

Texas Vegetable, Fruit and Pecan Summary

Vegetables

Texas continued to be one of the five leading states in production of fresh market vegetables. In 2006, the State ranked fifth in production, with 3.6 percent of the U.S. total. Texas producers harvested 85,100 acres of commercial fresh and processed vegetables, down 3.2 percent from the year before. The value of production from this acreage totaled \$378 million, up 2 percent from 2005. Production of fresh and processed vegetables, at 18.7 million cwt, increased 1.5 percent from 2005. The top three vegetable cash crops were tomatoes, head lettuce and onions.

Citrus

Texas grapefruit production for the 2006-2007 season totaled 7.1 million boxes, up 37 percent from the previous season. The 2006-2007 all orange production totaled 1.98 million boxes, up 24 percent from the previous season.

Pecans

The 2006 Texas pecan crop was estimated at 47 million pounds, down 18 million pounds from the 2005 crop. Prices increased from the previous year, averaging \$1.60 per pound. Production of native varieties totaled 14 million pounds, down 1 million from the 15 million pounds produced in 2005. Production of improved varieties totaled 33 million pounds, down from 50 million pounds in 2005. The year 2006 was a cyclical lighter production year.

Peaches

Texas utilized peach production for 2006 was estimated at 750 tons, down from 8,350 tons in 2005. Utilized production is the total of peach sales for fresh market and processing, as well as peaches consumed on the farm. Total production for Texas peaches in 2006 was 1,590 tons, down from 8,750 tons in 2005. Production decreased because of the second year of severe drought, lack of chilling hours over the winter, hail storms and insect damage reduced the size of the fruit or killed the peach trees.

Grapes

Texas only utilized 3,200 tons of grapes in 2006, a 63 percent decrease from the previous season. An estimated 2,900 bearing acres were available for harvest, the same as 2005. Yield averaged 2.45 tons per acre, a decrease from 3.3 tons the previous year. The total estimated value of the 2006 crop was \$3.8 million with an average value per ton of \$1,200. Weather conditions were unfavorable for grape producers in the state. The major contributing factor in this year's decrease in production was the winter freeze. Along with the severely damaging effects of this winter freeze, many producers also lost the majority of their grapes due to drought and hail damage. Some producers reported that they received two different hail storms.