

2005 California Raisin Grape Overhead Trellis Report

Released: July 14, 2006 12:00 P.M. PDT



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service,
California Field Office

RAISIN TYPE GRAPES GROWN USING OVERHEAD TRELLIS SYSTEM

RESULTS

California raisin type grapes using the overhead trellis management system totaled 10,412 acres (bearing and non-bearing) during 2005. This amounted to 4.4 percent of the total raisin type grape acreage. The DOVine and Fiesta varieties had the highest percentage of acreage using the overhead trellis system, at 56.0 percent and 37.9 percent, respectively. Approximately 36 percent of the total raisin type acreage planted since 2001 was managed using this system. More than 11 percent of the raisin type acreage in Madera County, and 10.6 percent of Kern County's acreage, were grown using overhead trellises. Only 1.7 percent of Fresno County's acreage was devoted to this system.

Most California raisins are produced by sun drying after laying the bunches on paper trays on terraces between vine rows. The overhead trellis system has led to increased production of dried-on-the vine raisins, increased machine harvesting, and decreased hand labor use.

PROCEDURES

The California Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture conducts an annual grape acreage survey of California grape growers. The 2005 Grape Acreage Report, published in April, summarized the latest survey results. At the request of the raisin industry, an additional question was added to the grape acreage survey form to gather information on raisin acreage grown using an overhead trellis system. In addition to the overhead trellis system data, producers were asked to update acreage by variety and year planted. Growers were first contacted by mail with telephone follow-up. Field staff personally visited large growers who did not respond by mail. This report summarizes data for raisin type grapes grown using the overhead trellis system.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We sincerely thank the many farm operators, owners, and management firms providing the information. Funding for the raisin type grape acreage report was provided by the Raisin Administrative Committee.

**Raisin Type Grapes:
Total Acreage Standing by Variety, California, 2005**

Variety	Total Acres	Overhead Trellis Acres	Trellis Percentage of Total
Black Corinth ^{1/}	1,908	0	0.0
DOVine	656	367	56.0
Fiesta	11,689	4,435	37.9
Selma Pete	846	208	24.6
Sultana	162	0	0.0
Thompson Seedless	222,096	5,257	2.4
Other Raisin	804	144	17.9
STATE TOTAL	238,161	10,412	4.4

^{1/} Also known as Zante Currant.

**Raisin Type Grapes:
Total Acreage Standing by County, California, 2005**

County	Total Acres	Overhead Trellis Acres	Trellis Percentage of Total
Fresno	152,574	2,617	1.7
Kern	19,026	2,013	10.6
Kings	965	71	7.4
Madera	40,358	4,560	11.3
Merced	762	0	0.0
Riverside	2,409	71	3.0
San Bernardino	152	0	0.0
San Luis Obispo	305	0	0.1
Stanislaus	290	0	0.0
Tulare	21,271	1,079	5.1
Other	50	0	0.0
STATE TOTAL	238,161	10,412	4.4

**Raisin Type Grapes:
Total Acreage Standing by Year Planted, California, 2005**

Year Planted	Total Acres	Overhead Trellis Acres	Trellis Percentage of Total
1997 and Earlier	222,244	5,866	2.6
1998	1,793	40	2.2
1999	2,406	628	26.1
2000	3,428	857	25.0
2001	1,630	702	43.1
2002	1,616	87	5.4
2003	1,970	1,218	61.8
2004	1,196	325	27.1
2005	1,879	690	36.7
STATE TOTAL	238,161	10,412	4.4