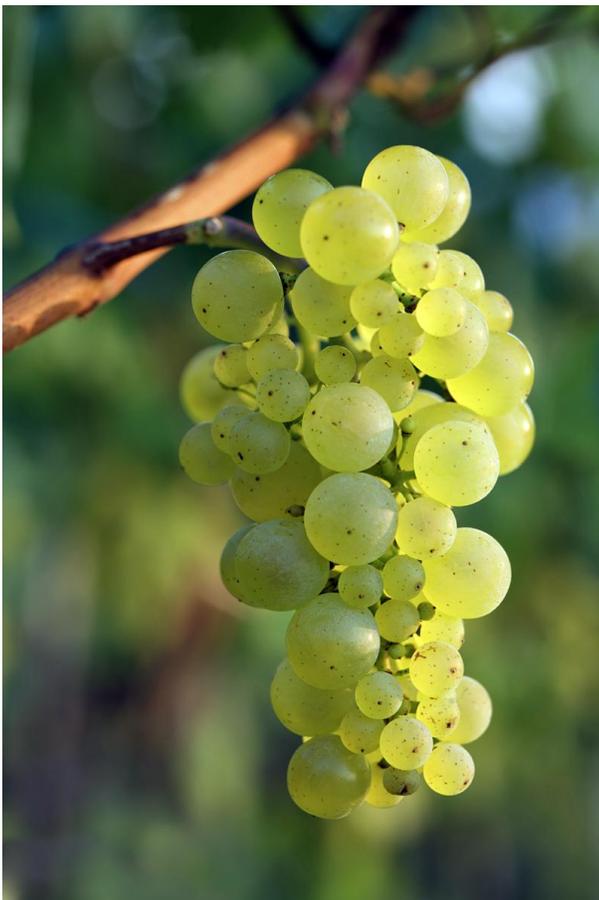


Pennsylvania

Orchard and Vineyard

Statistics by Variety, Age and County

2008



Pennsylvania's Orchard and Vineyard Statistics 2008

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Edward G. Rendell, Governor

Issued cooperatively by:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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Russell C. Redding, *Secretary*

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Tom Vilsack, *Secretary*
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Dr. Cynthia Clark, *Administrator*



Compiled by

**USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service,
Pennsylvania Field Office**

Kevin G. Pautler, *Director*
Daniel F. Capstick, Jr., *Deputy Director*

4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203
Harrisburg, PA 17112-2875
Phone: 717-787-3904, Fax: 717-782-4011
Email: nass-pa@nass.usda.gov, Website: www.nass.usda.gov/pa/

Jillayne K. Weaver, Project Leader

Bathsheba Bryant
Sherry S. Deane
Julie A. Donahoe
Jack C. Doney, Jr.

Christa K. Eisenhuth
Sandra F. Gratson
Tyler D. Heep

Pamela K. Kanagy
Diane L. Keefer
Mark A. Linstedt

Adam W. Pike
Melinda Shipman
Jacqueline A. Weaver

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture enumerators
collect data for the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

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FOREWORD

We are pleased to introduce the 2008 Orchard and Vineyard Statistics Report, which offers an overview of an industry vital to Pennsylvania's economy.

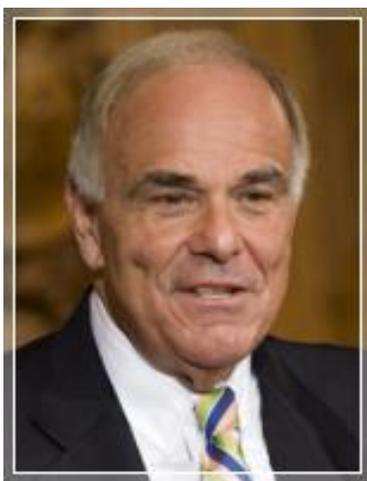
Pennsylvania's fruit growers continue their prominent role in Pennsylvania agriculture, and they continue to enhance the Commonwealth's ever increasing status at the national and international levels. U.S. agricultural exports from the Keystone State during the October 2007 – September 2008 fiscal year were valued at \$1,910.9 million, an increase of 30 percent over commodities exported in 2007.

Receipts from the sale of the five major orchard and vineyard crops averaged about \$108 million in recent years, and represent about five percent of the cash receipts from all crops grown in the state.

In 2008, Pennsylvania ranked fourth in the nation in the production of apples and grapes, fifth in tart cherries and peaches and sixth in pears. Moreover, these fruits are the foundation of a thriving processing industry that provides thousands of additional jobs, and makes sizeable contributions to the state's economy.

Pennsylvania has a proud generational agriculture tradition. State government wants to make sure that our children and grandchildren have an opportunity to continue that legacy. We are committed to farmland preservation, market and product development, agricultural extension programs, research and development efforts, environmental protection, and other efforts ensuring that Pennsylvania's agricultural industry is prepared to continue and prosper in the 21st century.

We hope the information in this booklet, a joint venture of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service Pennsylvania Field Office will help everyone in Pennsylvania's fruit industry with their planning and decision-making. We appreciate your efforts and look forward to working with you.



Edward G. Rendell
Governor



Russell C. Redding
Secretary of Agriculture

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2008 Orchard & Vineyard Survey Procedure

Introduction: Pennsylvania's fruit growers have traditionally enjoyed a prominent role in Pennsylvania agriculture while enhancing the Commonwealth's status as a leading producer of quality foods. In 2008, Pennsylvania ranked fourth among states in apple and grape production, fifth in peach and tart cherry production, and sixth in pear production.

Primarily responsible is the relatively small intensified fruit producing area in relation to the size of Pennsylvania. There are 67 counties in the Commonwealth. Five of these counties account for 76 percent of the total apple crop. Erie County produces virtually all of the grape tonnage and five counties comprise 70 percent of the peach production. There are 7,700,000 acres in land in farms in the Keystone state with approximately 37,200 acres devoted to orchards and vineyards. Fruit acreage accounts for only one-half of 1 percent of the total acreage in Pennsylvania.

Survey Objective: The purpose of this survey is to satisfy requests by various segments of the fruit industry and others for an up-to-date detailed inventory of Pennsylvania's fruit tree numbers and acreage by age and variety. Growers, wholesalers, cooperatives, brokers, processors, retailers, input suppliers, research workers, county agents and government need and use the survey data for many important purposes. Growers provide the survey information, and the benefits derived through analysis of the data are channeled back to the growers through improved services.

In an effort to keep up with ever-changing information and industry needs, several new sections were added to the grape survey, allowing for more of a breakdown on grape acreage, tonnage harvested and used, as well as utilization and price across the state.

This is the twelfth in a series of Orchard & Vineyard Inventory Surveys for Pennsylvania. The first was done in 1953 and subsequent surveys were conducted in 1957, 1964, 1967, 1972, 1978, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2008. This report will also be comparable with surveys compiled by other State Field Offices.

Data from this report and the U.S. Census of Agriculture will be used to review annual estimates of fruit production published by the Pennsylvania Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Definition of a Commercial Fruit Operation: A commercial fruit operation is defined as one having 100

or more trees maintained for production for at least one of the following fruits: apples, peaches, pears, tart cherries, and nectarines or one acre or more of grapevines maintained for production. If less than one hundred trees or one acre of grapes the operation would not be considered commercial for that fruit even if another fruit qualified them as a commercial fruit operation. Prior to 2008, a grower qualifying as commercial for grapes needed two acres of grapes.

Fruit operations which did not meet these requirements were excluded from this survey. Also excluded from this survey were mature orchards and vineyards which qualified based on tree numbers or acreage, but were not being maintained for production at the time of data collection. Since noncommercial growers are excluded from this survey, all tables are titled as commercial. In this publication, 2008 Pennsylvania Orchard and Vineyard Statistics, the tables which include only growers with 100 or more trees of the fruit listed, or one or more acres of grapes, will be footnoted as such.

Survey Procedures: The list construction for this survey began with the Pennsylvania Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service's fruit list. This list yielded 1,632 names for the distribution of questionnaires.

The data collection phase of the survey started with a mailing to all operations known to have fruit acreage of some type and amount in December 2008. Between January and June 2009, about 900 fruit growers who were considered to be large operators were personally interviewed by one of our field enumerators. Throughout the spring and summer of 2009, all non-respondents to the mail portion of the survey were attempted to be phoned or personally contacted by our field enumerators. Field enumerators also interviewed all observed orchards that did not appear in the final list of orchards.

Other and Total Other Varieties: This category includes minor varieties of the specified fruit. Included are fruit tree numbers from growers who reported a small quantity of "miscellaneous" or "other" (or unclassified) varieties. A small percentage of data for some of the major varieties may be included in the "other" category.

Blank Spots: Where there are blanks in the tables the numbers are either zero or are not disclosed for confidentiality reasons.