

# A Look at Michigan Agriculture



Capital: Lansing

Population: 10,112,620

Founded: January 26, 1837 (26<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Robin

State Tree: White pine

State Flower: Apple Blossom

Number of Counties: 83

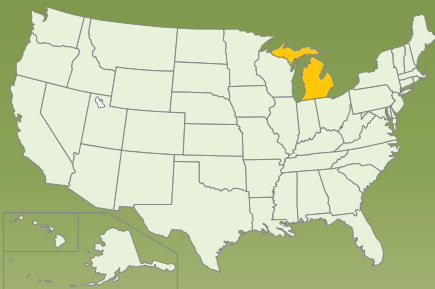
Largest City: Detroit - 951,270

Nickname: Great Lakes State

Number of Farms: 55,000

Average Farm Size: 179 acres

Total Farmland: 10 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Michigan has many microclimates which support the growth of more than 200 food and fiber products. This makes Michigan the 2<sup>nd</sup> most agriculturally diverse state in the nation.
- The Kalkaska Series of soils, which cover 750,000 acres of Michigan, were named the state soil on December 4, 1990.
- The Kalkaska Series can be found in both the upper and lower peninsulas of the state and in 29 of the 83 counties.
- The soil series supports the growth of hardwood timber trees like sugar maple, yellow birch and Christmas trees.

## Crops & Livestock

- Michigan is the national leader in the production of tart cherries, having grown 196 million pounds or 77% of the U.S. total in 2007.
- Michigan also ranks first nationally for the production of pickling cucumbers, geraniums, petunias, squash and vegetable-type bedding plants.
- Michigan ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in apple production with over 770 million bushels produced in 2007. The estimated farm-level value was \$97.1 million.
- Michigan is 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally for beans, carrots, celery, plums and 3<sup>rd</sup> in asparagus production.
- Over 887,560 tons of fresh market and processing vegetables were grown in Michigan in 2007. The state ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in fresh market and 5<sup>th</sup> in processed vegetable production nationally.
- Michigan ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> nationally in value of wholesale sales of floriculture products.
- In 2007, Michigan led the nation in the value of sales for 13 crops, including: Potted Easter Lilies, Potted Spring Flowering Bulbs, Potted Geraniums (seed), Potted Petunias, Potted New Guinea Impatiens, New Guinea Impatiens Hanging Baskets, Geraniums, Impatiens, Begonia and Petunia Hanging Baskets, Impatiens and New Guinea Impatiens (flats) and Potted Geraniums (cuttings).
- About 335,000 dairy cows produced 7,598 million pounds of milk in 2007. Michigan ranks 7<sup>th</sup> nationally for milk production
- Michigan's hog production totaled 556 million pounds in 2007. Michigan ranks fourteenth in the nation in terms of inventory.
- There were over 1 million head of cattle in the state in 2007 with an estimated value of \$1.42 billion.

## General

- Michigan agriculture generated more than \$1 billion dollars and supported 12,800 jobs in 2008.
- Agriculture is Michigan's second largest industry, generating \$63.7 billion for the state economy and employs approximately one million residents.
- In 2008, Michigan ranked 19<sup>th</sup> nationally for the top state agriculture exporters in the nation.