



30 May 2013

Survey of Orchard Fruit at October 2012, England and Wales

This release shows the tree area of commercial orchards in England and Wales at October 2012 for the main varieties of fruit.

Key points:

Apples (Table 2)

The total area covered by apple trees continues to grow, increasing by 6.4% since October 2009 to nearly 14.5 thousand hectares. Cider apples continue to make up the largest area covering nearly half of the apple orchard area at 7.2 thousand hectares.

Pears (Table 3)

Since 2009 the total area for pears has shown a decline of 9.0% to 1.5 thousand hectares. Conference pears continue to be the most popular variety covering 1.2 thousand hectares.

Plums (Table 4)

The total area of plum trees has fallen by 3.2% to 0.8 thousand hectares. The most popular variety is still Victoria plum covering 0.4 thousand hectares.

Other fruit (Table 5)

The area covered by other orchard fruit continues to increase, rising by 22% since 2009 to 0.8 thousand hectares. Cherries make up the majority of this area at 0.6 thousand hectares.

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Main findings

Figure 1: Total orchard area split by main fruit type

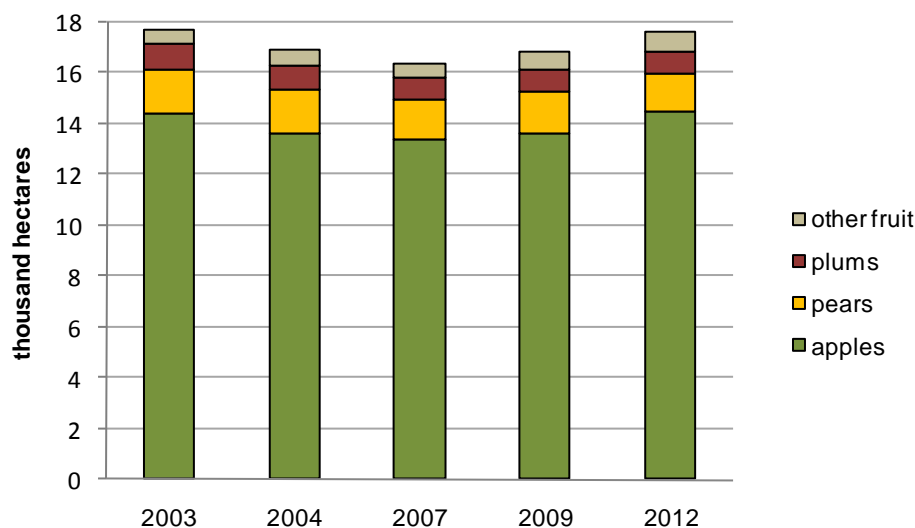
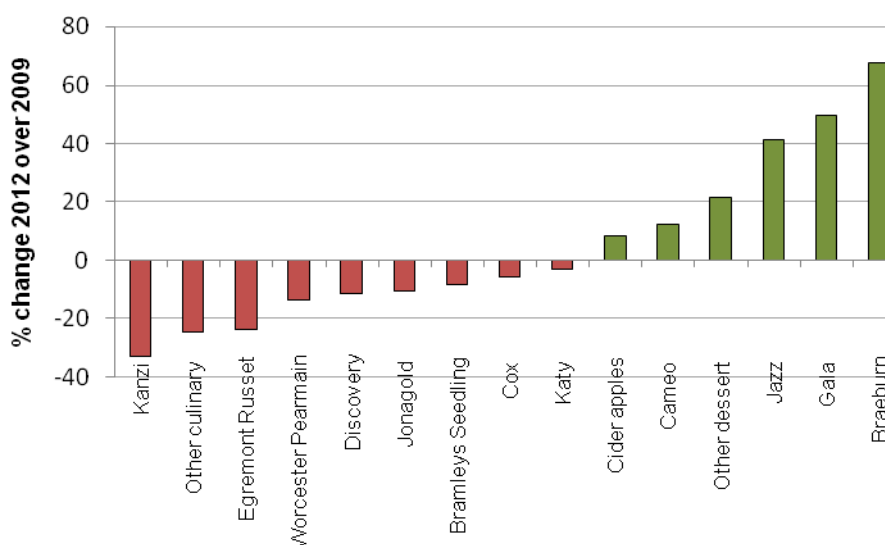


Figure 1 shows that the total orchard area has continued to grow between 2009 and 2012, increasing by 5.0% to 17.6 thousand hectares. This increase in area is mainly driven by the area of apples which has increased by 6.4% over this time period.

Figure 2: Changes in apples areas between 2009 and 2012

The 2012 survey results show that the Bramleys Seedling variety continues to be the single apple variety covering the greatest area, however Figure 2 illustrates that this variety has shown another drop in area, falling by 8.2% over the period to 1.8 thousand hectares. The second most popular variety, Cox, has also continued to decline in area while some of the newer varieties such as Jazz have shown an increase over the period.



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 orchards. The survey was sent to 800 holdings and results are based on approximately 580 holdings giving a response rate of 72%, therefore the results are subject to a degree of sampling error. Many thanks to all of the farmers who completed a survey form.

Table 1: Total area covered by orchards

	hectares					
	2003	2004	2007	2009	2012	% change 2012 - 09
Total orchard area	17 671	16 909	16 380	16 788	17 625	5.0

Table 2: Total area covered by apple trees

	hectares					
	2003	2004	2007	2009	2012	% change 2012 - 09
Total apple area	14 346	13 612	13 364	13 594	14 468	6.4
Discovery	264	301	189	177	157	-11.4
Worcester Pearmain	147	213	124	133	115	-13.5
Cox (and clones)	2 738	3 144	2 128	1 798	1 697	-5.6
Egremont Russet	264	308	277	293	224	-23.5
Braeburn	306	194	271	304	509	67.5
Gala (and clones)	674	669	740	878	1 312	49.5
Jonagold (and clones)	227	231	204	316	283	-10.3
Cameo ^(a)	..	..	..	36	41	12.5
Jazz ^(a)	..	..	..	83	117	41.4
Kanzi ^(a)	..	..	..	144	96	-32.9
Other dessert varieties, of which:	729	957	877	724	847	16.9
Spartan ^(b)	142	164	137	..	..	..
Katy ^(c)	..	..	..	133	129	-3.1
Bramleys Seedling	2 266	2 266	2 168	1 955	1 794	-8.2
Other culinary apples	180	139	115	131	99	-24.6
Cider apples, of which:	6 551	5 190	6 271	6 624	7 178	8.4
Bush cider apples	4 909	3 605	4 590	..	..	..
Traditional cider apples	1 642	1 585	1 681	..	..	..

(a) new category in 2009

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

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

Table 3: Total area covered by pear trees

	hectares					
	2003	2004	2007	2009	2012	% change 2012 - 09
Total pear area	1 801	1 696	1 573	1 677	1 526	-9.0
Conference	1 365	1 383	1 248	1 335	1 203	-9.8
Comice	193	177	176	162	146	-9.5
Other pears, of which:	184	113	112	128	122	-4.5
Concorde ^(a)	148	83	80	..	..	..
Bush and traditional perry pears	58	23	37	53	54	2.2

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

Table 4: Total area covered by plum trees

	hectares					
	2003	2004	2007	2009	2012	% change 2012 - 09
Total plum area	1 003	978	835	869	841	-3.2
Victoria	474	532	408	420	378	-10.1
Marjorie's Seedling	152	152	144	153	161	5.6
Other plums	377	293	283	296	302	2.0

Table 5: Total area covered by other fruit trees

	hectares					
	2003	2004	2007	2009	2012	% change 2012 - 09
Total other fruit area	522	623	608	649	791	21.8
Cherries	381	389	447	478	609	27.3
Other top fruit (incl. nuts)	140	234	161	171	182	6.3