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Marijuana Production in the United States (2006) by Jon Gettman

Comparison with other Cash Crops

At an estimated \$35.8 billion marijuana is by far the largest cash crop in the United States when compared to the average production values of other crops from 2003 to 2005. (Production values for other crops were obtained from the Department of Agriculture. [22])

Table 7. Top Cash Crops in the United States (Average Value 2003 – 2005)

Rank	Crop	Average Production Value (\$1000s)
1	Marijuana	\$35,803,591
2	Corn	\$23,299,601
3	Soybeans	\$17,312,200
4	Hay	\$12,236,638
5	Vegetables	\$11,080,733
6	Wheat	\$7,450,907
7	Cotton	\$5,314,870
8	Grapes	\$2,876,547
9	Apples	\$1,787,532
10	Rice	\$1,706,665
11	Oranges	\$1,583,009
12	Tobacco	\$1,466,633
13	Sugarbeets	\$1,158,078
14	Sugarcane	\$942,176
15	Sorghum	\$840,923
16	Cottonseed	\$821,655
17	Peanuts	\$819,617
18	Barley	\$653,095
19	Peaches	\$474,745
20	Beans	\$467,236

Based on a comparison with average production values of other crops from 2003 to 2005 marijuana is the top cash crop in 12 states, one of the top 3 cash crops in 30 states, and one of the top 5 cash crops in 39 states. [23] Marijuana is the largest cash crop in Alaska, Alabama, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia. (See Table 8 below.)

Domestic marijuana production often takes place in marginal areas not usually associated with agricultural production. In addition to indoor cultivation in trailers, closets, basements, and attics marijuana is grown outdoors along fence lines, in forests, on other public lands, in undeveloped rural countryside areas, and on other parts of private land generally inaccessible and unseen by the public.

Table 8. Thirty States Where Marijuana is One of the Top Three Cash Crops

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Average Values 2003 – 2005; Production Values (\$1000s)

Alaska

Marijuana	\$129,223
Hay	\$6,820

Alabama

Marijuana	\$569,409
Cotton	\$198,393
Hay	\$120,262

Arizona

Vegetables	\$778,779
Marijuana	\$274,590
Hay	\$229,245

California

Marijuana	\$13,848,267
Vegetables	\$5,668,637
Grapes	\$2,607,181

Connecticut

Marijuana	\$32,179
Hay	\$20,517
Tobacco All	\$11,270

Florida

Vegetables	\$1,289,360
All Oranges	\$1,046,646
Marijuana	\$593,802

Georgia

Cotton	\$498,574
Marijuana	\$438,858
Vegetables	\$421,748

Hawaii

Marijuana	\$3,819,383
Sugarcane	\$64,953
Macadamia	\$40,125

Illinois

Corn	\$4,062,034
Soybeans	\$2,728,190
Marijuana	\$272,586

Indiana

Corn	\$1,813,064
Soybeans	\$1,541,358
Marijuana	\$312,058

Kentucky

Marijuana	\$4,474,952
Hay	\$421,036

New Hampshire

Hay	\$16,163
Marijuana	\$10,349
Apples	\$6,637

New Mexico

Hay	\$173,963
Vegetables	\$98,525
Marijuana	\$41,226

Nevada

Hay	\$161,868
Marijuana	\$49,172
Vegetables	\$34,817

New York

Hay	\$341,845
Marijuana	\$329,565
Vegetables	\$311,832

Ohio

Soybeans	\$1,165,908
Corn	\$1,004,106
Marijuana	\$457,316

Oklahoma

Wheat	\$522,918
Hay	\$334,511
Marijuana	\$73,021

Oregon

Marijuana	\$473,972
Hay	\$346,751
Wheat	\$195,018

Rhode Island

Hay	\$3,101
Vegetables	\$2,902
Marijuana	\$2,481

South Carolina

Marijuana	\$142,434
Tobacco	\$97,136
Cotton	\$92,256

Tennessee

Marijuana	\$4,787,250
Soybeans	\$277,861
Hay	\$252,365

Utah

Hay	\$220,251
Marijuana	\$29,020

Tobacco \$410,551

Wheat \$23,630

Massachusetts

Cranberries \$51,016

Hay \$26,470

Marijuana \$20,396

Virginia

Hay \$304,825

Marijuana \$191,822

Soybeans \$106,684

Maine

Marijuana \$122,824

Hay \$32,726

Apples \$12,285

Vermont

Hay \$49,294

Marijuana \$29,009

Apples \$9,832

Michigan

Corn \$537,908

Soybeans \$420,201

Marijuana \$324,830

Washington

Apples \$1,145,133

Marijuana \$1,030,015

Wheat \$507,220

North Carolina

Marijuana \$672,253

Tobacco \$539,872

Cotton \$306,317

West Virginia

Marijuana \$494,328

Hay \$63,905

Corn \$7,636