



Fruit

APPLE production in the Commonwealth totaled 350 million pounds in 2000, down 10 million pounds from the previous year. There were reports of early frost damage on the 2000 crop and hail damage during a storm in May. Fruit size was above average due to adequate moisture early in the season. Unfortunately, the price per pound received by the grower declined for the third straight year.

PEACH production totaled 10 million pounds, down 5 million pounds from what was harvested in 1999. A portion of the 2000 crop that had early blooms was hit by a frost in March. This reduced prospects for a full crop. Isolated hail damage was also reported during the

season. Despite the early frost and hail damage, some growers harvested good size fruit. The season average peach price rose slightly in 2000 although due to the reduced production the value of the 2000 crop decreased to \$ 2.7 million. The value of utilized production in 1999 totaled \$ 3.48 million.

Although GRAPE production in 2000 was down compared to 1999, producers still harvested a crop valued at approximately \$1.2 million. Weather conditions caused problems for Virginia's grape producers in 2000. The summer's pattern of cooler than normal temperatures and abundant rainfall continued into Fall, which caused delayed fruit maturity and increased disease pressure. Some varieties sustained significant rot losses. Fruit sorting on the vine or at the winery was a common necessity.

Virginia Ranks 9th
Nationally In Commercial
Grape Production

The increased grape production over the last few years has increased pressure on producers to maintain or increase crop quality and to contract crop sales well in advance of crop maturity.

Some independent grape producers reported a softening market for certain Chardonnay clones, while demand for other varieties exceeded supply.

Virginia ranks 9th nationally in commercial grape production. Virginia's grape producers harvested 4,230.8 tons of commercial grapes in 2000, down 7 percent from 4,563.5 tons produced in 1999 but 33 percent above 1998.

Vineyard acreage has increased from 1,418 acres in 1995 to 2,146 acres in 2000, representing a 51 percent increase.

In 2000, 1,011 tons of Virginia grapes were sold at an average price of \$1,200 per ton. The Chardonnay variety made up 35 percent of Virginia's total production of all the Vinifera varieties harvested in 2000. Also, Virginia's most popular variety accounted for 39 percent of all the Vinifera variety bearing acreage and 36 percent of the total vineyard acreage statewide.

APPLE PRODUCTION, PRICE, AND UTILIZATION, 1996-2000 ^{1/}

	<i>Unit</i>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
42 Pound equivalent						
Total	<i>thousand</i>	6,548	6,429	6,667	8,571	8,333
Utilized	<i>thousand</i>	6,190	6,238	6,405	8,333	8,167
Pounds						
Total	<i>million</i>	275	270	280	360	350
Utilized	<i>million</i>	260	262	269	350	343
Price Per Pound	<i>cents</i>	11.6	10.6	11.7	10.9	9.8
Value Utilized Production	<i>thousand dollars</i>	30,160	27,741	31,491	38,175	33,543
Utilization of Sales						
Fresh	<i>million lbs</i>	90	53	100	125	102
Processed ^{2/}	<i>million lbs.</i>	170	209	169	225	241

^{1/} Commercial crop estimates refer to the total production in commercial orchards of 100 or more bearing trees.

^{2/} Includes canned apples and used for juice, vinegar, wine, jam, fresh slices, and frozen slices for pie making.

PEACH PRODUCTION, PRICE, AND UTILIZATION, 1999-2000 ^{1/}

	<i>Unit</i>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
48 Pound Equivalent						
Total	<i>thousand</i>	292	188	292	313	208
Utilized	<i>thousand</i>	271	167	250	250	188
Pounds						
Total	<i>million</i>	14	9	14	15	10
Utilized	<i>million</i>	13	8	12	12	9
Price Per Pound	<i>cents</i>	34	28	30	29	30
Value Utilized Production	<i>thousand dollars</i>	4,420	2,240	3,600	3,480	2,700
Utilization of Sales						
Fresh	<i>million lbs.</i>	13	8	12	12	9
Processed	<i>million lbs.</i>	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}

^{1/} Commercial crop estimates refer to the total production in commercial orchards of 100 or more bearing trees.

^{2/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.