

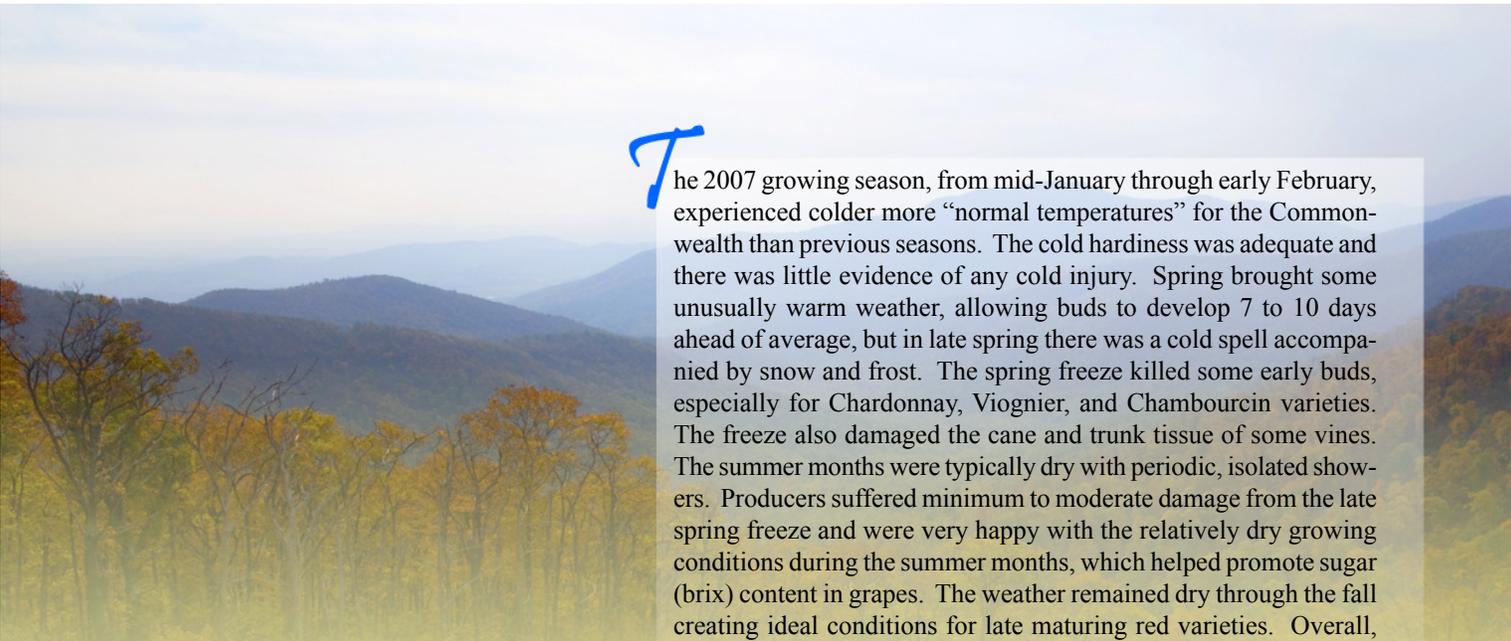


2007

VIRGINIA

Commercial Grape Report





Virginia Grape Production Ranks 8th Nationally

The 2007 growing season, from mid-January through early February, experienced colder more “normal temperatures” for the Commonwealth than previous seasons. The cold hardiness was adequate and there was little evidence of any cold injury. Spring brought some unusually warm weather, allowing buds to develop 7 to 10 days ahead of average, but in late spring there was a cold spell accompanied by snow and frost. The spring freeze killed some early buds, especially for Chardonnay, Viognier, and Chambourcin varieties. The freeze also damaged the cane and trunk tissue of some vines. The summer months were typically dry with periodic, isolated showers. Producers suffered minimum to moderate damage from the late spring freeze and were very happy with the relatively dry growing conditions during the summer months, which helped promote sugar (brix) content in grapes. The weather remained dry through the fall creating ideal conditions for late maturing red varieties. Overall, responses from producers on fruit quality were positive. The absence of tropical storms and other extreme weather during the growing season helped contribute to a quality crop in 2007.

Grape production in Virginia decreased in 2007 with the production of Vinifera varieties accounting for the majority of the overall production. Producers harvested a crop valued at \$7.8 million, receiving an average price of \$1,400 per ton.

Virginia ranked 8th nationally in commercial grape production and 8th for bearing acreage.

Virginia’s grape producers harvested 5,600 tons of commercial grapes in 2007, down 10% from the 6,200 tons produced in 2006.

Virginia bearing acreage increased from 2,100 acres in 2006 to 2,400 acres in 2007, a 14% increase over that time span.

The Chardonnay variety made up 19 percent of Virginia’s total Vinifera production harvested in 2007. Also, Virginia’s most popular variety accounted for 24 percent of all the Vinifera variety bearing acreage and 18 percent of the total vineyard acreage statewide.

Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Vidal Blanc represented the top five varieties produced in the Commonwealth in 2007. Chardonnay producers harvested 267 tons less in 2007 compared to 2006. Cabernet Franc producers harvested 20 tons more in 2007, and Merlot producers harvested 36 tons less in 2007. Also, Cabernet Sauvignon producers harvested 15 more tons in 2007, and Vidal Blanc producers harvested 8 more tons in 2007 compared to 2006.



Grape Production and Acreage by District and County, 2006-2007 ^{1/2/}

County	Tons Produced		Bearing Acres		Non-Bearing Acres	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
NORTHERN						
Culpeper	69	61	25	26	10	7
Fauquier	405	437	197	208	28	24
Loudoun	836	787	290	302	58	56
Madison	128	160	37	65	30	17
Rappahannock	128	119	50	61	20	5
Rockingham	41	30	18	16	*	*
Shenandoah	162	151	72	81	17	4
Warren	49	59	16	18	4	2
Other Counties	53	65	22	35	5	9
District total	1,871	1,869	727	812	172	124
WESTERN						
Augusta	*	73	*	42	*	20
Botetourt	141	103	48	50	4	3
Roanoke	85	34	28	28	*	*
Other Counties	302	108	65	34	16	2
District total	528	318	141	154	20	25
CENTRAL						
Albemarle	1,116	929	364	429	189	110
Amherst	91	79	38	43	9	5
Bedford	41	41	23	31	*	*
Greene	77	51	41	47	2	*
Louisa	56	35	27	27	8	15
Nelson	400	384	110	127	40	18
Orange	642	620	134	128	17	21
Spotsylvania	*	38	*	31	*	*
Other Counties	143	132	64	71	23	9
District Total	2,566	2,309	801	934	288	178
EASTERN						
Essex	93	94	25	31	1	1
King George	79	71	25	25	*	*
Northampton	*	108	*	36	*	3
Westmoreland	191	249	70	77	15	8
Other Counties	230	104	83	70	47	32
District Total	593	626	203	239	63	44
SOUTHERN						
Patrick	222	158	57	56	1	1
Other Counties	143	126	48	77	28	12
District Total	365	284	105	133	29	13
Other District Total	277	194	123	128	8	6
STATE TOTAL	6,200	5,600	2,100	2,400	580	390

^{1/} Some county totals are not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations or may have no data. Production and acreage are included in district and state totals. ^{2/} 2006 data revised.

Grape Production and Bearing Acreage ^{1/}

Rank ^{2/}	State	Tons Produced		Rank ^{3/}	State	Bearing Acres	
		2006	2007			2006	2007
1	CA	5,726,000	5,901,000	1	CA	797,000	797,000
2	WA	316,000	399,000	2	WA	55,500	56,500
3	NY	155,000	180,000	3	NY	31,000	34,000
4	MI	32,500	100,000	4	MI	14,200	14,100
5	PA	82,000	84,000	5	OR	12,600	13,000
6	OR	34,400	38,000	6	PA	12,100	12,100
7	OH	3,100	7,600	7	TX	2,900	2,900
8	VA	6,200	5,600	8	VA	2,100	2,400
9	TX	7,100	4,900	9	OH	2,200	2,300
10	NC	4,580	3,200	10	MO	1,300	1,400
11	GA	2,900	2,900	11	NC	1,300	1,400
12	MO	4,170	2,500	12	GA	1,100	1,100
13	AZ	900	1,100	13	AR	700	750
14	AR	2,300	500	14	AZ	400	400

^{1/} Estimates for 2007 are preliminary. ^{2/} Ranked by 2007 production. ^{3/} Ranked by 2007 acreage.

Grape Production and Acreage by Variety, 2006-2007 ^{1/2/}

Variety	Tons Produced		Bearing Acres		Non-Bearing Acres	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
VINIFERA						
Cabernet Sauvignon	478	493	197	220	61	49
Cabernet Franc	795	815	259	304	59	29
Chardonnay	1,089	822	411	443	87	45
Gewurztraminer	23	20	10	10	*	2
Merlot	682	646	208	247	64	38
Petit Verdot	*	159	*	80	*	21
Pinot Noir	79	52	27	25	9	13
Sauvignon Blanc	87	91	24	28	4	5
White Riesling	106	73	46	43	7	5
Viognier	370	287	131	149	28	31
Other White Vinifera	331	339	88	121	48	36
Other Red Vinifera	634	439	174	154	64	28
HYBRID						
Chambourcin	214	174	77	78	32	14
Seyval Blanc	128	110	47	52	7	5
Traminette	*	155	*	60	*	8
Vidal Blanc	467	475	130	143	18	16
Other White Hybrid	206	72	75	60	46	6
Other Red Hybrid	54	14	30	10	5	3
AMERICAN						
Norton	220	178	88	91	31	25
Seedless Table (all)	7	8	5	5	1	*
Other Red/Black American	124	68	34	37	3	5
Other White American	106	110	39	40	6	6
STATE TOTAL	6,200	5,600	2,100	2,400	580	390

^{1/} Some variety totals are not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations or may have no data. Production and acreage are included in the state totals. ^{2/} 2006 data revised.

Grape Production and Price By Variety, 2007 ^{1/}

Variety ^{1/}	Tons Produced	Utilized ^{3/4/}	Avg. Price
		Tons	Per Ton
Cabernet Franc	815	800	\$1,497.00
Cabernet Sauvignon	493	470	\$1,653.00
Chambourcin	174	172	\$1,029.00
Chardonnay	822	735	\$1,516.00
Merlot	646	615	\$1,681.00
Norton	178	178	\$1,272.00
Petit Verdot	159	155	\$1,790.00
Traminette	155	154	\$979.00
Vidal Blanc	475	460	\$941.00
Viognier	287	282	\$1,939.00
Virginia ^{2/}	5,600	5,400	\$1,400.00

^{1/} All other grape varieties were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. ^{2/} State price and production based on all reported varieties. Price based on all reported sales. ^{3/} In 2007 an average of 4% of production was unutilized above the normal 2%. ^{4/} Utilized tons by variety revised.





*In water one sees one's own face;
But in wine one beholds the heart of
another. ~ French proverb*

About the Survey:

The information presented in this report was gathered through a census of all known commercial grape producers in Virginia. To be considered a commercial producer, an operator must grow one acre or more of grapes. Data were collected during the months of November 2007 through January 2008 by mail, telephone interview, and field enumeration. Information obtained during the course of this survey is completely confidential by law; for this reason, some county, regional, and variety breakdowns could not be published to avoid disclosure of individual vineyards.

Special thanks to all producers who took time to participate in this survey!

This publication was designed by the VA Field Office.

