

Apple Summary

The four major commercial apple producing counties are Berkeley, Hampshire, Jefferson and Morgan. These counties account for 95 percent of apple trees in West Virginia, unchanged from the 1994 survey. Berkeley County accounts for 65 percent of the State's apple trees and is the leading county in the number of growers, total acres and number of trees. Hampshire County showed the largest decrease in trees since 1994 with a loss of 94,900 trees, followed by Berkeley with a loss of 68,300 trees. Jefferson County showed a decrease of 58,800 trees and Morgan County showed a loss of 9,900 trees.

West Virginia's total tree count decreased from 745,400 trees in 1994 to 499,000 trees in 2004, a total loss of 246,400 trees. Twenty-seven percent of apple trees are between 1 - 6 years of age; 27 percent are between 7 - 11 years of age; 23 percent are between 12-21 years of age; and 23 percent are 22 years of age and older. Seventy-four percent of the total standard trees exceed 22 years in age.

Golden Delicious, York, Red Delicious and Rome Beauty are the leading varieties. These varieties total 309,300 trees or 62 percent of the state's total. Red Delicious was the leading variety in 1994 followed by York, Golden Delicious and Rome Beauty. The category "other varieties", which includes varieties that are not listed, accounted for 25 percent of total trees. Golden Delicious, Red Delicious and Gala showed the most tree numbers in the 1-3 age category with 11,000, 4,200 and 4,200, respectively. However, the category, "other varieties", which includes all varieties not listed, totaled 16,600, 1-3 year old trees. Seventy-eight percent of the total spur type trees were Red Delicious; roughly 50 percent of the Red Delicious variety were spur type trees.

Of the 450,300 semi-dwarf and dwarf trees, nearly 41 percent were MM 111 rootstock. Rootstock M 26 had the largest number of newer plantings (1-3 year old trees), comprising 50 percent of the semi-dwarf and dwarf trees in this age group. Rootstock MM 111 also had the largest percentage of semi-dwarf and dwarf trees in 1994 and the M 26 rootstock had the largest number of newer plantings in 1994.

Fifty-four "other" varieties were listed on the questionnaires. The top five "other" varieties, in order of trees reported, were: Idared, Greening, Granny Smith, Ginger Gold and Cameo. They accounted for 56 percent of the trees in the "other" variety category.

Apples: Number of Growers, Acreage and Trees by County, 2004 and 1994										
County	Number of Growers		Total Acres		Standard Trees		Semi-Dwarf, Dwarf & Other Trees		All Trees	
	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994	2004	1994
	----- Thousands -----									
Berkeley	25	45	2,697	5,731	37.0	187.8	285.9	203.4	322.9	391.2
Hampshire	15	35	530	1,782	8.9	41.5	41.4	103.7	50.3	145.2
Jefferson	6	13	488	1,456	1.7	45.2	66.7	82.0	68.4	127.2
Morgan	4	13	351	602	0.7	25.3	34.2	19.5	34.9	44.8
Other Counties	17	29	192	378	0.4	3.8	22.1	33.2	22.5	37.0
Total	67	135	4,258	9,949	48.7	303.6	450.3	441.8	499.0	745.4