

# *Washington* **TREE FRUITS**

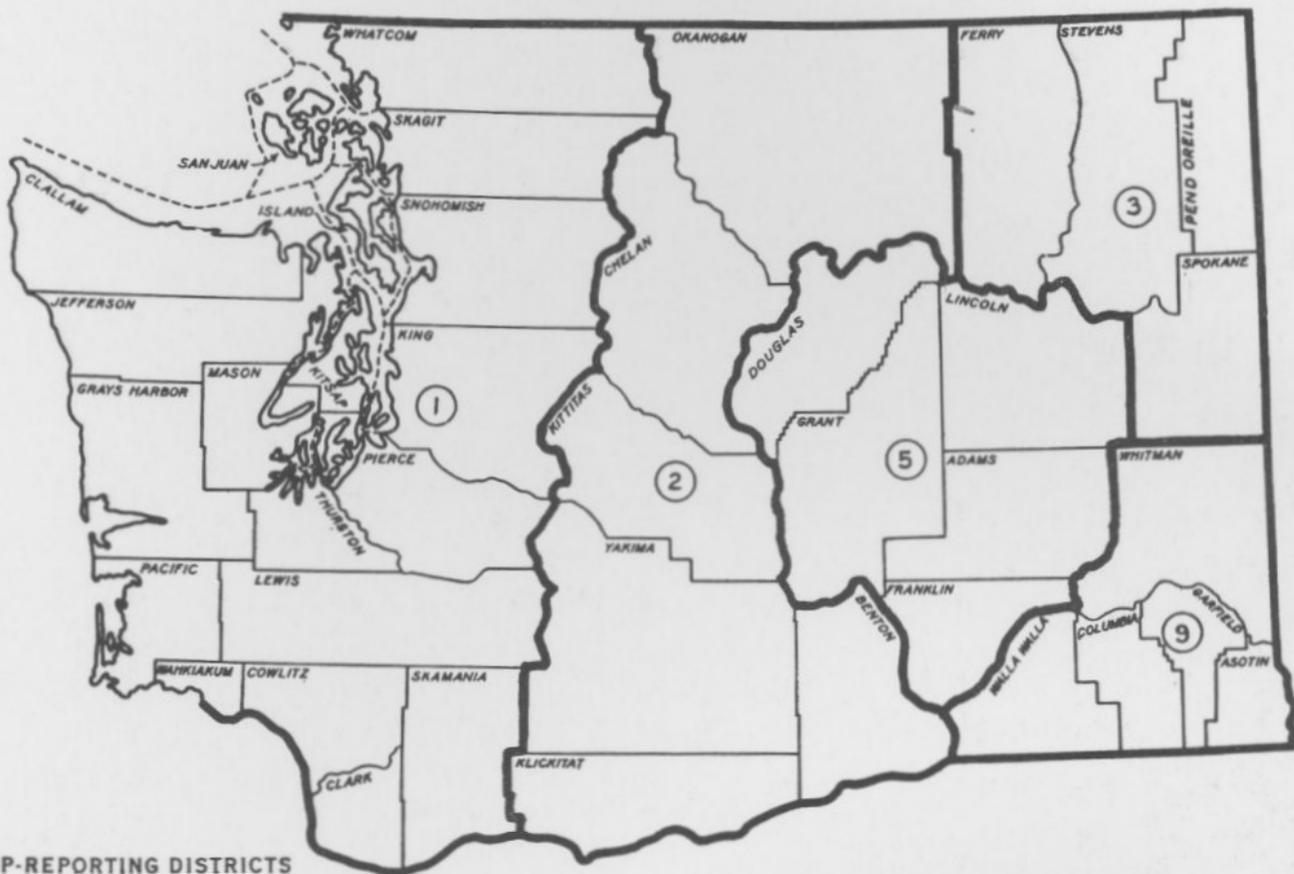


*Washington Crop and Livestock Reporting Service*

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Department of Agriculture

Washington State  
Department of Agriculture



CROP-REPORTING DISTRICTS

The picture on the front cover was furnished through the courtesy of the Washington State Apple Commission.

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## Preface

The State of Washington enjoys an outstanding reputation for quality fruit production. Although perhaps best known for its apples, Washington is also important in the production of pears, peaches, cherries, apricots, plums, and prunes, as well as strawberries, caneberries, and other berries. In the slightly more than 100 years since agricultural settlement began—but especially since 1920—fruit culture in the state has grown to the point where it contributes 20-30 percent of the cash farm income. Washington is the third most important state in the United States in fruit production—second in the nation in the production of

deciduous (non-citrus varieties) fruits.

As the fruit industry of Washington has developed and become more and more complex, there came many requests for detailed factual information on the production, distribution, and utilization of fruit. Among the requests most frequently received were those on the ages and varieties of fruit trees in the state. The interest was, and has been, industry-wide—growers, packers, shippers, farm organizations, and local and state governmental agencies.

The value of such figures was long recognized, but the size of the task was a major deterrent. It was not until funds

were made available in 1948 and 1949 under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946 wherein the Federal Government matched moneys supplied by the Washington State Department of Agriculture that the job could be undertaken. Actually, the task was not completed with the collection of the figures. The State Department of Agriculture has made available additional funds for the analysis, interpretation, and publication of the data.

SVERRE N. OMDAHL, *Director*  
Washington State Department of  
Agriculture



## Acknowledgement

This bulletin presents the results of the fruit tree survey of 1948-49. It provides the first state-wide measure of fruit trees by age and variety, and includes similar figures for the important commercial counties. Although its value, aside from the geographic pattern of the varieties, is chiefly historical it does provide a base point for future state-wide or commercial area studies. Such studies are almost inevitable in such a highly specialized type of agriculture as Washington's fruit industry.

Many people had an important part in the fruit tree survey. Much of the credit for initiating the project is due to Mr. Haven C. R. Stewart, former Agricultural Statistician in Charge of the Washington office of the Bureau of Agri-

cultural Economics. Mr. Fred Martin, former Director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, deserves credit for planning and making possible the state-federal RMA project for financing the collection of the data. Mr. William Shaw, Supervisor of Horticulture, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and the inspectors of the Horticultural Department were instrumental in collecting reports from many of the growers in the commercial areas of the state. Mr. Walter Hendricks, research statistician of the Agricultural Estimates staff, United States Department of Agriculture, gave valuable assistance in sample design and planning the enumeration of the non-respondents.

All of the staff of the Washington Crop and Livestock Reporting Service had some part in the preparation of this bulletin. The clerical staff faithfully produced the tabulations, and made and checked the computations. Miss Delores Collins and Miss Evelyn Scott read back much of the copy. Mr. Walter H. Ebling, of the Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, Madison, Wisconsin, made available the services of Harry Spray, Geographer, to prepare the illustrations for the bulletin.

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