

# WASHINGTON STATE AGRICULTURE

Washington State has three key components that drive its agricultural economy:

- Wide range of excellent climates suitable for permanent crops
- Abundance of productive soils
- Ample fresh water for irrigation

These factors combined with intelligent, progressive, leading-edge farmers and farming methods account for the approximately \$50 billion in annual agricultural economic activity in the state. Washington State produces roughly 300 different crops, second only to California in agricultural diversity. Two of the key crops that are major components of the agricultural industry throughout Washington include wine grapes and apples.

## WINE GRAPES

American Viticultural Areas, or AVAs, are geographical wine grape growing regions in the United States. Washington State AVAs include Ancient Lakes, Columbia Gorge, Columbia Valley, Horse Heaven Hills, Lake Chelan, Lewis-Clark Valley, Naches Heights, Puget Sound, Rattlesnake Hills, Red Mountain, Snipes Mountain, Yakima Valley, Wahluke Slope, Walla Walla Valley and The Rocks District (sub-appellation of Walla Walla Valley).

Washington is second, only to California, in wine grape production at more than 270,000 tons harvested in 2016 by more than 900 wineries and 350 grape growers, up from 650 wineries in 2009.

Forecasts by the Washington State Wine Commission project continued growth in grape harvests, translating to potential record production in coming years. Grape yield forecasts show continued growth of between 5.0% and 9.1% per year through 2019, when wine grape tons harvested are expected to exceed 300,000 tons.

Attention garnered by Washington State wine has increased with production. In 2014, Wine Enthusiast, Wine Spectator, and Wine & Spirits included 32 wineries and 35 distinct wines from Washington State in their "Top of 2014" lists.

## APPLES

Washington produces about 42% of the apples grown in the United States, and 60% of those grown for fresh consumption. Bearing apple acreage in Washington is estimated at about 192,000 acres. The value of Washington apples sold as fresh or processed product is estimated at about \$2.2 billion annually.

Older orchards were most often the Red or Golden Delicious variety and planted about 110 trees per acre. Trees were spaced at roughly 18 feet in width and were 14 feet high, which made pruning, spraying, hand fruit thinning, and picking difficult and labor intensive. These trees are being removed when no longer profitable. The rate of removal and orchard replanting greatly increased in the late 1990's. Most old-standard density orchards range in yield from about 25 to 40 bins per acre.

Newer orchards are planted more intensively, often to "club" varieties. Most plantings on M9 dwarfing rootstock, supported by a "V" or upright trellis, and planted with 1,200 to 1,800 trees per acre. Trees in this intensive style of orchard are usually about 2-3 feet apart and 8-10 feet tall at maturity with rows about 7-9 feet wide, which eases labor and improves spray material coverage. Varieties can be site specific. Newer high density, new variety plantings can yield as high as 100 bins per acre.

### THE WALLA WALLA VALLEY

Of the 14 official American Viticultural Areas in Washington State, the Walla Walla Valley AVA is among the top three in the state for premium wines and premier wineries.

The name Walla Walla is taken from a local Native American name meaning 'many waters'. The Walla Walla Valley is located in southeastern Washington and has a rich agricultural history dating back well over 100 years. Historically, farms in the valley focused on dryland wheat, tree fruit, asparagus, sweet onions, fresh-pack peas, alfalfa for seed, and logging.

The Walla Walla Valley AVA was established in 1984. It is a bi-state AVA with part of the appellation stretching across the state line into Oregon, although almost two-thirds of the AVA is in Washington State. The AVA is wholly contained within the very large Columbia Valley AVA, which allows grapes and wine from the AVA to be labeled with either AVA name and affords flexibility in marketing wine regionally and nationally. The grape and wine industry in the Walla Walla Valley has grown rapidly to meet demand in the last twenty years and today has the highest concentration of wineries in Washington State with more than 150 wineries and approximately 3,000 acres of wine grapes.

The Walla Walla Valley is a climatically diverse growing region. Precipitation varies throughout the valley, with an average of less than 10 inches (250mm) in the western part of the AVA and more than 30 inches (750mm) at the eastern border in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. Thus, the eastern part of the AVA is cooler and somewhat more moist than a number of Washington's growing regions.



# CURRENT FARMING OPERATION

FARMLAND DATA					
Farm #	Tract #	Farmland	Cropland	DCP Cropland	Effective DCP
4587*	12790	955.87	897.43	897.43	814.05
4223	12250	274.47	274.47	274.47	274.47
4221	12248	888.92	787.81	787.81	787.81
4220	12247	703.83	677.20	677.20	677.20
1020	1324	525.48	523.61	523.61	523.61
1020	1325	177.70	105.56	105.56	105.56
4222	12249	2,569.04	2,276.52	2,276.52	2,276.52
3863	11355	5.48	5.48	5.48	5.48
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>6,100.79</b>	<b>5,548.08</b>	<b>5,548.08</b>	<b>5,464.70</b>

\*Farm #4587 has 83.4 Acres enrolled in CRP paying \$5,243.36 annually.

CROP DATA			
Crop	Base Acres	PLC Yield	Crop Election
Wheat	610.97	53	ARC County
Wheat	149.90	55	ARC County
Wheat	624.80	53	ARC County
Wheat	536.60	55	ARC County
Wheat	98.20	55	ARC County
Wheat	104.10	55	ARC County
Wheat	1,228.70	53	ARC County
Corn	14.80	168	ARC County
Wheat	2.50	63	Price Loss Coverage
Canola	0.80	1,026	Price Loss Coverage
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>3,370.57</b>	

## Current Crop: Irrigated and Dryland Wheat

**Irrigated Acres:** State-issued water rights cover irrigation of 1,635 acres m/l from privately-owned wells. Of these acres, there are 1,280 acres m/l being serviced by center pivots with the balance of 355 acres m/l serviced by hand line sprinklers. In addition, there are 167 acres m/l assessed for irrigation by the Westside Irrigation District. In total, there are currently 1,802 acres m/l being irrigated on the property. Additional details regarding water rights and usage, wells, flow rates, irrigation, and current infrastructure can be found later in this brochure.

**Dryland Acres:** There were 3,139 acres of dryland wheat harvested in 2017.

**Crop History:** In previous years, the property has also been planted to a variety of crops including: potatoes, onions, corn, peas, Timothy Hay, and alfalfa.

