

A Look at New Jersey Agriculture



Capital: Trenton

Population: 8,707,739

Founded: December 18, 1787 (3rd)

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



www.agclassroom.org/nj

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

- New Jersey produces five major fruit berry crops. They are apples, blueberries, cranberries, peaches and strawberries.
- New Jersey ranks 2nd in the nation in blueberry production growing 54 million pounds of berries in 2007.
- The state ranked 3rd in the nation in total production of cranberries in 2009. Cranberry production accounted for \$30.9 million in agricultural sales.
- Farmers grew 70 million pounds of peaches in 2010.
- The equine or horse industry had \$85 million in sales in 2008.
- New Jersey also grows potatoes, peaches, tomatoes, corn, hay, and soybeans.
- The leading milk producing counties were Warren, Salem, Sussex, Burlington and Gloucester, accounting for 81% of the state's total (\$30 million dollars).
- Fish and seafood are also a valuable commodity with tons of bluefish, tilefish, flounder, hake, shellfish and other species harvested annually. The commercial fishing industry adds \$168 million to the value of agriculture (2008).

General

- The market value of agricultural products sold in the state in 2008 was \$1.1 billion dollars. New Jersey agriculture ranks third in importance (behind pharmaceuticals and tourism) in economic importance to the state.