

Peach Summary

Peach production is primarily located in the Eastern Panhandle consisting of Berkeley, Hampshire, Jefferson and Morgan counties. These counties accounted for 98.4 percent of acres and 97.8 percent of trees. Berkeley continues to be the leading county with 64 percent of the acres and 61 percent of the trees. Total trees decreased 81,300 since 1994, while acreage declined 997 acres. Jefferson County showed the largest percentage drop in acreage with 19.7 percent of the 1994 level. Berkeley County lost the largest number of trees since 1994 with 51,600, followed by Jefferson with a loss of 20,400 trees.

Twenty nine percent of West Virginia’s peach trees were between 12-21 years of age; 22.3 percent were between 7-11 years of age; 19 percent of peach trees were between 4-6 years of age; 16.4 percent were between 1-3 years of age and 13.3 percent of trees were over 21 years of age. Forty-five percent of Berkeley County’s trees were over 12 years of age, while 48 percent of Hampshire/Morgan counties trees were over 12 years of age. Jefferson County had 11 percent of trees 12 years of age and older.

Loring was the most prevalent variety with 17,100, or 19 percent of the total trees, followed by Redhaven with 14 percent and Cresthaven with 12 percent of total trees. Loring was also the most prevalent variety in the 1994 survey. “Other” varieties accounted for 36,400 or nearly 40 percent of the total trees. The most prevalent reported other varieties, in order of trees reported were: Blake, Sunbrite, John Boy, Belair and Glohaven. These five varieties accounted for 52 percent of the “other” variety category. Forty-five “other” varieties were listed on the returned questionnaires.

Peaches: Number of Growers, Acreage and Trees by County - 2004 and 1994						
County	Number of Growers		Total Acres		All Trees	
	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994
	---- Thousands ----					
Berkeley	14	28	625	1,295	55.9	107.5
Hampshire, Morgan	12	21	274	371	26.3	35.8
Jefferson	8	8	56	284	7.5	27.9
Other Counties	4	5	16	18	2.0	1.8
Total	38	62	971	1,968	91.7	173.0