

PEACHES

NUMBER AND SIZE OF PEACH ORCHARD OPERATIONS

The number of commercial peach orchard operations in South Carolina in 1996 totaled 153, down 30 percent from the count in 1991. While the number of orchards has generally been declining during the past decade, the last five years have seen growers getting out of business at a more rapid pace. Several poor production years and the resultant financial burdens have forced some producers to give up. For the State, the average number of trees per grower in 1996 was 12,549 down 14 percent from 1991. Ridge growers continue to be the largest in the State with an average of 24,359 trees per grower; however, this is over 5,000 trees per grower less than 1991.

Twenty-two percent of the growers in the State have orchards with 10,000 or more trees; eighty-four percent of the total trees in the State are in these orchards. The orchards with 5,000 to 9,999 trees accounted for 9 percent of the trees in the State.

Number of Commercial Peach Growers and Average Number of Trees per Grower, With Percentages, by Regions, South Carolina, 1991 and 1996

Region	Number of Growers		Percent of Total		Average Trees per Grower	
	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996
Upper State	133	91	61.0	59.5	7,199	7,385
Ridge	56	39	25.7	25.5	29,474	24,359
Coastal Plains	29	23	13.3	15.0	19,901	12,957
STATE	218	153	100.0	100.0	14,611	12,549

Number of Commercial Peach Growers and Trees by Size Groups by Regions, South Carolina, 1996

Trees per Grower	Upper State		Ridge		Coastal Plains		State	
	Growers	Total Trees	Growers	Total Trees	Growers	Total Trees	Growers	Total Trees
100 - 499	13	4,400	7	2,100	4	1,300	24	7,800
500 - 999	14	9,700	4	2,900	6	4,700	24	17,300
1,000 - 4,999	33	77,300	7	16,200	10	26,200	50	119,700
5,000 - 9,999	15	105,100	7	59,300	--	--	22	164,400
10,000 +	16	475,500	14	869,500	3	265,800	33	1,610,800
ALL SIZES	91	672,000	39	950,000	23	298,000	153	1,920,000