

1998 APPLE AND PEACH SUMMARY

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VIRGINIA

Apple production in the Commonwealth totaled 280 million pounds in 1998, up 10 million pounds from the previous year and peach production totaled 14 million pounds, up 5 million pounds from 1997.

The growing season began with very mild Winter weather during January and February with no unusually harsh weather or large temperature swings. Applying dormant spray and pruning was on schedule and a somewhat warmer Spring caused budding and blossoming to be earlier than normal. The absence of a late frost or freezing weather aided in pollination and allowed a heavy fruit set. The summer was extremely dry with very little if any precipitation and the areas that received thunderstorms were occasionally pelted with hail. Despite the heavy fruit set and plentiful moisture during the Spring, the hot, dry weather during the Summer caused small fruit size and lower quality fruit. ❖

PRODUCTION, PRICE, AND UTILIZATION, 1994-1998 1/

Fruit	Unit	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
APPLE PRODUCTION:						
42-Pound Equivalent						
Total	Thous.	7,262	9,524	6,548	6,429	6,666
Utilized	Thous.	7,119	9,333	6,190	6,238	6,405
Pounds						
Total	Mil.	305	400	275	270	280
Utilized	Mil.	299	392	260	262	269
Price Per Pound	Cents	9.0	9.9	11.6	10.6	11.7
Value Utilized Production	Thous. Dols.	26,884	38,752	30,160	27,741	31,575
Utilization of Sales						
Fresh	Mil. Lbs.	65.0	140.0	90.0	53.0	100.0
Processed 2/	Mil. Lbs.	234.0	252.0	170.0	209.0	169.0
PEACH PRODUCTION:						
48-Pound Equivalent						
Total	Thous.	250	542	292	188	292
Utilized	Thous.	229	521	271	167	250
Pounds						
Total	Mil.	12.0	26.0	14.0	9.0	14.0
Utilized	Mil.	11.0	25.0	13.0	8.0	12.0
Price Per Pound	Cents	22.6	23.0	34.0	28.0	30.0
Value Utilized Production	Thous. Dols.	2,486	5,750	4,420	2,240	3,600
Utilization of Sales:						
Fresh	Mil. Lbs.	11.0	25.0	13.0	8.0	12.0
Processed	Mil. Lbs.	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/

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. 3/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.