

VIRGINIA 2015 COMMERCIAL GRAPE REPORT



2015 GROWING SEASON



Virginia's 2015 growing season followed a generally benign winter, despite some temperatures around 0°F in early January and again in the 17-20 February 2015 periods. While seasons since 2000 have trended toward longer growing seasons and earlier budburst, the 2015 budburst and bloom dates were more typical of 20 years ago. There were no reports of widespread spring frost. Abundant rains from May through early July kept growers busy with disease management and grapevine canopy management chores such as shoot-hedging and selective leaf thinning. Much of July through late September was unusually dry, while temperatures during this late-summer period were very close to 10-year means, resulting in very good grape-ripening conditions. Fortunately, much of the state's earlier-ripening varieties had been harvested prior to a period of very rainy weather from 29 September to 4 October, which coincided with the offshore passage of Hurricane Joaquin and additional tropical moisture from a stalled low pressure system hanging over the Carolinas. Although this timing was unfortunate, temperatures were cold enough to limit the damage from the excess moisture. Harvest proceeded again through a fairly dry October and the initial indications are quite positive in terms of both the quality and quantity of the 2015 vintage.

2015 Growing Season Overview
by Tony Wolf,
Virginia Tech's AHS Jr. Agricultural Research
and Extension Center

ABOUT THE SURVEY

This year marks the sixth year the Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office has managed the annual Commercial Grape Report (CGR) data collection and reporting. Prior to 2010, the CGR was produced by NASS (National Agricultural Statistics Service). The survey questions were identical to those used by NASS; however, the capture of information was slightly different. The 2010 through 2015 surveys drew upon exact data provided by Virginia grape producers.

The Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office captured the individual responses and reported the collective data generated by those individual responses; however this survey is only as accurate as the information provided.

The information presented in this report was gathered through a census of all known grape producers in Virginia. Data was collected during the months of November 2015 through February 2016 by mail, telephone and online individual responses. Information obtained during the course of this survey was kept completely confidential. Only aggregate data is presented in this report. For further inquiries about this survey, please contact the Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office at 804.344.8200



**SPECIAL THANKS
TO ALL PRODUCERS
WHO TOOK THE TIME
TO PARTICIPATE
IN THIS SURVEY!**

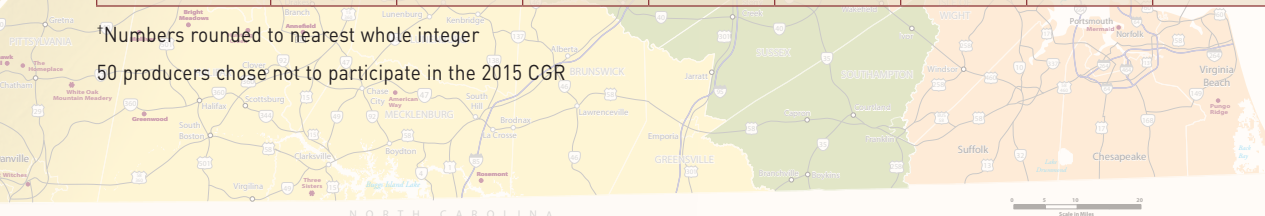


Grape Production, Acreage and Average Price by Variety, 2014 and 2015[†]

	2014 Tons Produced	2015 Tons Produced	2014 Bearing Acres	2015 Bearing Acres	2014 Non-Bearing Acres	2015 Non-Bearing Acres	2014 Average Price	2015 Average Price	2015 Absolute Range	
									Low	High
Total	8,039	8,682	3,144	3,172	425	672	\$1,844	\$1,921	\$1,000	\$3,575
VINIFERA	5,673	6,392	2,459	2,473	348	555	\$2,061	\$2,195	\$1,000	\$3,575
Albariño	30	53	27	26	15	17	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Cabernet Franc	964	1,118	379	382	50	69	\$1,949	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Cabernet Sauvignon	554	661	289	289	23	36	\$2,117	\$2,138	\$1,400	\$3,125
Chardonnay	1,104	1,236	441	441	25	62	\$1,960	\$2,072	\$1,500	\$3,300
Gewürztraminer	22	16	10	12	1	4	\$2,100	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Malbec	63	72	39	39	18	18	\$2,246	\$2,700	\$2,400	\$3,000
Merlot	995	846	333	332	35	49	\$2,099	\$2,275	\$1,000	\$3,300
Petit Manseng	206	230	75	78	15	31	\$2,130	\$2,221	\$1,700	\$2,830
Petit Verdot	502	505	196	198	31	63	\$2,275	\$2,613	\$1,500	\$3,575
Pinot Gris/Grigio	173	185	75	76	9	11	\$1,704	\$1,906	\$1,650	\$2,200
Pinot Noir	55	64	36	36	1	3	\$1,933	\$1,750	\$1,500	\$2,000
Riesling	76	93	42	45	7	9	\$1,900	\$1,980	\$1,800	\$2,500
Sauvignon Blanc	118	118	51	49	11	21	\$2,475	\$2,650	\$2,400	\$2,900
Syrah	71	60	31	32	3	7	\$2,175	\$2,433	\$1,800	\$2,500
Tannat	86	83	29	33	11	25	\$2,309	\$2,360	\$2,000	\$2,575
Viognier	366	730	259	259	68	82	\$2,087	\$2,774	\$1,800	\$3,000
Other White Vinifera	180	204	58	58	18	29	\$1,780	\$1,780	\$1,650	\$2,600
Other Red Vinifera	108	118	89	88	10	19	\$1,865	\$1,861	\$1,600	\$2,600
HYBRID	1,830	1,797	490	498	47	89	\$1,512	\$1,384	\$1,100	\$2,000
Chambourcin	532	521	133	134	9	32	\$1,281	\$1,447	\$1,200	\$1,925
Seyval	120	116	32	32	5	6	\$1,415	\$1,300	\$1,100	\$1,650
Traminette	288	331	109	109	4	6	\$1,450	\$1,378	\$1,200	\$1,800
Vidal Blanc	741	687	149	150	10	25	\$1,925	\$1,437	\$1,100	\$2,000
Other White Hybrid	125	115	35	39	14	17	\$1,550	\$1,140	\$1,100	\$2,000
Other Red Hybrid	23	27	32	34	5	3	\$1,450	\$1,600	\$1,100	\$1,800
AMERICAN	537	493	195	201	30	28	\$1,373	\$1,358	\$1,000	\$2,200
Concord	118	75	29	29	0	0	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$1,500
Niagara	156	150	39	39	3	3	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$1,500
Norton	252	259	120	126	25	19	\$1,620	\$1,575	\$1,000	\$2,200
Other White American	4	1	1	1	2	6	X	X	X	X
Other Red/Black American	6	8	6	6	0	0	X	X	X	X

[†]Numbers rounded to nearest whole integer

50 producers chose not to participate in the 2015 CGR



Grape Production and Acreage by District and County, 2014 and 2015[†]

County		2014 Tons Produced	2015 Tons Produced	2014 Bearing Acres	2015 Bearing Acres	2014 Non-Bearing Acres	2015 Non-Bearing Acres
STATE TOTAL		8,039	8,682	3,145	3,171	427	672
NORTHERN	Clarke	60	77	30	30	11	14
	Fauquier	415	539	230	221	42	44
	Loudoun	1,294	1,387	535	541	127	197
	Madison	173	98	56	78	12	22
	Rappahannock	212	182	76	77	14	16
	Rockingham	113	125	35	34	10	21
	Shenandoah	268	354	104	90	6	35
	Warren	X	70	X	25	X	9
	Other Counties	245	281	106	96	8	48
	District Total	2,780	3,113	1,172	1,192	230	406
WESTERN	Augusta	354	268	82	69	3	9
	Botetourt	112	134	39	40	2	4
	Rockbridge	X	129	X	31	X	3
	Other Counties*	176	57	81	18	1	17
	District Total	642	588	202	158	6	33
CENTRAL	Albemarle	1,316	1,519	576	570	42	53
	Amherst	104	67	49	49	6	8
	Bedford	29	36	42	30	0	1
	Greene	33	48	26	34	3	4
	Hanover	57	51	22	22	0	4
	Louisa	70	67	36	42	6	0
	Nelson	697	863	208	242	10	27
	Orange	1,028	922	251	251	31	36
	Spotsylvania	51	50	29	27	4	3
	Other Counties	60	68	39	54	9	9
	District Total	3,445	3,691	1,278	1,321	111	145
EASTERN	Westmoreland	179	283	74	81	8	2
	Other Counties	307	292	142	114	28	34
	District Total	486	575	216	195	36	36
SOUTHERN	Franklin	4	6	5	5	0	0
	Halifax	23	28	29	31	0	0
	Patrick	120	90	40	37	0	1
	Pittsylvania	60	40	15	15	2	0
	Other Counties	182	160	54	56	6	7
	District Total	389	324	142	144	8	8
Other District Total		297	391	189	162	36	44

[†]Numbers rounded to nearest whole integer.

*Rockbridge County was included in this total LY. For 2015, Rockbridge County is its own line item.
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