

Fact Sheet: Horticulture



- Alabama's fruit and vegetable industry has a \$161.5 million economic impact and provides 1,121 jobs.
- Vegetables and melons alone have a \$65.86 million economic impact.
- Peaches are the state's leading commercial fruit, two-thirds of which are grown in Chilton County.



- Alabama ranks 12th among U.S. states for watermelon production.
- There are 167 farmers markets in Alabama.
- The blackberry is Alabama's state fruit.
- The fruit, vegetable and tree nut industry in Alabama generates an additional 50 cents in the state economy per dollar of output.
- On average, fruit and tree nut production generates over 17 jobs per \$1 million in direct sales.
- The five largest fresh market crops in the U.S. in terms of acreage are lettuce, potatoes, sweet corn, tomatoes and watermelon.
- Green peas, potatoes, snap beans, sweet corn and tomatoes are the top further-processed crops.
- More than half of American horticulture farms are family or individually owned, but corporations account for three-fourths of sales.
- In 2012, 29 percent of farms selling directly to consumers specialized in vegetable, fruit and nut farming.
- Farms with direct sales to consumers were 6.9 percent of the nation's 2.1 million farms in 2012.

- Peach production accounts for \$6.2 million in sales for the state.
- Alabama ranks seventh among U.S. states for sweet potato production.
- More than 1,750 acres of sweet potatoes are grown annually on 67 Alabama farms.
- In 2015, Alabama had more than 100 acres of satsuma trees.
- Approximately 16,340 acres on 1,081 Alabama farms are planted in pecan trees.

Sources:
Auburn University
FarmFlavor.com
USDA.gov