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FRUITS, NUTS AND VEGETABLES

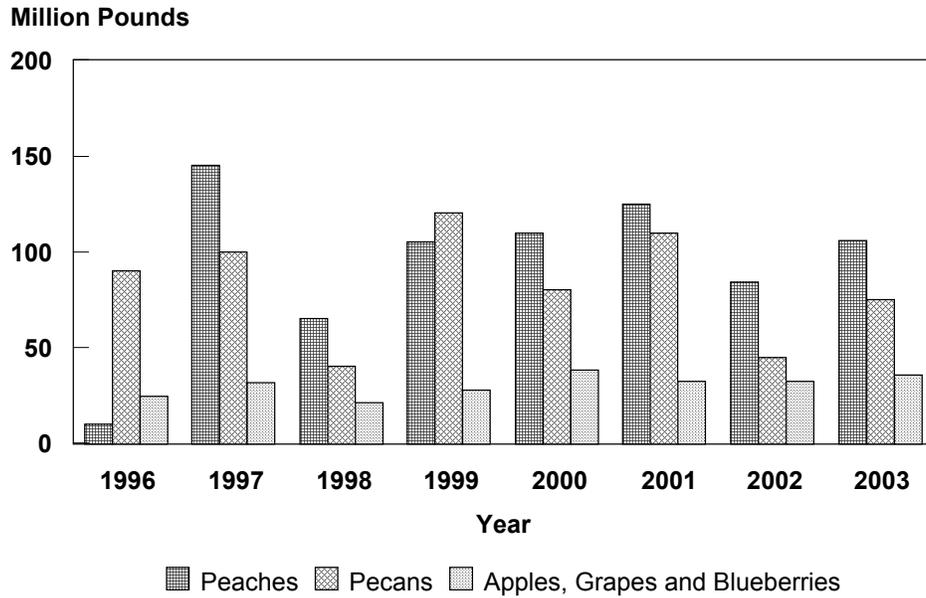
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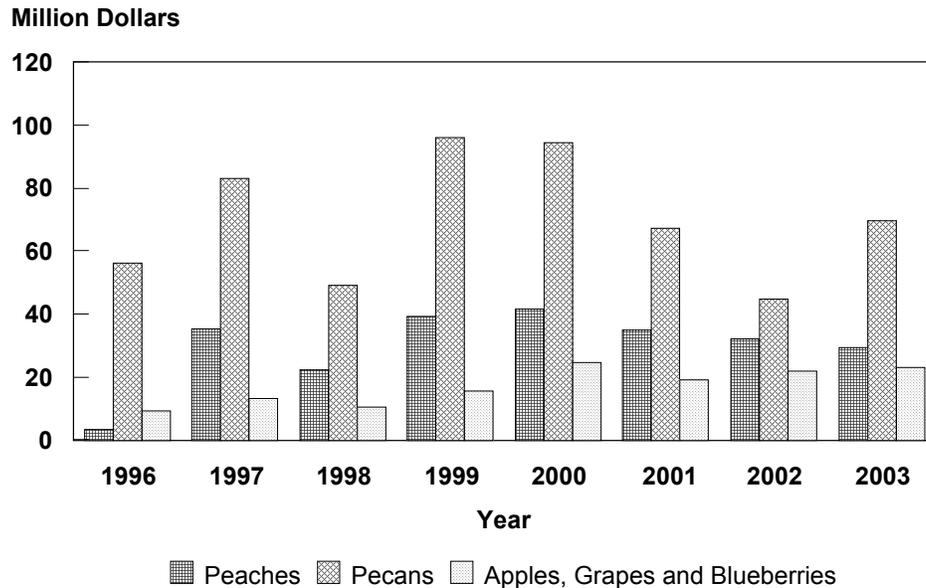


FRUITS, NUTS, AND VEGETABLES

FRUIT AND NUTS
Utilized Production
Georgia, 1996 - 2003



FRUIT AND NUTS
Value of Utilized Production
Georgia, 1996 - 2003



FRUITS, NUTS, AND VEGETABLES

HIGHLIGHTS - 2003 CROP YEAR

Value of production for most of Georgia's fruit, nut and vegetable crops increased in 2003. Eight of the commodities in the estimating program gained in value from the revised totals of 2002. Prices and value of six vegetable crops, snap beans, sweet corn, onions, bell peppers, tomatoes, and watermelons rose from the previous year. Blueberries and pecans were the only fruit and nut crops with value of production greater than 2002. Price declines for cabbage, cantaloupes, cucumbers, squash, apples and grapes resulted in a decrease in value of production from 2002.

Onions continued as the most valuable vegetable crop in Georgia, at \$75 million, and regained the value lost from the lower production in 2002. Pecans remain the number one fruit and nut crop in 2003 with a value of \$69.6 million, up 55 percent from 2002. Bell peppers exhibited the largest expansion in value, at \$40.5 million, more than double the value of 2002. Production jumped 53 percent from the previous year, while prices gained 50 percent to \$30.00 per hundredweight (cwt.). Cabbage value, meanwhile, dropped 60 percent from a year earlier to \$15.3 million. Production totaled only 1.27 million cwt., down 57 percent from a year earlier. Prices also declined, averaging \$12.00 per cwt., compared with \$13.00 in 2002.

ONIONS

Onion production in 2003 rebounded from the diseased plagued crop of 2002, totaling 2.19 million cwt., an increase of 52 percent. Even with above normal rainfall through the harvest season, disease problems were kept to a minimum. A few fields were abandoned because of wet conditions. Planted acreage dropped to 14,000 acres, 700 less than in 2002, while acreage harvested numbered 12,500 acres. This was up 1,000 acres or 9 percent from the previous year. Yield per acre averaged 175 cwt. per acre, compared with the 2002 yield of 125 cwt. Prices continued strong in 2003, averaging \$34.30 per cwt., \$2.10 more than 2002.

PECANS

Georgia's pecan production totaled 75 million pounds, up 67 percent from the 45 million pounds produced in 2002. In the alternate bearing cycle for pecans, 2003 was the "on year" and trees produced a large nut set in early spring. However, frequent rains through the summer created extensive disease and insect pressures. Growers' attempts at controls were hampered by the rain and cloudy conditions. Scab disease was considered the worst ever. As a result, final production turned out less than earlier expected. Final production of seedling varieties totaled 15 million pounds, five times the three million pounds produced in 2002. Improved varieties reached 60 million pounds, 43 percent above the 42 million pounds in 2002. Georgia continued the leading pecan producing state, with 27 percent of the Nation's production in 2003. Texas remained in second place with 70 million pounds in 2003. Georgia prices declined slightly to 92.8 cents per pound, compared with \$1.00 per pound for the 2002 crop.

PEACHES

Peach production in 2003 totaled 110 million pounds in Georgia, 22 percent more than the revised 2002 total. Utilized production, the amount sold plus the quantities used at home or held in storage, gained 26 percent to 106 million pounds. Above normal rainfall provided for good fruit size, and producers were able to keep diseases under control. Georgia's total production ranked 2nd to California in 2003 with South Carolina's production 3rd. Because of the expanded production, Georgia's marketing year prices slumped to 28 cents per pound, down 10.3 cents per pound from 2002. The value of production amounted to \$29.6 million, 92 percent of the revised 2002 value of \$32.1 million. Acreage and yield revisions were made to 2000, 2001 and 2002 crops based on the latest Census of Agriculture.

TOMATOES

Tomato production in 2003 totaled 1.53 million cwt., 8 percent less than the revised production of 2002. Harvested acres dropped 18 percent or 1,000 acres from 2002 to 4,500 acres, while planted acres slid 400 acres to 5,300. Yields, however, improved from 2002 to average 340 cwt. per acre, a gain of 13 percent. Prices also recovered from 2002, averaging \$31.50 per cwt., a jump of \$11.50 per cwt. The value of production amounted to \$48.2 million, making tomatoes the second most valuable vegetable crop in Georgia in 2003.

SWEET CORN

Production of sweet corn totaled 2.8 million cwt. in 2003, 10 percent less than a year earlier. Although planted acres, at 26,000, remained unchanged from 2002, harvested acres amounted to only 20,000, 5,000 less than the previous year. Above normal rainfall hindered harvest and interrupted pesticide applications. Yield per harvested acre averaged 140 cwt., compared with 125 cwt. per acre in 2002. Prices improved to \$16.50 per cwt., up \$2.50 from the previous year and the highest on record. This allowed the value of production to reach \$46.2 million, 6 percent more than in 2002. Georgia's acreage and production continued the 4th highest in the country, behind Florida, New York, and California.

WATERMELONS

Value of production of watermelons in 2003 climbed to \$41.9 million, an increase of 23 percent from the revised totals of 2002. This boost in value results from a record price of \$7.80 per cwt., \$1.20 more than the previous high in 1995. Production dropped off to 5.38 million cwt., 8 percent less than 2002's revised production. Yields averaged 215 cwt. per acre, down 16 percent from the 255 cwt. yield in 2002. Planted acres totaled 26,500 for 2003, 7 percent more than the previous year. Acreage harvested, at 25,000 acres, gained 9 percent or 2,000 acres from 2002. Georgia ranked 2nd to Texas in the number of planted and harvested watermelon acres in 2003.

FRUIT CROPS--Acreage, Yield, Production, Price, and Value, Georgia, 1996-2003

	Unit	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Apples									
Bearing Age Acres 1/		1,700	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Yield per Acre 2/	Lbs	8,820	10,700	7,860	9,230	11,700	7,500	8,330	10,800
Total Production	Mil Lbs	15.0	15.0	11.0	12.0	14.0	9.0	10.0	13.0
Utilized Production	Mil Lbs	14.0	14.0	8.0	11.0	13.0	8.9	9.9	12.9
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	16.4	13.7	16.1	17.4	18.8	23.0	18.0	10.6
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	2,300	1,922	1,289	1,919	2,443	2,051	1,779	1,368
Blueberries									
Harvested Acres		3,500	4,000	4,400	4,400	4,600	4,600	4,500	4,500
Yield per Acre 3/	Lbs	1,570	3,250	1,700	2,500	4,130	3,700	3,780	3,780
Total Production	Mil Lbs	6.0	14.0	9.0	12.0	20.0	18.0	17.0	17.0
Utilized Production	Mil Lbs	5.5	13.0	7.5	11.0	19.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	80.3	71.8	77.0	91.6	97.1	79.7	102.0	111.0
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	4,415	9,330	5,775	10,080	18,450	13,550	17,420	18,790
Grapes									
Bearing Age Acres 1/		1,300	1,200	1,400	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,100
Yield per Acre 2/	Tons	2.15	2.17	2.29	2.75	2.92	2.91	2.55	2.82
Total Production	Tons	2,800	2,600	3,200	3,300	3,500	3,200	2,800	3,100
Utilized Production	Tons	2,600	2,300	2,900	3,000	3,200	3,200	2,760	2,800
Season Average Price	\$ per Ton	1,050	933	1,110	1,170	1,230	1,050	1,060	978
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	2,727	2,147	3,210	3,500	3,920	3,370	2,936	2,738
Peaches									
Bearing Age Acres 1/		21,000	20,000	20,000	18,000	16,000	14,000	12,000	12,000
Yield per Acre 2/	Lbs	480	8,000	3,500	6,110	7,190	10,000	7,500	9,170
Total Production	Mil Lbs	10.0	160.0	70.0	110.0	115.0	140.0	90.0	110.0
Utilized Production	Mil Lbs	10.0	145.0	65.0	105.0	110.0	125.0	84.0	106.0
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	33.8	24.3	34.5	37.3	37.9	28.0	38.3	28.0
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	3,380	35,235	22,440	39,171	41,703	35,033	32,148	29,642

1/ Bearing acreage estimates are primarily based on periodic orchard surveys. In non-survey years, acreage is based on trends, County Extension Service data, end of year production surveys, and other indications. 2/ Yield is based on total production which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested but not sold due to market conditions. 3/ Yield is based on utilized production.

PECANS--Utilized Production, Price, and Value, Georgia, 1996-2003

	Unit	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Improved Pecans									
Utilized Production	1,000 Lbs	80,000	77,000	35,000	85,000	65,000	85,000	42,000	60,000
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	64.6	90.4	124.0	89.0	123.0	66.0	102.0	100.0
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	51,680	69,608	43,400	75,650	79,950	56,100	42,840	60,000
Seedling Pecans									
Utilized Production	1,000 Lbs	10,000	23,000	5,000	35,000	15,000	25,000	3,000	15,000
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	45.2	59.1	111.0	59.0	98.0	45.0	68.0	64.0
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	4,520	13,593	5,550	20,650	14,700	11,250	2,040	9,600
All Pecans									
Utilized Production	1,000 Lbs	90,000	100,000	40,000	120,000	80,000	110,000	45,000	75,000
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	62.4	83.2	122.0	80.3	118.0	61.2	100.0	92.8
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	56,200	83,201	48,950	96,300	94,650	67,350	44,880	69,600

FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES--Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value, Georgia, 1996-2003 1/

	Unit	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Beans, Snap									
Planted	Acres	16,000	13,000	13,000	16,000	16,000	17,000	18,500	18,000
Harvested	Acres	13,500	12,000	12,000	14,500	15,500	16,500	17,000	16,000
Yield per Acre	Cwt	37	44	52	41	56	60	43	50
Production	1,000 Cwt	500	528	624	595	868	990	731	800
Price per Cwt	Dollars	32.00	30.00	28.00	32.00	34.00	22.00	32.00	40.00
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	16,000	15,840	17,472	19,040	29,512	21,780	23,392	32,000
Cabbage									
Planted	Acres	8,000	8,100	8,500	8,400	8,500	9,400	11,500	11,400
Harvested	Acres	7,000	8,000	7,500	8,100	7,600	9,000	10,000	9,800
Yield per Acre	Cwt	355	350	330	280	350	300	295	130
Production	1,000 Cwt	2,485	2,800	2,475	2,268	2,660	2,700	2,950	1,274
Price per Cwt	Dollars	10.60	8.00	8.30	8.80	10.00	8.70	13.00	12.00
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	26,341	22,400	20,543	19,958	26,600	23,490	38,350	15,288
Cantaloupes									
Planted	Acres	4,000	4,800	5,500	6,800	6,800	5,900	5,700	6,100
Harvested	Acres	3,500	4,100	5,000	6,500	5,500	5,300	5,500	6,000
Yield per Acre	Cwt	180	140	120	170	165	160	220	215
Production	1,000 Cwt	630	574	600	1,105	908	848	1,210	1,290
Price per Cwt	Dollars	11.90	11.70	16.80	13.40	8.50	12.00	15.00	12.50
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	7,497	6,716	10,080	14,807	7,718	10,176	18,150	16,125
Carrots 2/3/									
Planted	Acres					4,000	3,600	4,800	
Harvested	Acres					3,200	3,500	4,700	
Yield per Acre	Cwt					180	290	300	
Production	1,000 Cwt					576	1,015	1,410	
Price per Cwt	Dollars					11.50	12.00	12.00	
Value of Production	1,000 Dols					6,624	12,180	16,920	
Corn, Sweet									
Planted	Acres	19,000	19,000	19,000	22,000	23,000	25,500	26,000	26,000
Harvested	Acres	17,000	18,000	18,000	21,000	21,000	25,000	25,000	20,000
Yield per Acre	Cwt	120	130	150	180	160	130	125	140
Production	1,000 Cwt	2,040	2,340	2,700	3,780	3,360	3,250	3,125	2,800
Price per Cwt	Dollars	11.10	10.70	12.90	14.00	12.50	14.60	14.00	16.50
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	22,644	25,038	34,830	52,920	42,000	47,450	43,750	46,200
Cucumbers									
Planted	Acres	13,000	13,500	14,000	15,000	12,000	13,600	14,300	13,000
Harvested	Acres	12,500	13,000	13,000	14,000	11,000	13,000	13,000	12,500
Yield per Acre	Cwt	125	170	200	190	160	175	200	170
Production	1,000 Cwt	1,563	2,210	2,600	2,660	1,760	2,275	2,600	2,125
Price per Cwt	Dollars	13.60	12.20	13.90	12.00	13.00	12.80	11.30	10.60
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	21,257	26,962	36,140	31,920	22,880	29,120	29,380	22,525
Onions, Spring									
Planted	Acres	16,000	16,200	15,000	16,000	15,000	14,500	14,700	14,000
Harvested	Acres	14,700	15,800	13,900	14,500	12,400	13,500	11,500	12,500
Yield per Acre	Cwt	120	220	160	190	255	190	125	175
Production	1,000 Cwt	1,764	3,476	2,224	2,755	3,162	2,565	1,438	2,188
Price per Cwt	Dollars	30.50	25.60	30.90	27.10	26.00	27.50	32.20	34.30
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	53,800	88,990	68,722	74,661	82,212	70,538	46,304	75,048

1/ Estimates discontinued in 2002 (Lima Beans, Eggplant, Collard Greens, Mustard Greens, Turnip Greens, Kale and Okra). 2/ Estimates began in 2000. 3/ 2003 data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES--Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value, Georgia, 1996-2003 1/

	Unit	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Peppers, Bell 2/									
Planted	Acres					5,200	4,200	4,600	4,800
Harvested	Acres					5,000	4,000	4,400	4,500
Yield per Acre	Cwt					170	200	200	300
Production	1,000 Cwt					850	800	880	1,350
Price per Cwt	Dollars					26.60	28.00	20.00	30.00
Value of Production	1,000 Dols					22,610	22,400	17,600	40,500
Squash 2/									
Planted	Acres					12,000	9,000	9,100	10,000
Harvested	Acres					10,500	7,900	8,600	9,500
Yield per Acre	Cwt					220	125	165	130
Production	1,000 Cwt					2,310	988	1,428	1,244
Price per Cwt	Dollars					24.80	21.20	31.00	28.00
Value of Production	1,000 Dols					57,199	20,990	44,268	34,832
Tomatoes									
Planted	Acres	3,400	3,600	3,600	3,800	4,000	4,900	5,700	5,300
Harvested	Acres	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,700	3,900	4,700	5,500	4,500
Yield per Acre	Cwt	400	420	260	300	350	365	300	340
Production	1,000 Cwt	1,200	1,470	910	1,110	1,365	1,716	1,650	1,530
Price per Cwt	Dollars	24.30	25.70	31.50	26.60	24.50	25.00	20.00	31.50
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	29,160	37,779	28,665	29,526	33,443	42,900	33,000	48,195
Watermelons									
Planted	Acres	36,000	27,000	27,000	28,000	28,000	24,000	24,700	26,500
Harvested	Acres	30,000	25,000	23,000	25,000	24,000	22,000	23,000	25,000
Yield per Acre	Cwt	225	210	220	195	195	265	255	215
Production	1,000 Cwt	6,750	5,250	5,060	4,875	4,680	5,830	5,865	5,375
Price per Cwt	Dollars	4.00	5.50	5.00	5.00	4.60	5.00	5.80	7.80
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	27,000	28,875	25,300	24,375	21,528	29,150	34,017	41,925

1/ Estimates discontinued in 2002 (Lima Beans, Eggplant, Collard Greens, Mustard Greens, Turnip Greens, Kale and Okra). 2/ Estimates began in 2000.