



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August Fruit Report

HARRISBURG, PA, Aug 12, 2008 - - The following forecasts are made based upon conditions on August 1, 2008:

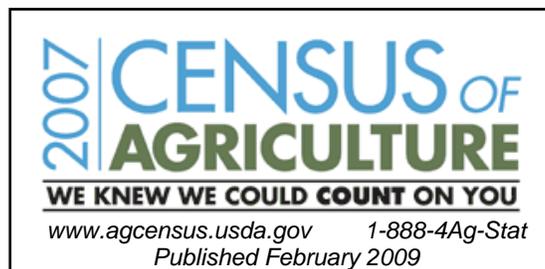
Apples: Pennsylvania's production is forecast at 400 million pounds, down 15 percent from last year's crop and 2006. Continuous wet weather increased the incidence of insects and disease throughout the State. Despite good sizing for this time of year, quality is expected to be low. The first U.S. forecast of the 2008 season is 9.17 billion pounds, slightly more than last year and 7 percent lower than the 2006 crop. Multiple spring freezes and summer hailstorms damaged orchards across the nation; however, trees in most areas of the U.S. experienced a recovery from the devastating growing weather in 2007.

Grapes: Pennsylvania's production forecast is 95,000 tons, up 13 percent from last year and up 16 percent from 2006. Growers are expecting a record crop this year. The previous record of 90,000 tons was in 2005. Overall, bunch counts and berry size are above average and disease pressure is low. Harvest will depend on weather and disease/insect pressure. Slow ripening could result in late season harvest. U.S. grape production is forecast at 7.20 million tons, up 3 percent from 2007 and 13 percent above 2006.

Peaches: Pennsylvania peach producers expect to harvest 24,700 tons of peaches from their orchards in 2008, up 27 percent from 2007. This estimate is up 1,700 tons from the July 1 forecast. Most growers reported a good to excellent peach crop with large size. Operators have received adequate rain this year. Thirty percent of PA peaches were harvested as of the 3rd of August. The U.S. peach production forecast is 1.09 million tons, down less than 1 percent from the July 1 forecast and 3 percent below 2007.

Pears: The Pennsylvania crop is forecast at 3,600 tons, down 10 percent from 2007 and down 8 percent from the 2006 crop. Pear growers anticipate harvesting a crop similar to last year. This year's crop may be large in quantity, but not in quality. U.S. pear production is forecast at 821,750 tons, down 6 percent from last year and 2 percent below 2006.

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