

PEARS



Cool, wet weather during bloom resulted in very poor pollinating conditions for the 2008 Connecticut pear crop. Consecutive heavy frosts the last week of April and first week of May during bud to early bloom stage brought significant damage to the pear crop. Cool, wet conditions persisted through May and during pollination compounded the frost damage. Fruit set was

much lighter than expected. In late August, harvest was underway, ahead of last year and normal. Crop specialists rated the crop in good to fair condition with average fruit size. By late October, harvest was complete, in line with last year and ahead of normal. Utilized pear production in Connecticut totaled 700 tons in 2008, down 30 percent from the previous year. The value of the 2008 pear crop was estimated at \$910,000, 30 percent below the previous year's level.

PEARS: Production and Value, 1999 – 2008

State and Year	Production		Utilized Price per Ton	Value of Utilized Production
	Total ¹	Utilized ²		
	Tons		Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Connecticut				
1999	1,050	950	775	736
2000	1,250	1,250	562	703
2001	480	480	644	309
2002	500	500	858	429
2003	1,300	1,270	1,000	1,270
2004	900	900	800	720
2005	1,000	1,000	952	952
2006	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,100
2007	1,000	1,000	1,300	1,300
2008	700	700	1,300	910

¹ Total production is the quantity actually harvested plus quantities which would have been acceptable for fresh market or processing but were not harvested because of economic or natural reasons.

² Utilized production is the amount sold plus the quantities used at home or held in storage.

