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# News Release

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## SOUTH CAROLINA FRUIT PRODUCTION BOUNCES BACK AFTER 2007 FROST

Based on end of season data, SOUTH CAROLINA'S 14,000 bearing acres of **PEACH** trees produced 60,000 tons of fruit, up 47.5 thousand tons from last year's production, according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office. The state's utilized production of 57,000 tons sold for an average of \$874 a ton, resulting in a value of production of \$49,831,000.

South Carolina had 500 bearing acres of **APPLE** trees which produced 7,000,000 pounds of fruit, up from 300,000 pounds in 2007. The value of the 6.3 million pounds of utilized production was \$1,119,000 compared with \$142,000 the previous year.

South Carolina's 2008 **PECAN** crop totaled 2,500,000 pounds, up from 2,000,000 pounds last year according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Growers harvested 1,800,000 pounds of improved varieties and 700,000 pounds of the Native and Seedling varieties, unchanged from October forecasts. Value of production for improved and native/seedling varieties was \$1.9 million and \$504,000 respectively.

## U.S. PEACH AND PECAN PRODUCTION DOWN, APPLES UP

Utilized **PEACH** production for 2008 is estimated at 1.10 million tons, down 1 percent from the previous year but 11 percent above 2006. The California crop, accounting for 77 percent of the U.S. utilized peach production, is down 10 percent from 2007. For California, the Clingstone peach variety utilized production is down 15 percent and the Freestone peach variety utilized production is down 4 percent from 2007. Unusually cold temperatures on April 19 and 20 resulted in significant frost damaged to California's Clingstone peaches.

Utilized **APPLE** production for 2008 is estimated at 10.0 billion pounds, up 10 percent from 2007. Utilized production in Washington increased 17 percent to 6.10 billion pounds from 2007. New York's utilized production decreased 6 percent from 2007, and Michigan's utilized production decreased 27 percent from 2007. In Washington, early spring frosts lead growers to begin harvesting later in the season, resulting in larger and more mature fruit. Furthermore, the late-maturing varieties were unaffected by the frosts. Summer hailstorms reduced yields in New York. Michigan orchards suffered through spring frosts and summer hail, resulting in greatly reduced yields. Most of the Southeast and Midwest States have recovered from the 2007 frost, with yields and production amounts returning to historic levels.

U.S. **PECAN** production in 2008 totals 95,500 tons, a 51 percent decrease from 2007. The value of the 2008 pecan crop decreased 61 percent to 270 million dollars.