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News Release

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SOUTH CAROLINA FRUIT PRODUCTION

Based on August 1 conditions, SOUTH CAROLINA'S 2008 **peach** production is expected to total 52,000 tons, down 5 percent from the July 1 forecast of 55,000 tons, according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Production is up from last year's crop of 12,500 tons, and down from 2006's production of 60,000 tons. Crop condition has decreased slightly since July 1 as producers have reported more cold injury from spring freezing temperatures and smaller sizing caused by recent year's drought-like conditions.

The SOUTH CAROLINA **apple** forecast on August 1 is 8.0 million pounds, up 2,567 percent from .3 million pounds in 2007, and 167 percent up from the 3.0 million pounds produced in 2006.

UNITED STATES NONCITRUS PRODUCTION

The August 2008 forecast of U.S. **peach** production is 1.09 million tons, down less than 1 percent from the July 1 forecast and 3 percent below 2007. New Jersey's production remained unchanged from the July 1 forecast but increased 6 percent from last season's estimate. Pennsylvania growers reported adequate rain, good fruit size and overall favorable conditions. Forecasted production is up 7 percent from July 1 and 27 percent above 2007. In Washington, many growers reported frost damage and pollination problems due to cold, windy weather. Forecasted production remains unchanged from July 1 but is down 8 percent from a year ago. Michigan's crop weathered multiple freeze events during the spring, a hail storm during the summer, and poor pollination throughout the development stages. Forecasted production has declined 12 percent from a month ago and 32 percent from last season.

The U.S. Freestone crop, as of August 1, is forecast at 713,850 tons, down less than 1 percent from last month but 14 percent above last year. The California Freestone forecast, which is carried forward from July 1, at 430,000 tons, is down 4 percent from 2007 but 22 percent above the 2006 crop.

The initial 2008 U.S. **apple** production forecast is set at 9.17 billion pounds, slightly more than the 2007 crop year and down 7 percent from 2006. 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. Production in the Western States (AZ, CA, CO, ID, OR, UT, and WA) is forecast at 5.99 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2007 but down 3 percent from 2006. Production in the Eastern States (CT, GA, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, SC, VT, VA, and WV) is forecast at 2.29 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2007 and down 6 percent from 2006. The production forecast for the Central States (IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, OH, TN, and WI) is set at 884 million pounds, a decrease of 7 percent from 2007 and 30 percent below 2006.