

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE



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Virginia Grape Acreage Increases in 2008

Virginia bearing acreage has increased from 2,400 acres in 2007 to 2,500 acres in 2008, a 4% increase over that time span. Total acres have increased from 2,790 acres in 2007 to 2,870 acres in 2008. This marks a 3% increase in total acres from 2007 to 2008.

Virginia's grape producers harvested 7,000 tons of commercial grapes in 2008, up 25% from the 5,600 tons produced in 2007. Production of the Vinifera varieties accounted for the majority of the overall production. Producers harvested a crop valued at \$10.4 million, receiving an average price of \$1,530 per ton.

Virginia ranked 7th nationally in commercial grape production and 7th for bearing acreage.

Production and Price by Variety, 2008

| Variety ^{1/} | Tons Produced | Utilized Tons ^{3/} | Avg. Price Per Ton |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cabernet Franc | 924 | 885 | \$1,632.00 |
| Cabernet Sauvignon | 524 | 518 | \$1,828.00 |
| Chambourcin | 225 | 218 | \$1,065.00 |
| Chardonnay | 1,288 | 1,264 | \$1,588.00 |
| Merlot | 823 | 807 | \$1,775.00 |
| Norton | 170 | 164 | \$1,286.00 |
| Petit Verdot | 225 | 223 | \$2,024.00 |
| Traminette | 220 | 214 | \$974.00 |
| Vidal Blanc | 497 | 480 | \$1,006.00 |
| Viognier | 469 | 464 | \$1,888.00 |
| Virginia ^{2/} | 7,000 | 6,800 | \$1,530.00 |

^{1/} All other grape varieties were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

^{2/} State price and production based on all reported varieties. Price based on all reported sales.

^{3/} In 2008 an average of 3% of production was unutilized above the normal 2%.

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