

Profile of organic crops in Washington State - 2008

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This report provides a best **estimate** of certified organic crop acreage in Washington State. It includes data reported by the Washington State Department of Agriculture Organic Food Program (WSDA-OFP), Oregon Tilth Certified Organic (OTCO), International Certification Services (ICS) and California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), and was compiled by WSU-CSANR.¹ The data represent calendar year 2008. WSDA is the primary certifier in Washington currently reporting 95% of the certified acreage. There are two sources of uncertainty in the data: 1) minor crop acres certified in WA by certifiers other than those listed above; 2) the number of exempt producers (less than \$5,000 gross direct sales) who chose not to be certified. Also, growers are not required to register transition acres, so our data reflect less than the total, which is unknown. Perennial crop transition acres are more likely to be reported than annual crop acres. This report represents a low end estimate of organically farmed land in the state. Processor and handler information is not included in this report. Operations certified by USDA-accredited organizations are listed on-line at www.ams.usda.gov/NOP/.

Table 1. Washington State Certified Organic Acreage Summary.

(Combined certifiers; C = certified, T = transition)

	-----Acres -----						%Growth 07-08	% of total 2008
	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008		
Forage	8,400	7,907	17,321	26,091	30,031	1,552	15%	31%
Vegetables	9,971	10,985	15,466	20,042	19,836	27	0%	21%
Tree Fruit	9,468	8,955	10,110	10,959	16,983	6,721	55%	18%
Grains, Dry Beans, Oilseeds	5,435	6,347	5,240	5,276	8,508	31	61%	9%
Small Fruit and Nuts	2,528	2,535	2,847	3,014	3,205	534	6%	3%
Herbs	1,079	926	1,012	1,267	1,137	1	0%	1%
Other crops	372	665	821	730	787	1	8%	1%
Fallow	2,562	2,136	3,840	6,918	9,819	500	42%	10%
Other non-crop land	430	537	442	423	985	-	133%	1%
Other land, undefined	3,475	5,188	7,226	6,752	4,848	13		5%
Total acres (with double crop)	43,720	46,181	64,325	81,472	96,139	9,380	18%	
Total area (no double crop)		45,009	61,540	78,529	92,555	9,380		

Totals may not add exactly due to decimal rounding. Vegetable category includes melons. Certified acreage total includes double cropped acres (3,584 in 2008), primarily peas-sweet corn. Total 2008 certified land area is 92,555 ac including 4,848 ac undefined WSDA-certified land either not cropped or from multiple small cropped sites not entered in database. 2004 data include WSDA, OTCO, and QAI. In 2005, ICS data added, and in 2007, CCOF data added. Data do not include non-certified exempt farms.

In 2008, NOP-accredited organizations certified an estimated 689 organic farms and 53 transition only farms in Washington State, including both crop and livestock producers. The number of certified organic farms increased 10% from 2007, similar to the 15% increase the previous year. Certified land **area** was **92,555** acres; organic acreage totaled **96,139** acres with the inclusion of **3,584** double

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cropped acres, primarily peas/sweet corn. Acres were typically segregated by use (crop, fallow, or “other non-crop land”). However, **4,848** acres of WSDA-certified land was not defined. These acres include cropped land from multiple small sites as well as area that may not be used for crop production. Annual growth of total acres for 2008 was 14,667 (18%) compared to 17,147 acres (27%) the previous year (Tables 1, A1). New acreage certified in 2008 was evenly split between farms newly certified in 2008 (49% of new area) and farms certified in both 2007 and 2008 (51% of new area) that added certified acres.

The existing organic farm data sources pose a number of challenges for developing accurate statistics. Certifiers request information in different forms and categories, and are not always consistent in how a land use is classified from year to year. Some certifiers are unwilling to release data. Growers may switch from one certifier to another, causing an apparent drop if only the original certifier is being tracked, but causing no net change if both are. It can be difficult to sort out harvest year for fall planted or rotation acreage. As an example, alfalfa following a spring crop, or fall planted grains may be entered into a database for both the planting and harvest years; ideally, annual crop data would only be included in acreage statistics for the year of harvest. For perennial crops such as tree fruit, data are valuable for both acres planted and harvested. We have tracked organic crops in Washington State since 2002 and have been improving the quality and scope of the data each year, but are hesitant to present trend lines of change for major crop categories due to incomplete data sets. However, defined organic acreage in the state appears to have increased nearly 183% during the five-year period 2003 to 2008, based on WSDA-OFP variety category data only (Fig A1). Additional certifier data became available beginning in 2004; overall acreage growth from 2004-2008 was estimated at 120%, including undefined WSDA land.

2007 Census of Agriculture comparison The recently released 2007 Census of Agriculture includes general information on organic sales, farm numbers, acres used for organic production and acres being converted to organic, at state and county levels. Washington State ranked 18th in total acres (64,830) managed for organic production nationally. However, the state was second in the nation for organic product farmgate sales value (\$159.8 million) behind California (\$656.8 million). The census includes information from both NOP-certified and exempt organic producers (sales <\$5,000) and provides insight on the scope of farms not typically included in our certified organic annual report. Census data included 1,207 organic farms in Washington State reporting 64,860 total acres used for organic production. This included 43,153 acres from which organic crops were harvested, 15,840 acres pasture and a balance of ~5,800 acres of crop land with other uses. Respondents (514) reported 21,628 acres being converted to organic. Presumably this number includes farms with both organic and transition acreage as well as transition only farms.

Certifiers working in Washington State in 2007 reported 629 organic farms in 2007 representing 52% of the number of producers who responded to the census; 78 of these farms also registered land in transition. An additional 71 farms applied with transition land but no certified organic area. Data indicated a minimum estimated total of 46,630 acres of land in crops and 13,831 acres of certified pasture, not including summer fallow and idle area (6,918 acres), undefined (6,752 ac) and other non-crop area. The undefined area likely included both harvested and unharvested area. Fewer transition acres (13,186) were reported compared to census respondents. The higher number of organic acres reported by the combined NOP accredited certifiers (78,529) compared to the census indicates the majority of organic acreage is being certified and is accounted for in our annual report. The higher census number of acres in conversion is valuable and verifies that reporting of transition acres to certifiers is limited. The higher census producer number indicates that many farms that are exempt from certification requirements have indeed chosen to forego certification.

Organic product sales for 2007 were given by 1,075 census respondents. Annual sales of < \$5,000 (exempt from NOP certification, i.e. potentially not certified) were reported by 494, or 46%, of

respondents. Product value from this sales class totaled \$802,000, representing 0.5% of census reported sales, and 0.4% of NOP-certified sales (Census; WA Table 48). The total census sales value of \$159.8 million was lower than the estimated producer farm gate sales of \$213.2 million reported by WSDA and OTCO indicating that some portion of the higher value crop or livestock producers did not complete the product sales request or did not respond to the census.

The census data allow us to estimate the presence and impact of exempt organic farms in the state. Based on the results, there are considerably more people who identify themselves as organic farmers (~300, or nearly 50% more) than the certification data account for. On the other hand, they represent a small share of the total organic land base in the state (less than 2,000 acres, or 2% of the total), and a smaller share of the farm gate sales (less than 0.5% of total farmgate sales).

2008 Crop Summary

Organic acreage in Washington State is dominated by three types of crops – forage, vegetables, and tree fruit. Detailed crop acreage breakdowns for 2004-2008 crop years are listed in Table 2.

Additional information, figures and graphs are found on-line at the following link:

<http://csanr.wsu.edu/Organic/OrganicStats.htm>.

Forage In 2008 forage production comprised 31% of Washington's total organic acreage. Annual growth in organic hay acres (45%) was strong again, in response to continuing demand from organic dairies. Pasture area was similar to 2007; reported silage corn values decreased. Acreage was defined as hay or silage ground if at least one cutting was reported. If the same ground was also used for pasture, it was only reported in the hay or silage category to avoid duplication of acres. Pasture was defined as forage ground with no cutting reported. However, given varied certifier reporting systems, forage and grain categories can be difficult to determine when use is not specified clearly. For example, it is often unclear if forage was cut or grazed, if corn was harvested for silage or grain, or if small grains, such as barley, were cut for hay, or harvested for grain. Defined organic alfalfa hay area increased over 1,700 acres (63%). Production has primarily been in eastern Washington; 50% of reported alfalfa acres were in Grant and Benton counties. Organic feed demand remains high, offering continued opportunity for Northwest growers to enter or increase production (Painter et al., 2007; also see [Organic Feed for Washington State](#), an on-line power point presentation).

Vegetables Washington State certified organic vegetable acreage has experienced a strong upward growth trend; harvested area doubled from 2004 to 2007. However, no annual growth occurred in 2008 with 19,836 acres reported. Industry sources have reported continued demand for more production but difficulty finding new organic acres in light of high prices for conventional crops. Harvested acreage includes double cropped area; actual land area used for production is less. Double crop vegetables are common, such as green peas followed by sweet corn, snap beans or dry beans. Specific crop use (fresh vs. processed) or comprehensive varietal information is not available.

The major organic vegetables produced in Washington are sweet corn, peas, potatoes, green beans and onions. Sweet corn (7,689 ac) and peas (5,243 ac) accounted for over 2/3 of the state's organic vegetable acreage (Tables 2, A2). Much of the harvest typically goes to processing, and demand exceeds supply. Washington State is likely the leading U.S. producer of both organic sweet corn and peas, and was the third largest producer of organic potatoes (673 acres) in 2005. Potato production also increased through 2007 (1,866 acres) and showed no growth in 2008 (1,600 ac). Annual organic onion acreage increased 75% to 1,051 acres. Certified carrot and green bean production continued upward trends, totaling 552 acres and 1,432 acres, respectively. Total harvested area of all Washington green beans also increased from 2002-2007 (2007 Census of Agriculture). However, the recent census indicates that harvested state acreage of several vegetables fell below 2002 values. The percent of

vegetables produced organically in Washington ranges from 1% - 43% for potatoes and snap beans, respectively, using the 2007 Ag Census harvested acreage values and 2008 certifier data (Table A3). Six percent of 2008 vegetables were reported as 'mixed' or 'non-specified'.

Large scale vegetable production occurs mostly in the irrigated south central region of the Columbia Basin; 75% of the harvested vegetable acres, including double crop, were in Grant (8,717 ac) and Benton (6,097 ac) counties in 2008. Benton County organic vegetable production increased 156% in 2007 but was flat last season. Smaller scale, diverse production is common on western Washington farms oriented toward direct markets. Whatcom and Skagit counties also have larger scale production and 8% of the state vegetable acreage. Eighty-six percent of the 2008 harvested organic snap bean production was split similarly in Whatcom and Benton counties; an additional 13% of the acreage was located in Lewis County. Washington was ranked as the second leading US organic vegetable producer in 2005 (after California), with 10% of the national acreage (USDA-ERS data).

Tree Fruit Washington State leads the U.S. in organic apple, pear and cherry acreage. Production is primarily based in the central, irrigated regions. The certified acres of organic apples and cherries in the state expanded by over 60% in 2008 at the same time that growth of organic food sales slowed to the lowest level in 20 years. Organic apples now represent about 8% of all apple acres in the state, estimated at 12,936 acres with an additional 4,256 acres in transition. Nearly two-thirds of Washington certified apple acres are in Grant, Yakima and Douglas counties; Yakima leads production of cherries and soft fruits. Organic pear (1,713) and cherry (1,738) acres comprised 21% of the state's organic tree fruit area in 2008 and with annual increases of 21% and 70%, respectively. Following a 30% decline of certified pear ground from 2002-2005, acreage is nearing its previous peak. Moderate growth of organic pear area, similar to the past few years, should continue. Reported transition acres for apple, pear (444) and cherry (797) fell below the previous year's values. Certified apple and pear acres may increase 33% and 26%, respectively, and cherry growth should remain strong at 46% by 2010. Organic pear and cherry areas currently represent 6.8% and 5.8% of state acreage totals for those crops, respectively.

Importantly, Washington State producers are entering organic production of other **soft fruits** and reported over 1,200 acres of transitional peaches, apricots, nectarines and plums in 2007 and 2008. Although peaches and nectarines currently represent less than 2% of organic tree fruit in the state, acreage for both crops should more than triple by the 2009 crop year. California dominates US organic soft fruit production with over 4,800 acres of prunes, peaches, nectarines and apricots in 2007 (California Department of Food and Agriculture). Annual California organic pear and apple acreages were at 511 and 3,900 acres, respectively. For in-depth organic tree fruit information (variety area, price trends etc.) view the on-line reports at <http://csanr.wsu.edu/Organic/OrganicStats.htm>.

Small fruit and nuts Grapes comprised 75% of organic small fruit and nut production area in Washington, with a total of 2,392 acres in 2008 (62% juice types and 37% wine grapes). Annual growth was modest (70 acres last year) following recent increases of ~10% per year. The fraction of wine grapes has apparently increased (51%) as juice grape area has declined the last few years. However, reported transition area included 200 acres of Concord and 10 acres of wine grapes. Ninety-five percent of juice grapes specified by variety were Concord; Niagara grapes were also certified. Riesling (369 ac), Chardonnay (175 ac) and Merlot (118 ac) comprised 75% of the wine grapes. Organic production occurs primarily in Benton (1,284 ac) and Yakima (887 ac) counties; most of the transition acres were in Benton County. There were 111 acres of organic grapes in Walla Walla County and 70 acres in Franklin, similar to the previous year; many other counties had small acreages. Producers continue to enter or increase organic blueberry production. Blueberry area has doubled in the last three years, to 481 acres, in contrast to canefruit. Certified raspberries peaked in 2006 then declined the past two years, to 166 ac, likely in response to poor market returns for raspberries and

producers converting to other crops. Skagit County has been an important producer of organic berries, with 46% of the state's production area last year, including more than 100 acres of canefruit and 240 acres of blueberries. Eastern counties had 24% of organic berry acres. For example, Yakima had 47 acres of raspberries and 62 acres blueberries were reported from Walla Walla County farms. However, major expansion of organic berry production is occurring in the central irrigated counties where disease problems are low, with nearly 90% of the reported 242 transition blueberry acres in Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties.

Grains, Beans, and Oilseeds Washington State is a minor producer of organic grains, pulses and oilseeds; an estimated 7,744 acres of grain were certified in 2008, up 80% from 2007. Of the total organic wheat and field corn produced nationally in 2005, Washington accounted for just 1.4 % and 1%, respectively (USDA-ERS data, Table A4). Organic wheat area has been erratic season to season; the 2008 area totaled 4,315 acres following 1,616 acres produced the previous season. Organic corn production has had a steady upward trend over several years. More specific reporting based on grain class and harvest year is needed to improve the accuracy of our reporting. It is often not possible to segregate corn use and it is likely corn reported as grain also includes silage. Similarly, reported small grains, particularly triticale, barely, and oats may have been cut as hay or silage. Forty-seven percent (>2,000ac) of the organic wheat was produced in Grant County, and 83% of the grain corn in Benton and Yakima counties. Premiums for organic grains (over 100% for wheat, corn, oats and barley in 2005) are expected to remain strong, given demand (Granatstein et al., 2007d). However, inadequate weed control options and the three-year transition period can be disincentives for growers to enter organic production.

State dry bean production has remained fairly flat; 2008 certified area was 664 acres. Canola seed area declined last year, which brought the total certified oilseed area down to 100 acres. Few transitional grain, pulse or oilseed acres were reported making it difficult to predict growth over the next few years. Total national organic dry bean production area in 2005 was 10,561 acres, not including soybeans. Four states (Colorado, Michigan, Texas and North Dakota) produced 76% of the total; Washington State ranked fifth with 5% (557 ac) of the area.

Other crops Medicinal and culinary herbs, including lavender and mint, were cultivated on 1,137 acres of certified land last season. In addition, 360 acres of wildcraft herbs were reported. Defined seed crops totaled 119 acres including carrot (61), beet (17), spinach (11), and other or mixed vegetable seed (30 ac). The bulk of this seed was produced in Grant, Kittitas and Skagit Counties. It is not clear if all seed acres are being reported as such. Green manure or cover crops were at 171 acres, but much of the cover crop area may be reported as fallow rather than defined specifically as cover crop. Minor acres of flowers and mushrooms were reported. Although organic hop acreage is minor, area increased from 7 acres in 2006 to 54 acres in 2008, all in Yakima County.

Other land, fallow Detail on summer fallow versus permanent fallow is difficult to sort out with the current reporting systems. As mentioned, green manure and cover crops may be defined as such or designated as fallow; some pasture ground may also be reported as fallow. It would be helpful to be able to define all summer fallow land to get the picture of how much area is in a grain or vegetable production system. Other ground reported as fallow may include farmstead, roads, other buildings and natural areas. Currently 'Other land', including fallow and undefined land comprises 16% of the certified acreage.

Table 2. Estimated Washington organic crop acreage.
(Combined certifiers; C = Certified T = Transition NS = not specified)

	----- Acres -----					
Forage	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008
Hay	3,139	3,419	6,513	11,313	16,454	1,324
alfalfa	992	1,140	1,655	2,783	4,527	556
grass	856	646	1,394	2,552	5,133	160
mixed (alfalfa-grass)	525	276	892	783	1,626	503
cereal	-	6	116	285	516	-
NS	766	1,351	2,456	4,911	4,652	105
Corn Silage	--	--	157	948	166	--
Pasture	4,171	3,756	10,651	13,831	13,411	228
Forage, NS	1,090	732	--	--	--	--
Total Forage	8,400	7,907	17,321	26,092	30,031	1,552
<i>Hay includes ground with any cut hay, haylage, silage etc; might be used for pasture in addition</i>						
Dry Beans/Pulses	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008
White kidney	--	122	90	52	--	--
Lentil	5	--	--	--	75	--
Pea	--	--	--	28	87	--
Pinto	--	285	15	15	20	--
Other & NS	271	150	4,453	377	482	--
Total Pulse	276	557	558	472	664	--
Grains	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008
Wheat	3,908	3,819	2,004	1,616	4,315	--
Wheat, hard red	337	32	23	75	96	-
Wheat, soft white	2,895	2,628	726	384	440	-
Other & NS Wheat	676	1,159	1,256	1,157	3,779	-
Emmer	--	--	--	60	75	--
Corn	884	1,344	1,551	1,970	2,265	31
Triticale	--	258	513	341	365	--
Spelt	58	189	175	184	254	--
Rye	27	90	51	9	28	--
Barley	69	30	169	62	311	--
Oats	8	18	47	15	112	--
Buckwheat	53	1	11	2	2	--
Teff	--	--	--	30	--	--
Mixed or NS Grains	152	42	59	--	17	--
Total Grain	5,159	5,791	4,580	4,289	7,744	31
NS Grains & Beans	--	--	--	316	--	--
Oilseeds	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008
Canola	--	--	7	153	87	--
Flaxseed	--	--	82	25	1	--
Camelina	--	--	5	14	10	--
Sunflower	--	--	--	8	2	--
Mustard	--	--	8	--	--	--
Other & NS	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total Oilseed	--	--	102	200	100	--

Vegetables	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008
Assorted						
Asparagus	25	31	47	96	98	--
Peas	2,847	3,406	4,721	5,225	5,243	--
Pepper	16	18	13	22	15	1
Salad Greens	111	101	89	69	35	--
Sweet corn	3,445	4,346	5,916	8,230	7,689	2
Tomato	14	20	47	40	50	3
Eggplant	--	5	6	7	3	--
Rhubarb	--	--	--	12	12	--
Mixed, other & NS	984	1,184	1,035	1,606	1,186	3
Allium						
Garlic	26	22	19	27	27	--
Seed Garlic	--	--	--	--	7	4
Leek	80	42	4	95	124	12
Onion	150	205	366	604	1,051	--
Other or NS	--	--	--	--	9	--
Beans						
Black	--	--	--	--	30	--
Fava	8	8	3	7	2	--
Green	796	528	1,088	1,139	1,432	--
Lima	--	--	50	180	183	--
Brassicas						
Broccoli	19	17	25	35	58	--
Cabbage	21	18	15	21	32	--
Cabbage, Chinese	1		7	2	1	--
Cauliflower	5	5	7	8	6	--
Kale	--	--	--	9	3	--
Other & NS	--	--	3	3	4	--
Cucurbits						
Cucumbers	125	56	114	29	80	1
Watermelon	22	20	23	67	45	0.5
Other or NS melons	5	6	41	43	32	0.5
Squash, NS	96	78	104	147	109	--
Pumpkins	23	31	50	29	68	--
Other & NS	--	--	--	--	--	--
Roots and Tubers						
Beets	19	20	17	18	21	--
Carrot	139	138	300	399	552	--
Parsnip	5		4	2	3	--
Potato	846	673	1,347	1,866	1,600	--
Seed Potato	--	--	--	--	24	--
Radish	--	--	3	4	--	--
Turnip	7	--	2	2	1	--
Other & NS	--	7	--	--	--	--
Total Vegetables	9,835	10,985	15,466	20,042	19,836	27

Tree Fruit	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008
Apple						
Gala	1,341	1,364	1,543	1,672	2,710	838
Red Delicious	985	837	914	1,018	1,459	468
Fuji	1,151	1,137	1,201	1,299	2,280	1,179
Golden Types	797	743	799	866	1,225	286
Granny Smith	819	744	969	1,006	1,268	360
Braeburn	494	503	579	599	956	219
Cripps Pink	591	607	638	596	1,047	206
Cameo	191	201	210	219	436	125
Honey Crisp	165	178	298	339	756	300
Other & NS	515	407	491	404	799	275
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>7,049</i>	<i>6,721</i>	<i>7,642</i>	<i>8,018</i>	<i>12,936</i>	<i>4,256</i>

Other apples include Ambrosia, Pinova (Sonata, Pinata, Corail), Jonagold and mixed varieties.

Pear						
D'Anjou	560	389	393	401	519	172
Bartlett	433	360	402	480	591	126
Bosc	270	224	214	218	223	51
Asian	65	42	46	41	43	4
Red D'Anjou	58	57	56	60	67	9
Concorde	47	28	31	44	60	10
Red Bartlett	40	45	38	39	52	32
Other & NS	36	51	71	135	158	40
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>1,509</i>	<i>1,196</i>	<i>1,251</i>	<i>1,418</i>	<i>1,713</i>	<i>444</i>

Other pears include Comice, Red Clapp, Seckel, Starkrimson and mixed NS varieties

Stone						
Apricot	96	95	93	96	107	179
Cherry	581	624	782	1,026	1,738	797
Nectarine	50	67	68	82	114	369
Peach	148	179	183	193	199	463
Plum/Prune/Pluot	35	51	57	61	97	49
Other & NS Stone	--	22	34	64	79	164
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>910</i>	<i>1,038</i>	<i>1,217</i>	<i>1,522</i>	<i>2,334</i>	<i>2,021</i>
Total Tree Fruit	9,468	8,955	10,110	10,959	16,983	6,721

Small Fruit	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008
Berries						
Blackberry	40	36	22	43	69	--
Blueberry	219	247	296	353	481	242
Raspberry	133	131	250	208	166	--
Strawberry	22	17	15	22	21	82
Mixed & Other	18	24	10	17	20	--
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>432</i>	<i>455</i>	<i>593</i>	<i>643</i>	<i>757</i>	<i>324</i>
Grapes						
Juice	1,790	1,695	1,568	1,676	1,476	201
Wine	256	274	583	582	881	9
Mixed & NS	1	65	53	62	31	--
Table	3	3	3	3	4	--
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>2,050</i>	<i>2,037</i>	<i>2,207</i>	<i>2,323</i>	<i>2,392</i>	<i>210</i>
Other Fruit						
Kiwi Subtotal	1	1	3	--	3	--

Nuts	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008
Almonds	--	--	--	1	6	--
Chestnut	--	2	2	2	2	--
Filberts	35	36	35	36	36	--
Hazelnut	--	1	1	1	1	--
Walnuts	4	3	4	4	5	--
Other & NS	6	--	3	5	3	--
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>--</i>

Total Small Fruit & Nuts **2,528** **2,535** **2,848** **3,014** **3,205** **534**

Herbs	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008
Medicinal	802	573	530	518	545	--
Mint	121	166	254	308	199	--
Culinary	103	120	102	212	120	--
Other or NS	21	35	93	187	227	--
Lavender	16	32	33	42	46	1
Total Herbs	1,063	926	1,012	1,267	1,137	1

Other Crops	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008
Flowers, cut or edible	9	7	6	6	16	--
Green manure /cover	30	70	165	148	171	--
Hops	4	4	7	32	54	--
Mushrooms	6	6	6	6	6	--
Seed Crops	72	180	127	116	119	1
Beet	-	-	-	-	17	-
Carrot	-	-	-	-	61	-
Mixed Vegetable	-	-	-	-	30	1
Spinach	-	-	-	-	11	-
GH/Nursery	80	13	--	--	4	--
Mixed horticulture	16	14	150	--	57	--
Wildcraft herbs etc.	--	360	360	367	360	--
Other & NS	172	11	--	56	--	--
Total Other Crops	389	665	821	731	787	1

**Certified mushrooms are produced in WA but individual small farm acreages may not be defined.*

Other Land	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	T 2008
Fallow/Summer fallow	2,698	2,126	3,830	6,918	9,819	500
CREP land	--	10	10	--	--	--
Timber, woods & NS	429	537	442	423	985	--
Undefined land	3,475	5,188	7,226	6,752	4,848	13
Total Other Land	6,602	7,861	11,508	14,093	15,652	513

Totals may not add exactly due to decimal rounding. Certifier data: 2004 - WSDA, OTCO, QAI; 2005, added ICS; 2007, added CCOF. Data do not include non-certified exempt farms.

Geographic distribution The geographic distribution of certified farms and acreage is shown in Tables 3-5. Seventy-one percent of the area and 63% of the number of farms were located in eastern Washington. Yakima County leads in number of certified farms with 108, up from 90 in 2007; Grant Co. had 14 farms with transition only land. Grant and Benton counties combined had 34% of the total organic area in both 2007 and 2008. Both counties have had large increases; Benton area nearly doubled in 2007, followed by a 20% increase in 2008. Grant County certified area increased by approximately 3,000 acres both years. Other eastern counties including Adams, Okanogan, Franklin and Yakima experienced notable growth in 2008, ranging from 1,379 to 2,129 acres. King County certified area increased 139% to 3,040 acres although no transition acreage was reported in 2007. Whatcom, Skagit, and Lewis counties' area increased 7-14%. Based on transition acres reported, eastside counties will see continued, but slower growth. The majority of the transition acres reported by certifiers were in tree fruit (6,721) and forage (1,552) crops, mostly in eastern Washington. Again, with little transition area reported for annual crops, it is difficult to predict potential growth, especially in western Washington. However, reported transition acreage in Skagit, Whatcom and Wahkiakum counties increased over the previous year.

Farmgate sales Farmgate sales are reported for the previous year (e.g., data provided in 2008 represent 2007 sales). Farm gate sales increased 42% and 48% in 2006 and 2007, respectively, for combined WSDA and OTCO certified farms. Total gross sales from the 2007 calendar year exceeded \$213.2 million (Table 6). Sales may be slightly underestimated as current numbers were not available for six farms; previous year values were used in these cases. Eastern Washington accounted for 80% of the sales (representing 69% of the certified acres), similar to previous years. Farmgate sales may not always be accurately attributed to a county. A producer may have certified crops in more than one county but sales from both may be linked with only one physical location. Also, sometimes processors report the farmgate sales for member producers. In this case, individual producer sales may not be reported or included in the table. Crop value data were not requested from other certifiers; refer to the previous Census section for information on exempt producers with sales of <\$5,000. Certification fees are typically based on reported sales.

Table 3. Number and area of certified farms in Washington State, by county, 2008.

(Combined certifiers; C = Certified and T= Transition only)

County	--- No. producers 2008 --		----- Acres 2008 -----		----- Percent -----	
	C	T	C	T	C Farms	C Area
Grant	64	14	18,519	2,937	9	20
Benton	27	3	13,121	587	4	14
Yakima	108	6	8,277	549	16	9
Douglas	27	4	5,002	705	4	5
Okanogan	60	1	4,396	356	9	5
Adams	7	2	3,145	806	1	3
Franklin	22	7	3,030	1,397	3	3
Klickitat	13	1	2,390	164	2	3
Stevens	23	-	2,252	-	3	2
Chelan	49	7	1,992	588	7	2
Walla Walla	13	2	1,295	438	2	1
Lincoln	4	-	1,079	67	1	1
Asotin	1	-	800	-	0.1	1
Garfield	1	-	328	-	0.1	0.4
Whitman	7	1	153	10	1	0.2
Kittitas	4	-	124	5	1	0.1
Spokane	4	-	95	-	1	0.1
East Total	434	48	65,999	8,609	63%	71%
Skagit	41	1	4,825	495	6	5
Lewis	26	-	4,777	-	4	5
Whatcom	36	-	3,042	128	5	3
King	24	1	3,040	1	3	3
Thurston	25	-	2,818	-	4	3
Snohomish	19	-	2,122	20	3	2
Grays Harbor	6	-	1,300	-	1	1
Jefferson	11	-	939	-	2	1
Pierce	8	-	885	-	1	1
Wahkiakum	3	-	651	69	0.4	1
Clark	14	-	503	-	2	1
Pacific	4	-	500	1	1	1
Clallam	11	-	420	-	2	0.5
Island	7	-	279	-	1	0.3
San Juan	10	-	253	-	1	0.3
Kitsap	6	-	109	-	1	0.1
Skamania	2	3	59	57	0.3	0.1
Cowlitz	1	-	20	-	0.1	0
Mason	1	-	17	-	0.1	0
West Total	255	5	26,556	771	37%	29%
State Total	689	53	92,555	9,380		
East	63%	91%	71%	92%		
West	37%	9%	29%	8%		

Estimated land area; no known double crop acres. Includes data from WSDA, OTCO, ICS and CCOF. No WA producers certified by QAI in 2008. Certified farms may include some transition land; transition farms include only land in conversion.

Table 4. Certified organic land area in Washington State, by county and year.

(Combined certifiers; C = Certified and T= Transition)

County	Acres							
	C 2004	C 2005	C 2006	C 2007	C 2008	± C 07-08	T 2007	T 2008
Adams	834	834	1,468	1,766	3,145	1,379	473	806
Asotin	4	804	802	800	800	-	-	-
Benton	3,277	3,135	5,955	11,336	13,121	1,785	374	587
Chelan	1,415	1,318	1,353	1,426	1,992	566	1,212	588
Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Douglas	4,633	4,223	4,645	4,990	5,002	12	1,099	705
Ferry	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin	1,162	1,158	1,466	1,229	3,030	1,801	2,096	1,397
Garfield	18	18	328	328	328	-	-	-
Grant	9,769	11,286	12,399	15,565	18,519	2,954	3,864	2,937
Kittitas	64	64	114	267	124	-143	14	5
Klickitat	2,052	2,336	2,751	2,190	2,390	200	164	164
Lincoln	1,048	1,075	1,029	1,029	1,079	50	-	67
Okanogan	2,320	2,386	2,555	2,825	4,396	1,570	589	356
Pend'Oreille	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spokane	26	26	101	101	95	-5	-	-
Stevens	1,171	1,315	2,293	2,237	2,252	15	-	-
Walla Walla	973	980	1,864	2,032	1,295	-737	63	438
Whitman	774	736	644	155	153	-2	129	10
Yakima	4,421	4,178	4,915	6,148	8,277	2,129	1,984	549
East Total	33,982	35,872	44,682	54,425	65,999	11,574	12,060	8,609
Clallam	280	332	334	341	420	79	-	-
Clark	139	334	350	407	503	96	-	-
Cowlitz	13	13	20	20	20	-	-	-
Grays Harbor	72	474	1,338	1,736	1,300	-436	-	-
Island	243	203	185	151	279	128	-	-
Jefferson	306	325	938	889	939	50	-	-
King	869	546	883	1,270	3,040	1,770	1	1
Kitsap	34	57	108	108	109	0	0	-
Lewis	1,025	1,012	2,639	4,159	4,777	618	119	-
Mason	34	34	37	26	17	-9	16	-
Pacific	11	11	220	500	500	0	-	1
Pierce	130	140	309	746	885	139	330	-
San Juan	283	209	182	244	253	9	-	-
Skagit	2,560	2,113	3,175	4,476	4,825	349	402	495
Skamania	72	105	89	85	59	-26	80	57
Snohomish	931	862	841	2,546	2,122	-424	160	20
Thurston	965	1,004	2,130	2,959	2,818	-141	-	-
Wahkiakum	10	10	590	605	651	46	-	69
Whatcom	1,763	1,354	2,491	2,839	3,042	204	15	128
West Total	9,738	9,136	16,859	24,105	26,556	2,451	1,122	771
State Total	43,720	45,008	61,541	78,530	92,555	14,025	13,183	9,380

Includes total land area including WSDA undefined area; does not include double crop acres.

Combined certifier data: 2004-05 data includes WSDA, OTCO, QAI; ICS added in 2006 and CCOF added in 2007

Transition acres are not required to be reported to certifiers; actual transition areas could be larger.

Table 5. Certified organic and transition farm numbers in Washington State, by county and year.
(Combined certifiers; C = Certified and T= Transition)

County	Number of farms									
	C 2004	T 2004	C 2005	T 2005	C 2006	T 2006	C 2007	T 2007	C 2008	T 2008
Adams	2	-	2	2	5	-	6	2	7	2
Asotin	2	-	3	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
Benton	22	1	22	-	24	2	26	3	27	3
Chelan	45	1	43	2	46	1	50	8	49	7
Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Douglas	24	2	23	2	24	1	27	4	27	4
Ferry	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin	10	-	10	-	12	1	13	12	22	7
Garfield	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Grant	43	3	45	3	40	5	49	15	64	14
Kittitas	2	-	2	-	3	-	5	-	4	-
Klickitat	15	-	14	-	16	-	13	1	13	1
Lincoln	4	-	4	-	3	-	3	-	4	-
Okanogan	48	-	46	2	50	4	56	3	60	1
Pend'Oreille	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spokane	3	1	3	1	4	-	4	-	4	-
Stevens	24	-	23	-	21	-	25	-	23	-
Walla Walla	9	-	11	-	10	1	13	2	13	2
Whitman	6	-	6	-	4	1	6	3	7	1
Yakima	88	2	81	4	80	8	90	13	108	6
East Total	349	10	339	16	345	24	388	66	434	48
Clallam	8	-	9	-	9	-	10	-	11	-
Clark	11	-	10	-	11	-	13	-	14	-
Cowlitz	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Grays Harbor	1	-	3	-	7	-	8	-	6	-
Island	9	-	8	-	6	-	5	-	7	-
Jefferson	7	-	7	-	9	-	8	-	11	-
King	22	-	18	1	21	-	21	1	24	1
Kitsap	4	-	6	1	5	-	5	-	6	-
Lewis	12	-	11	-	18	-	24	-	26	-
Mason	3	-	3	-	4	-	3	-	1	-
Pacific	2	-	2	-	3	-	4	-	4	-
Pierce	7	-	8	-	7	1	10	-	8	-
San Juan	8	-	7	-	7	-	9	-	10	-
Skagit	25	-	27	-	34	-	38	-	41	1
Skamania	3	-	4	-	3	-	2	4	2	3
Snohomish	19	-	16	1	13	-	20	-	19	-
Thurston	18	-	17	-	19	1	23	-	25	-
Wahkiakum	1	-	1	1	2	-	3	-	3	-
Whatcom	32	-	32	-	30	-	34	-	36	-
West Total	193	-	190	4	209	2	241	5	255	5
State Total	542	10	529	20	554	26	629	71	689	53

*Certified farms all have certified acreage and may include transition acres. Transition farms have only transition area.
Combined certifier data: 2004-05 data includes WSDA, OTCO, QAI; ICS added in 2006 and CCOF added in 2007*

Table 6. *Estimated organic farmgate sales, Washington State producers (grouped by East and West).*

County	Farmgate Sales \$				%	%
	2004	2005	2006	2007	Sales	Growth
Adams	1,187,392	1,952,964	2,511,941	4,687,021		
Asotin, Garfield, Whitman	223,174	317,748	274,599	112,738		
Benton	4,921,377	7,093,860	10,539,118	27,955,038		
Chelan, Douglas	11,594,612	13,893,082	19,895,315	30,533,836		
Douglas	<i>see Chelan</i>	<i>see Chelan</i>	<i>see Chelan</i>	<i>see Chelan</i>		
Franklin	1,962,321	9,650,017	7,413,571	7,714,118		
Garfield	<i>see Asotin</i>	<i>see Asotin</i>	<i>see Asotin</i>	<i>see Asotin</i>		
Grant	19,583,998	18,954,448	32,242,417	44,885,049		
Kittitas	<i>see Kittitas-Yak</i>	149,590	126,675	64,109		
Kittitas, Yakima	8,643,601	<i>see individual</i>	<i>see individual</i>	<i>see individual</i>		
Klickitat	3,512,503	3,718,468	4,777,009	5,130,358		
Lincoln	<i>see Spokane</i>	<i>see Spokane</i>	<i>see Spokane</i>	<i>see Spokane</i>		
Okanogan	4,319,258	4,658,347	8,683,457	8,975,464		
Spokane, Stevens, Lincoln	638,540	512,884	641,344	872,514		
Stevens	<i>see Spokane</i>	<i>see Spokane</i>	<i>see Spokane</i>	<i>see Spokane</i>		
Walla Walla	2,965,371	4,656,680	5,859,667	11,468,518		
Whitman	<i>see Asotin</i>	<i>see Asotin</i>	<i>see Asotin</i>	<i>see Asotin</i>		
Yakima	<i>see Kittitas-Yak</i>	11,043,868	16,208,926	28,741,569		
Columbia, Ferry, Pend Oreille	--	--	--	--		
East Total	59,552,147	76,601,956	109,174,039	171,140,332	80%	57%
Clallam	646,050	685,464	696,982	901,503		
Clark, Cowlitz	<i>see below</i>	<i>see below</i>	<i>see below</i>	1,235,958		
Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania	226,838	779,858	1,136,486	<i>see below</i>		
Cowlitz	<i>see Clark</i>	<i>see Clark</i>	<i>see Clark</i>	<i>see Clark</i>		
Grays Harbor	<i>see Wahkiakum</i>	<i>see Mason</i>	<i>see Mason</i>	1,324,944		
Island	55,716	63,431	51,232	138,318		
Jefferson	131,357	93,528	104,232	552,919		
King	2,368,074	3,877,103	7,100,129	6,793,471		
Kitsap	159,000	153,256	216,749	250,266		
Lewis	419,346	862,951	1,524,473	4,351,611		
Mason	1,430,498	<i>see below</i>	<i>see below</i>	<i>see Thurston</i>		
Mason, Grays Harbor	<i>see above; Wahkia</i>	1,743,224	2,864,945	<i>see Thurs; Grays</i>		
Pacific	<i>see Wahkiakum</i>	<i>see Wahkiakum</i>	<i>see Wahkiakum</i>	22,747		
Pierce	596,992	727,641	829,904	996,155		
San Juan	177,550	129,996	211,098	165,750		
Skagit	5,225,806	7,696,896	9,078,065	10,096,494		
Skamania	<i>see Clark</i>	<i>see Clark</i>	<i>see Clark</i>	166,001		
Snohomish	1,398,395	1,474,582	1,931,695	1,471,090		
Thurston	3,212,108	4,038,718	4,947,077	<i>see below</i>		
Thurston, Mason	<i>see individual</i>	<i>see individual</i>	<i>see individual</i>	7,905,655		
Wahkiakum	<i>see below</i>	<i>see below</i>	<i>see below</i>	829,022		
Wahkiakum, Pacific	<i>see below</i>	173,348	616,761	<i>see individual</i>		
Wahkiakum, Pacific, Grays H	339,804	<i>see above</i>	<i>see above</i>	<i>see individual</i>		
Whatcom	1,490,042	2,443,454	3,828,879	4,889,039		
West Total	17,877,576	24,943,450	35,138,707	42,090,942	20%	20%
State Total	77,429,723	101,545,406	144,312,746	213,231,273		48%

All years include sales data from WSDA and OTCO only. Other certifier sales reports not available. 2007 and 2008 values may be slightly underestimated as updated values were not available for a small number of producers.

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Additional Information Sources

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www.ccof.org/
- Certified Naturally Grown
www.naturallygrown.org/
- International Certification Services
www.ics-intl.com/
- Oregon Tilth Certified Organic
www.tilth.org/certification/index.html
- Washington Department of Agriculture Organic Food Program
<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/>
- Washington Growers Clearing House Association
www.waclearinghouse.org/
- USDA – Economic Research Service
www.ers.usda.gov/Data/Organic/

Appendix

Table A1. Recent organic farm numbers and area in Washington State.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Certified area (ac)	46,181	61,541	78,530	92,555
Transition acres	2,195	8,000	13,183	9,380
Farms, Certified organic	529	554	629	689
Farms, Transition only	20	26	71	53

Combined certifier data.

Table A2. Estimated organic vegetable acreage by county (WA) 2008.

County	All Vegetables	Mixed & Other	Carrots	Green Beans	Onions	Peas	Potatoes	Sweet Corn
Grant	8,717	366	277	0.1	318	3,356	664	3,736
Benton	6,097	83	185	622	427	1,256	104	3,420
Franklin	1,079	23	-	-	65	552	311	128
Skagit	882	431	30	0.5	4	-	329	88
Whatcom	752	93	5	611	2	-	3	38
Yakima	715	350	-	10	10	70	75	200
Lewis	295	37	-	188	-	-	-	70
Clallam	272	271	-	-	-	-	1	-
Adams	245	43	-	-	141	-	61	-
Thurston	145	133	-	-	-	1	9	2
Snohomish	134	87	-	-	-	-	41	6
King	122	122	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other East	252	92	51	-	82	-	25	2
Other West	129	125	-	-	-	1	2	1
State Total	19,836	2,256	548	1,432	1,049	5,236	1,625	7,691

Combined certifier data. Mixed vegetables may also include unspecified carrots, beans, onions, peas, potatoes and sweet corn.

Table A3. Percent of Washington harvested vegetable acres managed organically.

	Ag Census Total	2008 Certified	% Organic
	----- acres -----		
Potatoes	157,499	1,600	1%
Sweet corn	91,977	7,689	8%
Peas	39,620	5,243	13%
Onions	24,081	1,051	4%
Carrots	6,414	552	9%
Beans, Green	3,346	1,432	43%
Total Vegetables	343,787	19,836	6%

Ag Census values are total state acres from 2007

Table A4. Washington percent of national certified grain production in 2005.

	Corn	Wheat	Oats	Barley
Washington	1.03%	1.38%	0.04%	0.08%
Idaho	0.7%	3.4%	0.5%	30.4%
Oregon	0.24%	0.6%	0.02%	0.73%
Montana	0.002%	20.3%	1.11%	11.41%

USDA-ERS data 2005

Figure A1. *Estimated* WSDA-OFP certified organic acreage (variety category) in Washington State 2002-2008.

