

Fruit Review, 1999

By Liana C. Cuffman

Fruit trees bloomed ahead of schedule in the spring due to warm temperatures. Damage from various predators was variable. During much of the summer, below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures prevailed.

The Commonwealth's six major fruit crops, comprised of apples, peaches, pears, sweet cherries, tart cherries and grapes, utilized production totaled 385,350 tons in 1999. Utilized production was up 33 percent from the 289,100 tons utilized in 1998.

Apples: The 1999 commercial apple crop in Pennsylvania totaled 505 million pounds, up 30 percent from the 388 million pounds in 1998. The crop was valued at 55.0 million dollars, up 2 percent from the 1998 value. Pennsylvania ranked fifth nationally in apple production.

Grapes: Pennsylvania's 1999 total grape crop was 88,000 tons, up 63 percent from 1998. The price per ton averaged 281 dollars, up 14 dollars from last year. The total value of utilized production was 24.7 million dollars, up 72 percent from the previous year. The Commonwealth's grape production ranked sixth nationally.

Pears: The production of pears in Pennsylvania totaled 4,000 tons, down 34 percent from 1998. The utilized crop was

valued at 1.7 million dollars, 21 percent less than the previous year. The Commonwealth ranked sixth nationally in pear production.

Peaches: Peach production in Pennsylvania totaled 73.0 million pounds in 1999, up 12 percent from 1998. The season-average price increased from 0.317 cents per pound in 1998 to 0.322 cents in 1999. The total value of utilized production was 23.5 million dollars. Nationally, Pennsylvania ranked fifth in peach production.

Tart Cherries: Tart cherry production in Pennsylvania totaled 7.2 million pounds, up 3.0 million pounds from last year's crop. The season average price was 0.293 cents per pound, compared with 0.190 cents per pound in 1998. The total value of utilized production was 2.1 million dollars, 164 percent more than the previous year. Nationally, Pennsylvania ranked seventh in the production of tart cherries.

Sweet Cherries: Production of Pennsylvania's sweet cherries in 1999 totaled 750 tons, up 88 percent from a year ago. The average price per ton increased from 2,320 dollars in 1998 to 2,600 dollars in 1999. The Commonwealth's crop for 1999 was valued at 2.0 million dollars. Sweet cherry production from Pennsylvania ranked ninth nationally.

Usual Dates of Full Bloom, Harvest & Marketing for Principal Pennsylvania Fruit Crops

Crop	April					May					June					July					August					September					October					November					Marketing				
	5	10	15	20	25	30	5	10	15	20	25	30	5	10	15	20	25	30	5	10	15	20	25	30	5	10	15	20	25	30	5	10	15	20	25	30	5	10	15	20	25	30	Most Active	Ends	
Apples																																												Sept 10 Oct 25	Nov 5
Peaches																																						Aug 10 Sept 25	Oct 1						
Cherries-Sweet																																						Jun 20 July 8	July 10						
Cherries-Tart																																						July 5 July 25	Aug 1						
Pears																																						Aug 15 Sept 30	Oct 31						
Grapes																																						Sept 25 Oct 25	Nov 1						

Key:

Full Bloom 



Harvesting

Begins Most Ends
Active