

SURVEY OF ORCHARD FRUIT OCTOBER 2009 – ENGLAND & WALES

The latest National Statistics produced by Defra from the Orchard Fruit Survey were released on 25 March 2010, according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. This release shows the tree area of commercial orchards at October 2009 for the main varieties of fruit.

The key results are given below.

Apples ([Table 2](#))

The total area covered by apple trees has increased slightly by 1.7% since 2007 to 13,594 hectares. Cider apple varieties make up the greatest area of apple orchards covering 6,624 hectares.

Pears ([Table 3](#))

Since 2007 the total planted area for pears has increased by 6.6% to 1,677 hectares. The variety which covers the majority of this area is Conference pears with 1,335 hectares.

Plums ([Table 4](#))

The total area covered by plum trees has increased by 4.0% since 2007 to 869 hectares. The plum variety which covers the greatest area is Victoria with 420 hectares.

Other fruit ([Table 5](#))

Other orchard fruit has increased in area by nearly 7% since 2007 to 649 hectares. The majority of this area is covered by cherry trees with 478 hectares.

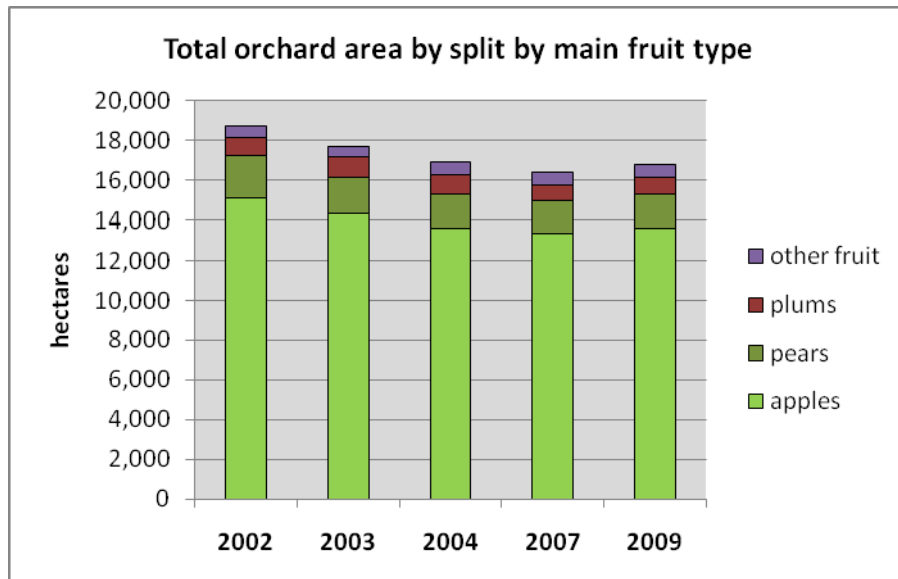
The 2009 Orchard Fruit Survey contained new questions which aimed to gather data regarding the end use of each apple variety splitting this between dessert/culinary apples and cider/juicing apples. This may have had an influence on some apple varieties which have previously been recorded as cider apples. The results of these new questions will be published by the end of April.

For further details from this survey, please visit:

<http://defraweb/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/landusellivestock/orchardfruit/index.htm>. Alternatively, you can contact us on 01904 455407.

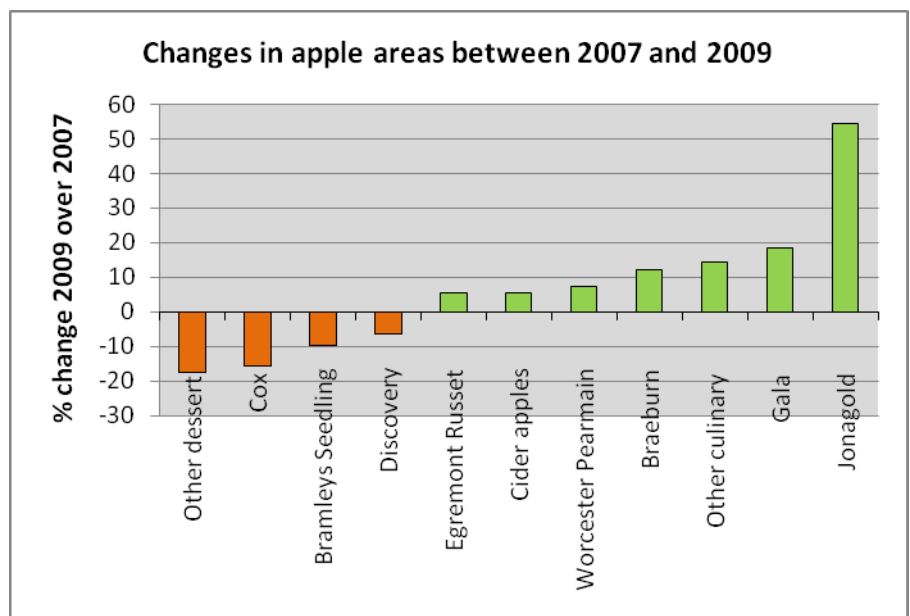
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Main findings



The results of the survey show that the decline in total orchard area which has been evident since 2002 has reversed in 2009 with the total orchard area showing an increase of 3% to 16,800 hectares.

In 2009 the survey results show that the single apple variety covering the greatest area is Bramleys Seedling with 1,955 hectares, however this area shows nearly a 10% decrease on the 2007 area for this variety. The variety with the next largest area, Cox, has also shown a decrease on its 2007 area of 16%, indicating that some newer varieties, namely Jonagold, are growing in popularity.



Survey methodology

The results provided in this release are based on a sample of agricultural holdings who in the June survey of agriculture and horticulture indicated having commercial orchards. The survey was sent to 800 holdings and results are based on approximately 580 holdings giving a response rate of 72%. Many thanks to all of the farmers who completed a survey form.

Other survey results

Results from all the Defra farming surveys can be viewed on the Defra website at www.defra.gov.uk, under "Science, economics and statistics" in the Resources section, then "Statistics", then "Food and Farming Statistics". This also contains details of future publication dates and queryable datasets from previous surveys.

Results

1. Total orchard area

Table 1 Total area covered by orchards

	2002	2003	2004	2007	2009	hectares % change 2009 / 2007
Total orchard area	18,738	17,671	16,909	16,380	16,788	2.5

The Orchard Fruit survey collects data on the tree areas of each variety, rather than the field size. For this reason, results are not directly comparable to those in the June survey of agriculture and horticulture.

2. Apples

Table 2 Total area covered by apple trees

	2002	2003	2004	2007	2009	hectares % change 2009 / 2007
Total apple area	15,110	14,346	13,612	13,364	13,594	1.7
Discovery	339	264	301	189	177	-6.3
Worcester Pearmain	196	147	213	124	133	7.3
Cox (and clones)	3,015	2,738	3,144	2,128	1,798	-15.5
Egremont Russet	268	264	308	277	293	5.6
Braeburn	..	306	194	271	304	12.1
Gala (and clones)	663	674	669	740	878	18.5
Jonagold (and clones)	201	227	231	204	316	54.6
Cameo (a)	..	..	..	..	36	..
Jazz (a)	..	..	..	..	83	..
Kanzi (a)	..	..	..	..	144	..
Other dessert varieties, of which:	945	729	957	877	724	-17.4
Spartan (b)	195	142	164	137	..	..
Fiesta/Red Pippin (c)	109	..	..	..	..	..
Katy (d)	..	..	..	..	133	..
Bramleys Seedling	2,567	2,266	2,266	2,168	1,955	-9.8
Other culinary apples	178	180	139	115	131	14.5
Cider apples, of which	6,738	6,551	5,190	6,271	6,624	5.6
Bush cider apples	4,304	4,909	3,605	4,590	..	..
Traditional cider apples	2,434	1,642	1,585	1,681	..	..

(a) New category in 2009

(b) Spartan have been included with 'other dessert apples' from 2009

(c) Fiesta/Red Pippin have been included in 'other dessert apples' from 2003

(d) Katy was included in 'other dessert apples' until 2009

3. Pears

Table 3 Total area covered by pear trees

	2002	2003	2004	2007	2009	hectares % change 2009 / 2007
Total pear area	2,102	1,801	1,696	1,573	1,677	6.6
Conference	1,648	1,365	1,383	1,248	1,335	7.0
Comice	232	193	177	176	162	-8.4
Other Pears, of which:	161	184	113	112	128	13.9
Concorde (a)	121	148	83	80	..	..
Bush and Traditional Perry Pears	61	58	23	37	53	42.0

(a) From 2009 Concorde pears are included with 'other pears'

4. Plums

Table 4 Total area covered by plum trees

	2002	2003	2004	2007	2009	hectares % change 2009 / 2007
Total plum area	947	1,003	978	835	869	4.0
Victoria	493	474	532	408	420	3.1
Marjorie's Seedling	148	152	152	144	153	5.9
Other plums	306	377	293	283	296	4.4

5. Other fruit

Table 5 Total area covered by other fruit trees

	2002	2003	2004	2007	2009	hectares % change 2009 / 2007
Total other fruit area	579	522	623	608	649	6.8
Cherries	428	381	389	447	478	7.0
Other top fruit (incl. nuts)	151	140	234	161	171	6.2