

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Survey of Orchard Fruit Production in Northern Ireland: Results for 2002

A survey of orchard fruit production is carried out every 5 years throughout the European Union. In Northern Ireland, the most recent survey was conducted by Economics & Statistics Division of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) during October and November 2002 when questionnaires were sent to all growers with over one hectare of land devoted to orchard fruit.

The results of this survey are now available on the DARD website. The key findings are:

- 204 orchard fruit growers with 1,451 ha of trees, mainly Bramleys
- 16,900 tonnes of fruit produced
- 29% of the orchard area was planted before 1967
- 26% of growers have definite plans to grub out some trees during the next 5 years, and 18% plan to replant

Notes for Editors

1. This survey was carried out to comply with Directive 76/625/EEC (as amended).
2. The results of the previous survey (1997) were issued in Press Release number 14/98, dated January 27, 1998.