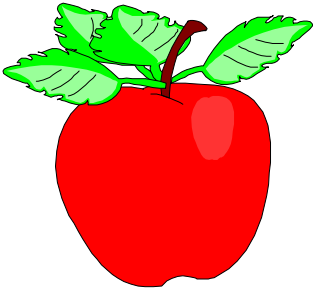


APPLES



There were 3,000 acres devoted to apple production in 1996, down 15 percent from 1991 and 22 percent below 1988. Apple tree numbers, at 660,000, were down 4 percent from 1991, but still 2 percent above 1988. The tree population is aging as over 82 percent of the trees were over nine years old in 1996 compared to 1991 when only 47 percent of the trees had been in the ground nine years or longer. Dwarf and semi-dwarf rootstocks continued their climb in popularity as over 94 percent of all trees reported were on this type of rootstock. The top counties, based on tree numbers, were Laurens, Oconee and Spartanburg and the top varieties were Granny Smith, Red Delicious and Yellow Delicious. More detailed information is shown below; however, confidentiality restrictions prevent us from publishing some county and variety information.

GROWER NUMBERS, LOCATION AND SIZE

There were 56 commercial apple growers in South Carolina in 1996 one-third fewer than in 1991. The largest growers, with 3,000 or more trees, accounted for only 28 percent of all growers but controlled 94 percent of all trees; the smallest growers accounted for 48 percent of total commercial operations but controlled only about 2 percent of the trees.

**Number of Commercial Apple Growers and Trees by Size Groups,
by Counties, South Carolina, 1996**

Trees per Grower	Oconee		Spartanburg		Other Counties		State	
	Growers	Total Trees	Growers	Total Trees	Growers	Total Trees	Growers	Total Trees
	-----Number-----							
100-999	7	3,800	11	5,200	9	2,300	27	11,300
1,000-2,999	7	13,900	3	5,400	3	7,000	13	26,300
3,000 and over	6	199,300	7	148,400	3	274,700	16	622,400
ALL SIZES	20	217,000	21	159,000	15	284,000	56	660,000