

Chapter 17. Yields of Vegetables

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Average yields of vegetables are of interest to growers, Extension agents, regulatory agencies, and others. They may be used to compare crop performance on an individual farm with the state average; as one basis for selecting alternative crops for a farm; or for settlement of claims resulting from natural causes or failure of a product to perform as advertised.

The commercial yields in Table 1 are statewide 10-year averages. Use of the 10-year average minimizes the effects of annual fluctuations due to weather or market conditions. At the same time, regular yield increases over the period due to improved varieties or cultural practices are masked by the 10-year average. In addition, use of statewide averages masks differences in yields from various Florida production areas.

The experimental yields in Table 1 are from variety trials conducted in various parts of the state for the number

of experiments indicated for each vegetable. The 10 highest yielding varieties in each trial were used to calculate an average for that trial, and all trials were combined to develop an overall average which is shown in the table. The validity of the experimental yield increases with the number of experiments. Experimental yields have the same deficiencies as commercially-reported yields except that they are not subject to the effects of depressed markets or lapses in the reporting system. Yields from experimental plots are almost always higher than those from commercial fields because of the greater control of plant growth factors that can be achieved in small plots and the absence of the effects of depressed markets.

With all of the above-stated qualifications, it is apparent that these yield figures, although useful, are guidelines rather than absolute figures, and they must be used judiciously.

Table 1. Yields of vegetables in Florida.

Crop	Range	Average Yield per acre	Unit	Comments
Bush Bean	138-278	204	30-lb bu	10-yr state average
		175	30-lb bu	Avg. of 7 expts.
Broccoli		486	23-lb crate	Avg. of 13 expts.
Cabbage	488-732	567	50-lb crate	10-yr state average
		1148	50-lb crate	Avg. of 7 expts.
Carrot		279	48 1-lb bags	10-yr state average
		485	48 1-lb bags	Avg. of 4 expts.
Cauliflower		475	25-lb carton	Avg. of 9 expts.
Celery		668	60-lb crate	10-yr state average
		1120	60-lb crate	Avg. of 19 expts.
Chinese Cabbage (napa)		895	50-lb crate	Avg. of 6 expts.
Chinese Cabbage (bok-choi)		410	50-lb crate	Avg. of 5 expts.
Collards		1145	25-lb crate	Avg. of 8 expts.
Corn, sweet	243-353	312	42 lb crate	10-yr state average
		385	42-lb crate	Avg. of 20 expts.
Cucumber	420-694	537	55-lb 1 1/9 bu	10-yr state average
		415	55-lb 1 1/9 bu	Avg. of 11 expts.
Eggplant	639-853	761	33-lb bu	10-yr state average
		550	33-lb bu	Avg. of 2 expts.
Escarole		581	25-lb crate	10-yr state average
Honeydew melon		185	cwt	Avg. of 6 expts.

Table 1. Continued.

Crop	Range	Average Yield per acre	Unit	Comments
Leek		368	cwt	Avg. of 3 expts.
Lettuce (crisphead)		1065	50-lb carton	Avg. of 3 expts.
Lettuce (romaine)		990	22-lb carton	Avg. of 2 expts.
Muskmelon		325	cwt	Avg. of 17 expts.
Okra		770	30-lb bu	Avg. of 2 expts.
Onion (sweet, dry)		635	50-lb bag	Avg. of 10 expts.
Pepper (bell)	789-1210	1052	28-lb bu	10-yr state average
		1135	28-lb bu	Avg. of 15 expts.
Pepper (cubanelle)		1075	25-lb bu	Avg. of 3 expts.
Potato, Irish	181-308	235	cwt	10-yr state average
		285	cwt	Avg. of 11 expts.
Pumpkin		195	cwt	Avg. of 6 expts.
Pumpkin (mini)		123	cwt	Avg. of 3 expts.
Radicchio		1300	10-lb carton	Avg. of 4 expts.
Radish	256-486	340	15-lb carton	10-yr state average
		465	15-lb carton	Avg. of 1 expt.
Snowpea		815	10-lb carton	Avg. of 1 expt.
Southernpea		1725	lb seed	Avg. of 4 expts.
Squash (zucchini)	210-346	284	42-lb bu	10-yr state average
		495	42-lb bu	Avg. of 9 expts.
Squash (yellow summer)	210-346	284	42-lb bu	10-yr state average
		430	42-lb bu	Avg. of 8 expts.
Squash (acorn)		205	cwt	Avg. of 4 expts.
Squash (butternut)		200	cwt	Avg. of 4 expts.
Sweetpotato		1480	50-lb carton	Avg. of 2 expts.
Strawberry	2167-2917	2391	12-lb flat	10-yr state average
		2440	12-lb flat	Avg. of 4 expts.
Tomato (staked)	1250-1591	1416	25-lb carton	10-yr state average
		2275	25-lb carton	Avg. of 24 expts
Tomato (cherry)		4010	15-lb flat	Avg. of 2 expts.
Tomato (plum)		1475	25-lb carton	Avg. of 2 expts.
Watermelon (icebox)		510	cwt	Avg. of 2 expts.
Watermelon (seedless)		655	cwt	Avg. of 10 expts.
Watermelon (standard)	200-320	252	cwt	10-yr state average
		545	cwt	Avg. of 17 expts.