

Results of Orchard Worker Survey

*by Dain Craver
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Survey distributed to 100 orchards in the Columbia Valley during Summer 2004. Thirty-six surveys returned representing 20 conventional and 16 organic orchards.

Worker Priorities	
#1	
Conventional	Wages
Organic	Wages
#2	
Conventional	Job Security
Organic	Pesticides
#3	
Conventional	Pesticides
Organic	Job Security
#4	
Conventional	Benefits
Organic	Benefits

Craver also credited the Washington Growers League and the Farm Bureau for keeping orchardists up on occupational hazards, pesticide training, and other safety issues. In addition, he noted that he saw a trend developing toward pedestrian orchards and away from traditional, ladder-oriented operations.