



# PRESS RELEASE

**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250  
South Carolina Field Office • Columbia, SC 29201  
Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)



Released on August 11, 2006

Contact: Rhonda Brandt, Director (803)765-5333  
Stan Cheek, Agricultural Statistician  
[nass-sc@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-sc@nass.usda.gov)

## SOUTH CAROLINA FRUIT PRODUCTION

Based on August 1 conditions, SOUTH CAROLINA'S 2006 **peach** production is expected to total 55,000 tons, down 8 percent from the July 1 forecast of 60,000 tons, according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Production is down from last year's crop of 75,000 tons, and 2004's production of 70,000 tons. Harvest was 66 percent complete in late July compared with 63 percent in 2005, and a 66 percent five year average for this same time of year. Peach conditions have declined from a month ago due to dry weather. The peach crop continues to suffer from extensive hailstorms that damaged the crop back in May. Production is also down from a year ago due to a late frost and freeze that primarily affected growers in the Upstate.

The SOUTH CAROLINA **apple** forecast on August 1 is 3 million pounds, down 25 percent from 4 million pounds in 2005, and 50 percent down from the 6 million pounds produced in 2004. Like peaches, the State's apple yield was also reduced due to frost and freeze damage that occurred during the spring.

## UNITED STATES NONCITRUS PRODUCTION

The August 2006 forecast of the UNITED STATES **peach** production is 1.05 million tons, down less than 1 percent from the July 1 forecast and 11 percent below 2005. Michigan's forecast, at 14,000 tons, is up 500 tons from July 1. New Jersey's expectations were raised from 35,000 tons to 36,000 tons. Pennsylvania's forecast dropped 1,000 tons to 28,500 tons. Washington showed no change from last month's forecasted production. All other State forecasts were carried forward from July 1. The U.S. Freestone crop, as of August 1, is forecast at 673,800 tons, down 1 percent from last month and 4 percent below last year.

The California Freestone forecast, which is carried forward from July 1, stands at 380,000 tons, down 1 percent from 2005 and 13 percent below the 2004 season. California's Clingstone forecast, also carried forward from July 1, is 380,000 tons, down 21 percent from last season and 29 percent below 2004. Georgia's peach crop is forecast at 42,000 tons, unchanged from July's forecast, but up 5 percent from 2005. The North Carolina crop is still forecasted at 6,000 tons, the same as last year.

The first production forecast for the 2006 crop year for **apples** is 9.62 billion pounds, down 2 percent from last year and 8 percent below 2004. Compared with 2005, production decreases in the Central and Western States offset a projected increase in the Eastern States. Production in the Western States (AZ, CA, CO, ID, OR, UT, and WA) is forecast at 6.25 billion pounds, down 3 percent from last year and 9 percent below 2004. Production in the Eastern States (CT, GA, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, SC, VT, VA, and WV) is forecast at 2.31 billion pounds, up 1 percent from last year but 8 percent below 2004.