

SURVEY METHOD

The 1996 South Carolina Fruit Tree Survey was conducted in the winter of 1996 and spring 1997. All data obtained were for the 1996 crop year.

Data collection for this survey consisted of one selected grower mailing as well as telephone and field enumeration. Grower names used were those maintained by the South Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service. Additional verification of growers was provided by Clemson University Extension Service personnel.

This survey covered all known commercial operations in South Carolina producing peaches, apples, and grapes. Growers were also asked to report acreage of other minor fruit crops, such as nectarines and plums. A commercial grower was defined as an operation having 100 or more peach or apple trees or one-tenth of an acre of grapevines. Operations with acreage in more than one county were counted only once, but the acreage was divided among counties as reported.

In addition to acreage and tree numbers, information was also collected on intentions to plant and/or remove trees or vines after the 1996 harvest. Any incomplete reports (from growers who preferred not to give the requested information) were estimated.