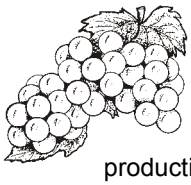
Fruit Review, 2003

By James R. Collom

Fruit trees were affected negatively by wetter than normal weather in 2003. Wet weather favored disease and made it difficult for growers to maintain adequate fungicide sprays to control disease.

The Commonwealth's six major fruit crops, comprised of apples, peaches, pears, sweet cherries, tart cherries and grapes, utilized production totaled 331,690 tons in 2003. Utilized production was up 22 percent from the 272,955 tons utilized in 2002.

✦ ***Apples:*** The 2003 commercial apple crop, utilized production, in Pennsylvania totaled 442 million pounds, up 20 percent from the 369 million pounds utilized in 2002. The crop was valued at 45.5 million dollars, up 22 percent from the 2002 value. Pennsylvania ranked 5th nationally in apple production.

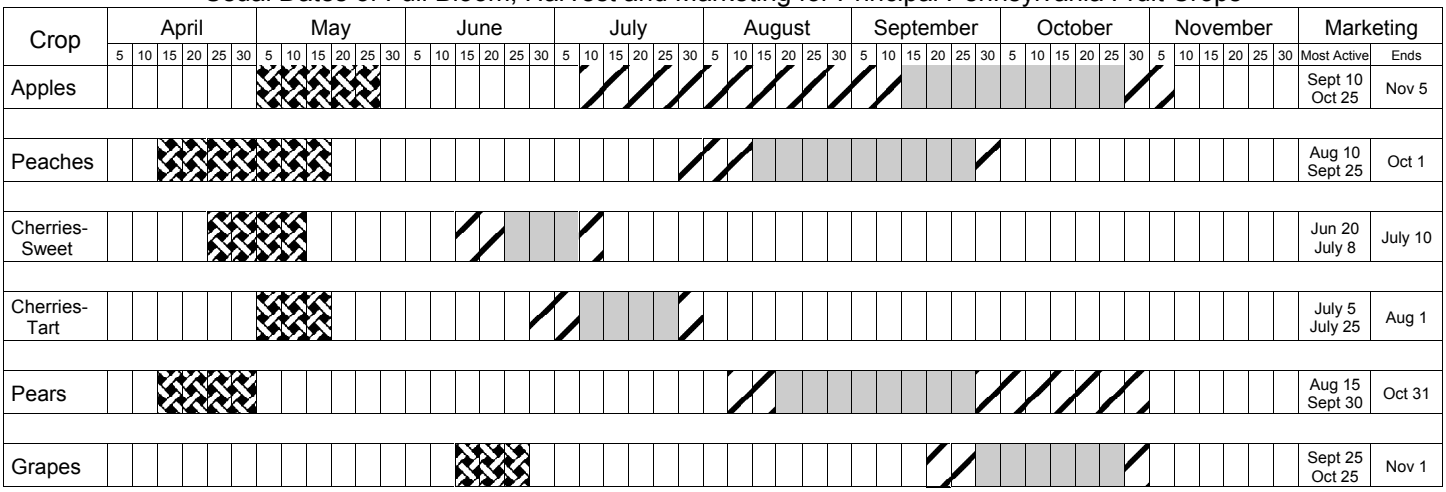


✦ ***Grapes:*** Pennsylvania's 2003 grape crop, utilized production, was 68,000 tons, up 28 percent from 2002. The price per ton averaged 262 dollars, down 32 dollars from last year. The total value of utilized production was 17.8 million dollars, up 14 percent from the previous year. The Commonwealth's grape production ranked 5th nationally.

✦ ***Pears:*** The utilized production of pears in Pennsylvania totaled 4,900 tons, up 40 percent from 2002. The utilized crop was valued at 3.4 million dollars, more than double the previous year. The Commonwealth ranked 5th nationally in pear production.

✦ ***Peaches:*** Utilized peach production in Pennsylvania totaled 71.0 million pounds in 2003, up 20 percent from 2002. The season-average price at $0.33 per pound was down $0.005 from 2002. The total value of utilized production was 23.4 million dollars. Nationally, Pennsylvania ranked 5th in peach production.

✦ ***Tart Cherries:*** Utilized tart cherry production in Pennsylvania totaled 3.9 million pounds, up 100,000 pounds from last year's crop. The season average price was 0.434 dollars per pound, compared with 0.558 dollars per pound in 2002. The total value of utilized production was 1.7 million dollars. Nationally, Pennsylvania ranked 6th in the production of tart cherries.

✦ ***Sweet Cherries:*** Utilized production of Pennsylvania's sweet cherries in 2003 totaled 340 tons, down 4 percent from a year ago. The average price per ton fell from 2,480 dollars in 2002 to 2,360 dollars in 2003. The Commonwealth's crop for 2003 was valued at 802,000 dollars. Sweet cherry production from Pennsylvania ranked 8th nationally.

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