion dollars.
- New Jersey grows over 100 varieties of fruits and vegetables.
- New Jersey produces five major fruit crops. They are apples, blueberries, cranberries, peaches and strawberries.
- The state ranked 3rd in the nation in total production of cranberries in 2012. The harvest accounted for \$29.9 million in agricultural sales.
- New Jersey was ranked 3rd in the production of bell peppers in 2012 with 120.3 million pounds harvested.
- New Jersey also ranked 3rd in the production of spinach in 2012 with a harvest of 25.9 million pounds.
- New Jersey ranked 5th in the nation in blueberry production growing 51.5 million pounds of berries in 2012.
- Farmers grew 60 million pounds of peaches in 2012, 4th in the nation.
- The state was home to 42,500 horses as of 2007.
- Fish and seafood also are valuable commodities with tons of bluefish, tilefish, flounder, tuna, shellfish and other species harvested annually. The commercial fishing industry landed 180.5 million pounds of seafood with a dock value of \$187.7 million in 2012.
- As of December 2013, New Jersey had 48 licensed wineries and ranked 10th in the nation in wine production.

## General

- The Garden State is the most densely populated state in the US.
- New Jersey was the first state to have a state-sponsored produce branding program – Jersey Fresh!
- New Jersey is one of only three states to have the School Breakfast and Lunch programs administered by the state Department of Agriculture.
- New Jersey was the first state to adopt a comprehensive school nutrition policy banning candy, soda and other junk food from schools.
- New Jersey is the only state to hold an annual industry convention that sets policy for the coming year.