

VIRGINIA 2013 COMMERCIAL GRAPE REPORT



STEVEN MORRIS



2013 GROWING SEASON

The year 2013 was not an easy one in Virginia vineyards; however, it will likely result in some outstanding wines. Following the unusually advanced 2012 season, the onset of the 2013 growing season might be regarded as more “average” or typical for Virginia.

Waking from a benign winter, Chardonnay, for example, broke bud in northern Virginia around the third week of April. However, conditions in April and much of May remained cool. Scattered frosts occurred near the end of April and again in May, reducing crops to some extent in the northern Shenandoah Valley and into northern Virginia. Persistent rains during June and July illustrated why Virginia is known for variable weather. The added moisture increased disease pressure. For many in the northern Piedmont, the monotonous drone of 17-year periodical cicadas added stress to both growers and some young vineyards with their egg-laying. Even the normally dry August saw ample rainfall in much of the state. And then the weather suddenly improved.

September was gorgeous for ripening both whites and reds — warm and unusually dry. For those who had managed to bring crops to this point of the season, the harvest went surprisingly well. Growers reported somewhat higher-than-average acidity levels in fruit, but pH and Brix values, as well as overall fruit quality, were very good. Vertebrate animals, such as raccoons, birds, deer, and even bear, took an unusually high toll on ripening grapes during this period, a problem intensified by a low acorn crop throughout the state. And, finally, a four-day period of rain in mid-October was the beginning of the end of harvest for some of the latest-maturing crops in the northern part of the state. The solace in this story is the high quality of 2013 wines from early assessments.

2013 Growing Season Overview
by Tony Wolf,
Professor of Viticulture, Virginia Tech

ABOUT THE SURVEY



This year marks the fourth time 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 2010 through 2013 survey questions were identical to those used by NASS; however, the capture of information was slightly different. The latest 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 2013 through February 2014 by mail, telephone interview and online individual responses. Information obtained during the course of this survey was kept completely confidential. Only aggregate information is presented in this report. For further information 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, 2012 and 2013[†]

	2012 Tons Produced	2013 Tons Produced	2012 Bearing Acres	2013 Bearing Acres	2012 Non-Bearing Acres	2013 Non-Bearing Acres	2012 Weighted Average Price	2013 Weighted Average Price	2013 Absolute Range	
									Low	High
Total	7,532	6,862	2,974	3,088	402	358	\$1,669	\$1,839	\$524	\$8,700
VINIFERA	5,603	4,942	2,254	2,387	327	278	\$1,817	\$2,014	\$900	\$8,700
Albariño ²	24	19	23	27	16	8	\$2,417	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Cabernet Franc ²	980	869	344	376	34	47	\$1,702	\$1,845	\$938	\$4,000
Cabernet Sauvignon ^{1,2}	499	440	263	261	21	24	\$1,894	\$1,959	\$1,000	\$2,650
Chardonnay ²	1,108	850	434	449	39	13	\$1,648	\$1,851	\$1,000	\$6,900
Gewurztraminer	16	12	11	10	0	1	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Malbec ³	X	59	X	31	X	8	X	\$2,235	\$1,600	\$3,200
Merlot ²	884	732	309	322	28	26	\$1,777	\$1,983	\$1,000	\$4,000
Petit Manseng ^{1,2}	170	162	65	63	13	14	\$1,919	\$2,043	\$1,700	\$2,500
Petit Verdot	372	384	168	192	33	41	\$2,133	\$2,206	\$900	\$4,000
Pinot Gris/Grigio ²	165	153	72	73	15	11	\$1,525	\$1,777	\$1,550	\$2,300
Pinot Noir	52	50	30	36	6	0	\$1,640	\$1,950	\$1,700	\$1,700
Riesling	94	99	42	42	2	5	\$1,383	\$1,570	\$1,200	\$1,750
Sauvignon Blanc ¹	96	111	45	39	13	15	\$2,188	\$3,620	\$2,000	\$8,700
Syrah ¹	74	83	33	31	4	3	\$1,702	\$1,997	\$1,600	\$2,500
Tannat ²	106	101	27	27	3	9	\$2,137	\$2,259	\$1,500	\$3,200
Viognier ²	503	457	224	262	65	36	\$1,920	\$2,174	\$1,700	\$2,500
Other White Vinifera ²	155	148	45	58	17	9	\$1,550	\$1,756	\$1,100	\$2,500
Other Red Vinifera ^{2,4}	305	213	119	88	17	8	\$1,920	\$1,861	\$1,000	\$2,500
HYBRID	1,528	1,507	523	508	44	46	\$1,142	\$1,180	\$524	\$4,000
Chambourcin	440	450	135	141	15	13	\$1,100	\$1,095	\$524	\$1,725
Seyval ¹	100	110	46	49	5	3	\$1,089	\$1,143	\$900	\$1,330
Traminette ²	276	254	98	101	7	11	\$1,147	\$1,187	\$900	\$1,300
Vidal Blanc ^{1,2}	608	579	176	149	9	8	\$1,166	\$1,278	\$900	\$4,000
Other White Hybrid ¹	85	85	36	33	5	9	\$1,183	\$1,142	\$1,100	\$1,100
Other Red Hybrid ¹	20	29	31	35	4	2	\$1,117	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600
AMERICAN	400	412	198	193	31	34	\$1,455	\$1,472	\$1,000	\$2,100
Concord	74	89	28	28	1	1	\$1,634	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$1,500
Niagara	92	128	34	35	15	14	\$1,150	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$1,500
Norton ^{1,2}	222	190	125	123	15	17	\$1,600	\$1,650	\$1,350	\$2,100
Other White American ¹	2	4	4	1	0	2	X	X	X	X
Other Red/Black American ^{1,2}	10	2	8	6	0	0	\$1,242	X	X	X

[†]Numbers rounded to nearest whole integer

(1) Reported removal of vines from production

(2) Reported reduction of yield due to weather, disease or predation

(3) Previously reported in "Other Red Vinifera"

(4) Excludes varieties reported separately in 2013

Grape Production and Acreage by District and County, 2012 and 2013[†]

County	2012 Tons Produced	2013 Tons Produced	2012 Bearing Acres	2013 Bearing Acres	2012 Non-Bearing Acres	2013 Non-Bearing Acres
STATE TOTAL	7,532	6,863	2,976	3,089	402	358
NORTHERN	Clarke	52	52	27	30	10
	Fauquier	443	305	208	224	34
	Loudoun	1,342	1046	513	501	89
	Madison	143	141	66	56	3
	Rappahannock	193	127	71	74	9
	Rockingham	76	81.6	34	35	5
	Shenandoah	268	275	100	100	6
	Other Counties*	319	248	109	93	6
	District Total	2,835	2,275	1,127	1,113	161
WESTERN	Augusta	226	312	72	74	3
	Botetourt	130	109	38	39	2
	Roanoke	81	82	48	48	5
	Other Counties	111	86	31	28	1
	District Total	548	589	190	189	11
CENTRAL	Albemarle**	1,223	1,013	479	568	78
	Amherst	33	40	48	49	2
	Bedford	36	25	39	40	2
	Greene	52	23	26	26	0
	Hanover	28	29	20	20	0
	Louisa	45	39	32	35	5
	Nelson	593	560	178	185	21
	Orange	868	1,042	224	250	33
	Spotsylvania	38	37	23	27	6
	Other Counties	89	42	55	37	10
District Total	3,005	2,849	1,122	1,237	157	114
EASTERN	Northampton	70	73	23	23	0
	Westmoreland	232	161	72	76	4
	Other Counties*	203	204	101	119	18
	District Total	505	438	196	218	23
SOUTHERN	Franklin	8	5	4	5	0
	Halifax	26	22	28	26	4
	Patrick	95	169	40	40	1
	Pittsylvania	56	64	23	23	0
	Other Counties	142	157	49	50	5
	District Total	326	417	144	144	10
Other District Total	313	295	198	189	40	27

[†]Numbers rounded to nearest whole integer

*Includes counties previously reported separately

**Newly reported vineyard(s) that were not listed in 2012



Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office, Old City Hall Building
1001 East Broad Street, Suite 140, Richmond, Virginia 23219