

MARKETING MICHIGAN PEACHES AND PRUNES

1976 CROP

FEDERAL-STATE MARKET NEWS SERVICE

**U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Division**

**Michigan Department of Agriculture
Marketing Division**



FOREWORD

This is a summary of marketing Michigan grown peaches and prunes for the 1976 crop. This report is provided by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Marketing Division, cooperating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

Information contained in this summary was obtained from the daily reports issued at the Federal-State Market News Office at Benton Harbor, Michigan. Other sources of information include the Michigan Crop Reporting Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Transportation Section, Washington, D.C. and the Benton Harbor Fruit Market manager, Al Braudo.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all segments of the industry for their cooperation and time, which made this report possible. A telephone recorder with updated information is available by dialing area code 616 - 925-1096.

Additional printed copies of this summary may be obtained upon request from:

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14th & Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

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PLANTED ACREAGE: The Michigan planted acreage was unchanged at 14,300 acres in 1976, according to the Statistical Reporting Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. A total of 1,460,000 trees were reported of bearing age in 1976, unchanged from 1975.

PRODUCTION: The 1976 Michigan production was sharply reduced by adverse weather conditions. A total of only 40 million pounds were utilized in 1976, compared with 55 million pounds in 1975. Peach deliveries to the Benton Harbor Fruit Market in 1976 also decreased. A total of 153,000 half bushel baskets, 15,000 three quarter bushel crates, and 4,000 bushel baskets were delivered in 1976, compared with 146,000 half bushel baskets, 29,000 three quarter bushel crates and 11,000 bushel baskets in 1975. Nearly all packing house receipts were also sharply reduced because of poor crop quality.

GROWING CONDITIONS: Weather conditions during 1976 were very adverse and peach damage was especially heavy. Fruit quality was severely affected by freezing temperatures at blossom time. Most buds developed split pits and quality of many offerings was variable at harvest time.

HARVEST: Light picking of some cling varieties began in middle July. Harvest of freestone varieties started in late July and early August. Red Havens accounted for almost 35 percent of the total freestone production. Other Haven varieties in moderate supply during August are Kalhaven, Crest Haven, and Glohaven. In early September Redskins are the dominant variety and supplies were available until middle September.

MARKETING: The 1976 supplies of packed and graded fruit were extremely light. The first 1976 market report covering F.O.B. sales was released on August 2nd. Red Haven prices were sharply higher in 1976 and 3/4 bushel crates, U.S. number one, 2 1/8 inch and up sold at \$8.75 to \$9.00, compared with mostly \$8.00 in 1975. August sales fluctuated very little and prices were mostly \$8.75 to \$9.00 for Red Havens, however, market prices declined in late August as Kalhaven, Glohaven and Crest Haven were offered. In September Redskin sales ranged from \$7.00 to \$8.00 early in the month and as supplies decreased prices advanced to \$9.00-\$9.25. Many peach offerings were sold direct from orchards ungraded in various containers to seasonal buyers and U-pick operations. The final market report covering peach prices was issued on September 13th.

PACKAGE: Most fruit shipped from packing houses was packed in 3/4 bushel crates. Because of the adverse quality in 1976 the volume of ungraded fruit increased. These offerings were packed into bushel crates, bushel baskets and 1/2 bushel baskets.

TRANSPORTATION: All Michigan peaches were shipped by truck. The carlot conversion factor is 900 3/4 bushel crates and 1350 1/2 bushel baskets per one carlot equivalent.

41 CITIES: The principal wholesale terminal markets selling Michigan peaches during 1976 were Detroit 11, Chicago 34 and Louisville 9.

FRESH AND PROCESSED UTILIZATION OF PEACHES

USE AND STATE	QUANTITY		PRICE PER UNIT	
	1975	1976	1975	1976
	MILLION POUNDS		CENTS PER POUND	
<u>FRESH</u>				
Alabama	7.0	14.0	22.7	15.3
California				
Clingstone	3.4	4.0	7.0	6.8
Freestone	201.0	248.0	7.1	8.0
Colorado	16.0	14.0	17.0	16.8
Connecticut	5.4	4.1	20.0	26.0
Delaware	3.2	1.6	10.1	17.0
Idaho	10.5	12.0	11.6	10.0
Indiana	10.0	5.5	17.8	9.6
Kansas	11.0	4.0	13.5	16.5
Kentucky	16.5	9.0	14.0	15.3
Louisiana	3.0	7.0	20.5	16.0
Maryland ^{1/}	20.0		13.6	
Massachusetts	5.3	4.5	20.0	26.0
MICHIGAN ^{1/}				
Mississippi	4.0	6.0	19.0	15.0
Missouri	23.0	22.5	15.6	18.8
Ohio ^{1/}		12.0		13.7
Oklahoma ^{1/}				
Pennsylvania	103.4	101.8	12.6	13.6
South Carolina	195.0	232.6	16.9	15.3
Tennessee	8.7	8.0	13.5	13.5
Texas	16.0	20.0	22.0	18.0
Utah	16.0	17.8	13.4	12.7
Virginia	26.8	12.9	14.0	14.0
Washington ^{1/}	28.1		10.4	
West Virginia	25.8	14.2	12.0	14.8
OTHER STATES	353.4	369.2	18.6	14.6
UNITED STATES	1,112.5	1,144.7	14.9	13.4
<u>PROCESSED</u>				
			<u>DOLLARS PER TON ^{2/}</u>	
California				
Clingstone	1,286.6	1,188.0	150.00	137.00
Freestone	188.0	216.0	132.00	131.00
Maryland ^{1/}	3.0		96.00	
MICHIGAN ^{1/}				
Pennsylvania	6.6	8.2	138.00	131.00
South Carolina	15.0	22.4	130.00	118.00
Virginia	5.2	2.1	94.00	119.00
Washington ^{1/}	9.6		109.00	
West Virginia	2.2	.8	82.00	135.00
OTHER STATES	35.4	60.4	95.00	98.00
UNITED STATES	1,551.6	1,497.9	146.00	134.00

^{1/} Missing data included in other states to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

^{2/} Excluding dried peaches.

SOURCE: Noncitrus Fruits & Nuts 1976 Annual Summary.
Released by Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA.

UTILIZED PRODUCTION BY STATES OF PEACHES

STATE	48 POUND EQUIVALENTS UTILIZED		MILLION POUNDS TOTAL	
	1975	1976	1975	1976
	<u>1,000 UNITS</u>			
Alabama	146	292	7.0	14.0
Arkansas	729	856	35.0	42.0
California				
Freestone	8,104	9,667	389.0	464.0
Colorado	333	292	16.7	14.5
Connecticut	113	85	5.4	4.1
Delaware	67	33	3.2	1.6
Georgia	1,979	2,917	95.0	200.0
Idaho	219	250	10.5	12.0
Illinois	563	417	27.0	20.0
Indiana	208	115	10.0	5.5
Kansas	229	83	11.0	4.0
Kentucky	344	188	16.5	9.0
Louisiana	63	146	3.0	7.0
Maryland	479	313	23.0	15.0
Massachusetts	110	94	5.3	4.5
MICHIGAN	1,146	833	65.0	40.0
Mississippi	83	125	4.0	6.0
Missouri	479	469	23.0	22.5
New Jersey	1,875	1,563	95.0	80.0
New York	354	198	17.0	9.5
North Carolina	625	521	30.0	25.0
Ohio	417	250	20.0	12.0
Oklahoma	142	167	6.8	8.0
Oregon	271	313	13.0	15.0
Pennsylvania	2,292	2,292	110.0	110.0
South Carolina	4,375	5,313	210.0	255.0
Tennessee	181	167	8.7	8.0
Texas	333	417	16.0	21.0
Utah	333	371	16.0	18.0
Virginia	667	313	32.0	15.0
Washington	785	854	38.0	42.0
West Virginia	583	313	28.0	15.0
TOTAL ABOVE	28,627	30,227	1,390.1	1,519.2
California				
Clingstone	26,875	24,833	1,452.0	1,496.0
UNITED STATES	55,502	55,060	2,842.1	3,015.2

SOURCE: Noncitrus Fruits & Nuts 1976 Annual Summary.
Released by Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA.

SEASON AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY GROWERS,
AND VALUE OF PRODUCTION 1975 & 1976 FOR PEACHES

STATE	PRICE PER POUND		VALUE OF PRODUCTION	
	1975	1976	1975	1976
	CENTS		1,000 DOLLARS	
Alabama	22.7	15.3	1,589	2,142
Arkansas	13.7	11.6	4,795	4,768
California				
Freestone	6.5	7.3	25,285	33,872
Colorado	17.0	16.8	2,720	2,352
Connecticut	20.0	26.0	1,080	1,066
Delaware	10.1	17.0	373	272
Georgia	23.8	12.0	22,610	16,800
Idaho	11.6	10.0	1,218	1,200
Illinois	13.8	14.5	3,726	2,900
Indiana	17.8	9.6	1,780	528
Kansas	13.5	16.5	1,485	660
Kentucky	14.0	15.3	2,310	1,377
Louisiana	20.5	16.0	615	1,120
Maryland	12.5	14.0	2,875	2,100
Massachusetts	20.0	26.0	1,060	1,170
MICHIGAN	13.4	14.1	7,370	5,640
Mississippi	19.0	15.0	760	900
Missouri	15.6	18.8	3,588	4,230
New Jersey	15.7	16.2	14,130	12,150
New York	16.3	17.0	2,771	1,615
North Carolina	17.5	13.3	5,250	3,325
Ohio	17.7	18.7	3,540	2,244
Oklahoma	13.9	14.0	945	1,120
Oregon	17.0	17.6	2,210	2,640
Pennsylvania	12.3	13.1	13,530	14,410
South Carolina	16.2	14.5	34,020	36,975
Tennessee	13.5	13.5	1,175	1,080
Texas	22.0	18.0	3,520	3,600
Utah	13.4	12.7	2,144	2,261
Virginia	12.5	12.9	4,000	1,935
Washington	9.2	8.9	3,468	3,649
West Virginia	11.4	14.4	3,192	2,160
TOTAL ABOVE	13.0	11.9	179,084	172,261
California				
Clingstone	7.5	6.9	96,750	82,248
UNITED STATES	10.4	9.6	275,834	254,509

SOURCE: Noncitrus Fruits & Nuts 1976 Annual Summary.
Released by Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA.

BENTON HARBOR FRUIT MARKET PEACH MOVEMENT

Most offerings are 1/2 bushel baskets and the carlot conversion factor is 1350

DATE	1976	1975	1974	DATE	1976	1975	1974
July 16	1	-	-	August 26	3	3	3
18	1	-	-	27	3	2	3
19	1	-	-	28	3	3	4
20	1	-	-	29	-	2	4
22	2	-	-	30	2	-	4
23	1	-	-	31	3	1	-
25	2	1	1	September 1	2	2	-
26	1	2	1	2	3	3	4
27	2	-	-	3	3	3	4
28	2	1	1	4	3	4	4
29	3	2	1	5	-	4	4
30	4	3	2	6	3	-	5
31	3	3	2	7	3	5	-
August 1	-	3	3	8	2	3	6
2	3	3	2	9	2	4	5
3	4	-	-	10	2	4	5
4	3	3	3	11	2	3	5
5	4	3	2	12	-	2	5
6	5	3	3	13	1	-	5
7	5	5	3	14	1	4	-
8	-	5	5	15	1	2	5
9	3	5	6	16	1	1	5
10	3	-	-	17	-	1	3
11	4	4	7	18	-	1	3
12	4	6	5	19	-	1	3
13	4	5	8	20	-	1	3
14	-	4	7	21	-	1	-
15	4	6	8	22	-	-	1
16	2	3	9	23	-	-	1
17	3	3	-	24	-	-	1
18	4	3	10	25	-	-	1
19	2	4	5	26	-	-	1
20	4	4	7	27	-	-	1
21	3	4	5	29	-	-	1
22	-	4	5				
23	1	-	5				
24	-	2	-				
25	3	2	5				
				TOTALS	135	156	220

Continued on next column

SOURCE: Daily Market News bulletin from data furnished by the Market Manager, Benton Harbor Fruit Market.

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BENTON HARBOR FRUIT MARKET 1976 SEASON

Prices paid to growers for US#1 grade packed in 3/4 bushel crates. Predominate varieties only.

DATE	RED HAVEN			
	<u>1 3/4"</u>	2"	<u>2 1/8"</u>	<u>2 1/4"</u>
July 28			8.25	
29			8.00	
30	5.00			
August 2				8.55
3		7.50-8.00	8.50	9.00
4	6.50		8.50	9.25
5		8.00	8.50	9.00
6		7.00-7.50	7.50-8.00	
10			7.50-8.00	
11	5.50	7.75		
13	5.00	6.00		
16		7.00		
18	5.00			
19	5.50			

DATE	GARNET BEAUTY			GLOHAVEN
	<u>2"</u>	<u>2 1/4"</u>	<u>1 3/4"</u>	<u>2 1/4"</u>
July 19		5.60		
20		5.00		
21	5.50	5.00	5.00-5.50	
23			3.00	
26	5.30			
28	5.75			
Aug. 11				8.25
12				8.25
16				8.50
20				8.00

BENTON HARBOR FRUIT MARKET SUMMARIZATION PEACH DATA 1966 - 1976

675 BUSHEL PER CARLOT. SEASON AVERAGE & 10-YEAR AVERAGE PRICE ON A WEIGHTED BASIS.

SEASON	C/L EQUIV.	SEASON AVERAGE PRICE			CASH RETURNS FOR SEASON ALL CONTAINERS
		BUSHEL	3/4 BU.	1/2 BU.	
1966	237	\$4.00	\$5.23	\$2.39	\$679,802
1967	362	3.80	5.22	2.45	1,142,002
1968	152	3.89	3.72	2.29	398,454
1969	482	1.94	2.53	1.35	813,913
1970	229	3.42	3.43	1.80	795,299
1971	281	2.82	3.12	1.70	677,452
1972	18	7.50	6.70	5.05	116,748
1973	132	5.50	5.91	3.38	621,306
1974	220	5.85	6.51	3.34	1,067,110
1975	156	6.85	6.71	4.11	867,768
10-YEAR AVERAGE	230	4.56	4.91	2.79	717,985
1976	135	7.50	7.37	4.00	750,707

NUMBER OF BEARING PEACH TREES IN MICHIGAN 1967 - 1976

<u>1976*</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
1,460	1,460	1,480	1,480	1,530	1,600	1,550	1,470	1,400	1,340
(Number of trees bearing age - 000 omitted)				(*) Estimated					

NUMBER OF ACRES

<u>1976*</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
14,300	14,300	14,700	14,800	15,600	16,500	16,100	15,500	14,900	14,400
(*) Estimated									

SOURCE: Michigan Fruit Tree Survey, 1976 Annual Summary.

Michigan Crop Reporting Service, P.O. Box 1020, Lansing, MI 48904

THE FOLLOWING CHART SHOWS THE FLUCTUATION OF WEST MICHIGAN F.O.B. PEACH PRICES FOR 1976

F.O.B. sales by principal packing houses in Western Michigan are based on U.S.#1 fruit. Variety and sizes as indicated packed in 3/4 bushel wirebound crates hydrocooling included.

DATE	RED HAVEN		
	2"	2 1/8"	2 1/4"
August 2		8.75-9.00	9.50
3		8.75-9.00	9.25-9.50
4		8.75-9.00	9.25-9.50
5		8.75-9.00	9.25-9.50
6		8.75-9.00	9.25-9.50
9	8.00-8.50	8.75-9.00	9.25-9.50
10	8.00-8.50	8.75-9.00	9.25-9.50
11	8.00-8.50	8.75-9.00	9.25-9.50
12	8.00-8.50	8.75	9.00
13	7.75-8.00	8.50-8.75	8.75-9.00
16	7.50-8.00	8.25-8.50	8.75-9.00
17	7.50	8.00-8.50	8.75-9.00
18	7.50	8.00-8.50	8.75-9.00
19	7.75-8.00	8.75-9.00	8.75-9.00
20	7.75-8.00	8.75-9.00	9.25
23	7.50-8.00	8.50-9.00	9.25
24	7.00-7.25	7.50-8.00	8.50
25	7.00-7.25	7.50-8.00	8.50-9.00
26	7.00-7.25	7.50-8.00	8.50-9.00
27	6.75-7.00	7.00-8.00	8.50
30	6.75-7.00	7.00-8.00	8.50
31	6.75-7.00	7.00-8.00	8.50

DATE	REDSKIN		
	2"	2 1/8"	2 1/4"
September 1	6.75-7.00	7.00-8.00	8.50
2	6.75-7.00	7.00-8.00	8.50
3	7.00	7.50-8.00	8.50-9.00
7		8.50-9.00	
8		9.00-9.25	9.50
9		9.00-9.25	9.50
10		9.00-9.25	9.50
13		9.00-9.25	9.50

SOURCE: Daily Market News Bulletin, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

1976 DAILY PRICE RANGE FOR SALES OF MICHIGAN PEACHES AT IMPORTANT WHOLESALE TERMINALS

Quotations are for US#1 grade packed in 3/4 bushel crates up size unless otherwise stated

DETROIT

DATE	RED HAVEN 2 1/8"	CREST HAVEN 2 1/8"	GLOHAVEN 2 1/4"	2 1/8"
August 12	9.50			
25	8.50-9.00	8.50		
27	9.00-9.50	8.50-9.50	9.50	
30	9.00		9.00	
Sept. 1		9.00		9.00-9.50
2				9.25-9.50
7		9.00		9.25-9.50

CINCINNATI

DATE	REDSKIN 2"	REDSKIN 2 1/4"	RED HAVEN 2"
Sept. 2		14.25	7.50-8.00
7	9.00		

CLEVELAND

DATE	REDSKIN 2 1/8"	42S 2 LAYER
August 31		6.25-6.50
Sept. 1	8.50	6.25-6.50

LOUISVILLE

DATE	REDSKIN 2 1/8"
August 31	9.00

S.T. LOUIS

DATE	BABY GOLD 2 1/8"
August 30	7.50-8.00

COMBINED PEACH RAIL AND TRUCK UNLOADS IN 41 CITIES 1976 SEASON

TOTALS FROM MAY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30 IN CARLOT EQUIVALENTS

CITIES	AL	AR	CA	FL	GA	MD	MI	NJ	NC	PA	SC	VA	WV	OTHERS	TOTAL
Albany	-	-	1	3	43	-	-	16	3	14	30	1	13	5	129
Baltimore- Washington	1	-	5	57	86	13	1	12	25	39	311	7	30	1	308
Boston	-	-	12	40	169	12	-	192	15	38	265	-	8	3	754
Buffalo	1	-	4	6	27	4	-	1	31	7	15	5	6	19	126
New York City- Newark	-	-	50	178	192	2	-	409	164	104	606	-	11	1	1717
Philadelphia	-	-	23	22	140	3	-	127	42	21	162	5	9	1	555
Pittsburgh	-	-	15	8	28	3	3	19	10	39	99	4	23	2	253
Providence	-	-	3	4	1	1	-	6	41	-	33	-	-	-	89
TOTAL EAST	2	-	113	318	686	38	4	782	331	262	1241	22	100	32	3931
Chicago	3	15	196	40	109	4	34	26	24	15	154	1	10	73	704
Cincinnati	1	-	31	12	77	2	3	32	3	2	41	-	25	10	239
Cleveland	-	1	9	22	55	-	11	42	17	5	113	-	8	26	299
Detroit	5	2	69	25	88	-	11	67	26	2	137	1	3	2	438
Indianapolis	1	-	15	15	12	-	1	13	1	12	36	-	-	6	112
Kansas City	-	7	73	-	25	-	-	4	4	1	4	2	-	32	152
Louisville	-	1	4	-	32	6	9	-	-	5	53	3	1	11	125
Milwaukee	-	-	41	-	11	-	1	-	-	8	8	-	2	3	74
Minneapolis- St. Paul	-	-	210	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	28	244
St. Louis	3	30	75	1	38	-	1	3	1	-	17	1	-	84	254
TOTAL MIDWEST	13	56	723	115	449	12	61	187	77	50	566	8	49	275	2641
Atlanta	-	-	4	-	173	2	-	6	9	3	79	2	3	4	285
Birmingham	17	-	5	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	1	7	37
Columbia, SC	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	380	2	3	-	392
Dallas	-	-	206	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	264
Fort Worth	-	1	19	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	27
Houston	-	-	53	2	36	-	-	1	-	-	11	-	-	8	111
Memphis	-	3	5	-	6	-	-	2	-	-	4	2	-	11	33
Miami	1	-	7	11	68	3	1	43	17	-	49	3	5	1	209
Nashville	33	1	1	9	8	-	-	9	8	-	24	-	-	10	103
New Orleans	1	1	74	4	13	-	-	4	1	-	41	-	-	19	158
Oklahoma	-	3	35	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	47
San Antonio	10	1	179	2	18	-	-	2	1	-	18	-	1	63	295
TOTAL SOUTH	62	10	590	29	334	5	1	70	37	3	608	11	13	188	1961
Denver	-	-	178	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	269
Los Angeles	-	-	1399	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	1417
Portland	-	-	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	112
Salt Lake City	-	-	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	105
San Francisco- Oakland	-	-	675	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	678
Seattle-	-	-	2498	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	174	272
Tacoma	-	-	2498	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	174	272
TOTAL WEST	-	-	2489	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	364	2853
TOTAL U.S.	77	66	3915	462	1969	55	66	1039	445	315	2415	41	162	859	11,386
Montreal, Que.	-	-	137	29	85	-	-	83	-	-	71	-	-	348	753
Ottawa, Ont.	-	-	17	-	6	-	-	3	-	-	8	-	-	132	166
Toronto, Ont.	-	-	92	11	74	-	-	37	34	-	72	-	-	112	432
Vancouver, BC	-	-	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85	149
Winnipeg, Man.	-	-	43	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	1	68	136
TOTAL CANADA	-	-	353	40	179	-	-	123	34	-	161	-	1	745	1636

SOURCE: Market News Branch, Transportation Section, Washington, D.C.

PLANTED ACREAGE: According to the Statistical Crop Reporting Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the total Michigan planted acreage was unchanged in 1976 at 7,400 acres. The total number of bearing trees was also unchanged at 700,000 in 1976.

PRODUCTION: Michigan plum-prune production decreased sharply in 1976 reflecting poor growing conditions. Only 12,000 tons were harvested in 1976, compared with 18,000 tons in 1975. The total United States production was 187,600 tons in 1976, compared with 196,600 tons in 1975. Michigan and Idaho accounted for the largest decrease of 6,000 and 3,000 tons respectively. Oregon and Washington production however, increased slightly with 1,000 and 2,000 tons. The Benton Harbor Fruit Market deliveries also declined sharply in 1976 to a 10 year record low volume. In 1976 only 17,871 half bushel baskets were recorded, compared with 61,222 half bushel baskets in 1975. The movement directly from packing houses was not reported, however a substantial amount was shipped in 1976. The Stanley prune variety represented about 85 percent of Michigan's tree population. Southwestern Michigan accounted for about 45 percent, West Central growing areas 32 percent and the remaining 23 percent was located in the Northwestern growing area.

GROWING CONDITIONS: Unseasonably warm weather in late March prematurely forced bud development three weeks ahead of schedule. The freezing temperatures of late April caused heavy damage especially in Southwestern Michigan. Buds that escaped the frost conditions produced larger than normal fruit at harvest time. Some fruit that escaped the spring freezes was subject to high winds and very dry periods in late August which caused some tree stress.

HARVEST: Lightly scattered picking began in middle August and were about one week earlier than last year because of the lighter offerings. Stanley prune supplies were very light through out the 1976 marketing season and peak volume never occurred. Light supplies were available until September 17th.

MARKETING: The first market news report covering F.O.B. prices was issued on September 1st. The 1976 marketing season was very short and because of the extremely light supplies opening prices were sharply higher. The higher market prices attracted some growers with processed volume to pack for fresh market. August prices for half bushel cartons precooled sold at mostly \$5.00-\$5.25 in 1976, compared with \$4.00-\$4.25 in 1975. Shortly after Labor Day on September 10th, inadequate supplies and disinterested buyers depressed market conditions and prices declined to \$3.75-\$4.00. The final market news report was issued for prunes on September 17th.

PACKAGE: The 1976 volume was split between 1/2 bushel and 30 pound cartons. The packing house trends seems to be toward the 30 pound carton while the Benton Harbor Fruit Market is practically all 1/2 bushel cartons.

TRANSPORTATION: Practically all plums and prunes were shipped by truck. The conversion factor is 1250 half bushel or 30 pound cartons per carlot equivalent.

41 CITIES: The principal wholesale terminal markets handling Michigan Stanley prunes were Chicago 16, Cleveland 10, Detroit 9, and Pittsburgh 7 carlot equivalents.

PLUMS - PRUNES

STATE AND SEASON	PRODUCTION		UTILIZATION		PRICE PER TON			VALUE OF UTILIZED PRODUCTION
	TOTAL	UTILIZED	FRESH	PROCESSED	FRESH	PROCESSED	ALL	
	TONS				DOLLARS			1,000 DOLLARS
MICHIGAN								
1974 2/	12,000	12,000					175.00	2,100
1975	18,000	18,000	5,400	12,600	180.00	94.00	120.00	2,160
1976	12,000	12,000	3,400	8,600	230.00	90.00	130.00	1,560
IDAHO								
1974 2/	6,100	6,100					266.00	1,623
1975	4,000	3,500	3,500		200.00		200.00	700
1976	7,000	5,500	5,500		242.00		242.00	1,331
OREGON								
1974	28,000	28,000	8,000	20,000	146.00	151.00	150.00	4,200
1975	30,000	27,500	9,000	18,500	128.00	91.00	127.00	3,493
1976	31,000	29,000	10,500	18,500	206.00	96.00	136.00	3,944
WASHINGTON								
1974	21,100	21,100	16,150	4,950	137.00	71.70	122.00	2,574
1975	20,600	20,600	16,050	4,550	122.00	49.50	106.00	2,184
1976	22,600	22,600	16,800	5,800	116.00	44.60	97.70	2,208
4-STATE TOTAL								
1974	67,200	67,200	34,350	32,850	177.00	134.00	156.00	10,497
1975	72,600	69,600	33,950	35,650	141.00	86.80	123.00	8,537
1976	72,600	69,100	36,200	32,900	153.00	85.40	131.00	9,043

2/ Missing data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

STATE	QUANTITY			PRICE PER TON		1976
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	
	TONS			DOLLARS		
CANNED						
MICHIGAN	5,700	10,100	8,300	132.00	86.00	81.00
Oregon 1/	11,100					
2-STATE TOTAL	16,800	10,100	8,300	132.00	86.00	81.00

1/ Missing data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

SOURCE: Noncitrus Fruits & Nuts 1976 Annual Summary.
Furnished by Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA.

1976 BENTON HARBOR FRUIT MARKET PLUM-PRUNE MOVEMENT
 CARLOT CONVERSION FACTOR OF 1250 FOR 1/2 BUSHELS

DATE	1976	1975	1974	DATE	1976	1975	1974
August				September			
1	-	-	-	16	-	1	1
2	-	1	-	17	-	1	1
3	-	-	-	18	-	1	-
4	-	-	-	19	-	1	1
5	-	-	-	20	-	-	1
6	-	-	-	21	-	-	1
7	-	-	-	22	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	23	-	1	-
9	-	-	-	24	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	25	-	1	-
11	-	-	-	26	-	-	-
12	-	-	-	27	-	-	-
13	1	-	-	28	-	1	-
14	-	-	-	29	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	30	-	-	-
16	-	1	-	October			
17	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
18	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
19	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
21	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
22	-	-	-	6	-	-	-
23	2	1	-	7	-	-	-
24	1	-	-	8	-	1	-
25	1	1	-	9	-	-	-
26	1	1	-	10	-	-	-
27	1	-	1	11	-	-	-
28	1	1	2	12	-	-	-
29	-	3	3	13	-	1	-
30	1	2	3	-----			
31	-	2	5	TOTALS	14	49	53
September				-----			
1	1	1	-	SOURCE: Daily market news bulletin from data furnished			
2	-	2	3	by the Market Manager Benton Harbor Fruit Market.			
3	1	3	3				
4	1	3	4				
5	-	2	4				
6	-	-	4				
7	-	2	4				
8	1	2	-				
9	-	2	3				
10	-	2	3				
11	-	2	2				
12	-	2	2				
13	-	-	1				
14	-	2	1				
15	-	1	-				

Continued on next column

BENTON HARBOR FRUIT MARKET SUMMARIZATION DATA PLUM - PRUNE 1966 - 1976

1950 ½ BUSHEL PER CARLOT. SEASON AVERAGE & 10-YEAR AVERAGE PRICE ON WEIGHTED BASIS

SEASON	½ BUSHEL	C/L EQUIV.	SEASON AVERAGE PRICE		CASH RETURNS SEASON
			8 QT. CTNS	BUSHEL	
1966	151,250	121		\$2.23	\$242,242
1967	128,750	103		2.41	222,811
1968	73,750	59		3.12	166,476
1969	126,250	101		1.80	226,432
1970	87,500	70		2.60	226,356
1971	127,500	102		1.71	218,098
1972	73,750	59		3.54	259,595
1973	43,750	35		4.01	174,126
1974	62,500	50		4.15	260,790
1975	61,250	49		3.07	187,952
10-YEAR AVERAGE	93,625	75		2.86	218,488
1976	19,993	15	4.68	4.90	97,499

THE FOLLOWING CHART SHOWS THE FLUCTUATION OF 1976 WEST MICHIGAN F.O.B. PLUM-PRUNE PR

F.O.B. sales by principal packing houses in Western Michigan. Quotations are based on U.S. Number 1 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ " hydrocooled 1/2 bushel and 30 pound cartons.

DATE	STANLEYS 1/2 BU.	STANLEYS 30 LB.
Sept. 1	5.00-5.25	6.00-6.25
2	5.00-5.25	6.00-6.25
3	5.00-5.25	6.00-6.25
7	5.00-5.25	
8	5.00-5.25	
9	5.00-5.25	
10	4.00-4.25	
13	3.75-4.00	
14	3.75-4.00	
15	3.75-4.00	
16	3.75-4.00	
17	3.75-4.00	

1976 DAILY PRICE RANGE FOR SALES OF MICHIGAN PLUMS-PRUNES AT IMPORTANT WHOLESALE TERMINAL MARKETS.

Quotations are for Stanleys US#1 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ " hydrocooled 1/2 bushel cartons unless otherwise stated.

CLEVELAND

DATE	STANLEY 1 1/8"
Sept. 15	5.00-5.50
16	5.00-5.50

DETROIT

DATE	STANLEY 1/2 BU.
Sept. 7	6.00-6.50
15	6.75
16	5.50-6.50

PITTSBURGH

DATE	STANLEY	
	MED	SML
Sept. 14	5.50-6.00	
15	6.00-6.50	
16	6.00-6.50	5.00-5.50
20	6.00-6.50	

PRINCIPAL WHOLESALE TERMINAL MARKETS REPORTING UNLOADS OF THE 1976 PLUM - PRUNE CROP

RAIL AND TRUCK COMBINED

STATE OF ORIGIN	AUG.	SEPT.	AUG. THRU SEPT. TOTAL
<u>BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS</u>			
California	68	20	88
Idaho	3	8	11
MICHIGAN	-	3	3
New York	1	1	2
Oregon	19	19	38
Washington	13	4	17
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>159</u>
<u>CHICAGO, ILLINOIS</u>			
California	148	18	166
Idaho	1	2	3
MICHIGAN	-	16	16
Oregon	24	39	63
Washington	34	13	47
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>295</u>
<u>CINCINNATI, OHIO</u>			
California	27	8	35
Idaho	1	3	4
MICHIGAN	-	4	4
Washington	10	15	25
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>68</u>
<u>CLEVELAND, OHIO</u>			
California	26	11	37
Idaho	3	6	9
MICHIGAN	1	7	8
Ohio	1	1	2
Oregon	3	-	3
Washington	3	14	17
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>76</u>
<u>DETROIT, MICHIGAN</u>			
California	61	23	84
Idaho	-	3	3
MICHIGAN	-	8	8
Oregon	3	2	5
Washington	11	15	26
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>126</u>
<u>PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA</u>			
California	31	7	38
Idaho	3	4	7
MICHIGAN	1	6	7
New York	-	2	2
Oregon	8	9	17
Pennsylvania	2	1	3
Washington	5	5	10
West Virginia	1	-	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>85</u>
<u>ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI</u>			
California	16	7	23
Idaho	4	10	14
Illinois	1	-	1
MICHIGAN	-	1	1
Oregon	1	-	1
Washington	14	10	24
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>64</u>
<u>TOTAL AUG. THRU SEPT.</u>	<u>585</u>	<u>343</u>	<u>928</u>
<u>OTHER CITIES</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>307</u>	<u>827</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>1105</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>1755</u>

SOURCE: Market News Branch. Transportation Section. Washington, D.C.