

# Maryland Vegetable Acreages Up, Yields Down

ANNAPOLIS, MD. — Maryland farmers had a big vegetable patch in 1988: some 47,225 acres, which were harvested for a total production of almost 203,000 tons of good eating things ranging from asparagus to zucchini. However, the drought of 1988 made it tough on the state's vegetable growers because they lost 1,209 acres of planted crops and saw total production of vegetables

slip by almost 20,000 tons from the year before. Per acre yields for most vegetables such as sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelons, snap beans, canteloupes, beets, cabbage, peas, limas, peppers, strawberries and turnips declined from 1987. Increased per acre yields were recorded for cucumbers, greens, kale, pumpkins, and squash. The majority of vegetable

acreage grown in 1988 was for fresh market vegetables: 29,350, while acreage for processing (canned and frozen) vegetables was 18,175. Plantings for 1988 were up by 17 percent for processing vegetables and 4 percent for fresh market vegetables. According to Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service which released the vegetable production figures, the six leading vegetable

crops by acreage were: Sweet corn - 15,885, tomatoes - 5,200, watermelons - 4,730, cucumbers - 3,000, canteloupes - 2,800 and snap beans - 1,905. To illustrate the impact of drought on vegetable crops, the

per acre yield for processing tomatoes was listed at nine tons per acre for 1988 while in 1987, also a drought year, the average tonnage per acre for processing tomatoes grown in Maryland was 13.19 tons.

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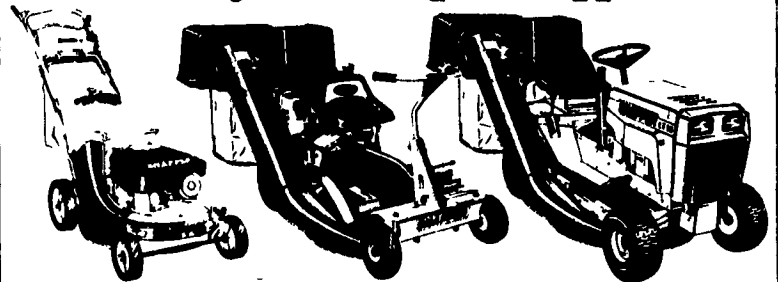
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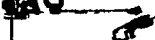
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