



*California*

Grape Acreage  
Report

2008 Crop

April 2009

California Department of Food and Agriculture,  
Sacramento, California

# MAP AND DEFINITIONS OF CALIFORNIA GRAPE PRICING DISTRICTS



1. Mendocino County
2. Lake County
3. Sonoma and Marin Counties
4. Napa County
5. Solano County
6. Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz Counties
7. Monterey and San Benito Counties
8. San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties
9. Yolo County north of Interstate 80 to the junction of Interstate 80 and U.S. 50 and north of U.S. 50; Sacramento County north of U.S. 50; Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, and Sierra Counties.
10. Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties
11. San Joaquin County north of State Highway 4; and Sacramento County south of U.S. 50 and east of Interstate 5
12. San Joaquin County south of State Highway 4; Stanislaus and Merced Counties
13. Madera, Fresno, Alpine, Mono, Inyo Counties; and Kings and Tulare Counties north of Nevada Avenue (Avenue 192)
14. Kings and Tulare Counties south of Nevada Avenue (Avenue 192); and Kern County
15. Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties
16. Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial Counties
17. Yolo County south of Interstate 80 from the Solano County line to the Junction of Interstate 80 and U.S. 50 and south of U.S. 50 and Sacramento County south of U.S. 50 and west of Interstate 5

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## SURVEY METHODS

The California Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts an annual acreage survey of California grape growers. The purpose of this survey is to provide annual grape acreage with information on new plantings and removals. It is a continuation of a long series of industry-funded grape acreage surveys.

Users are cautioned that this report consists of two parts:

- Estimated grape acreage -- bearing, non-bearing, and total.
- Detailed data by variety, and year planted -- as voluntarily reported by grape growers and maintained in NASS' data base.

With perfect information, the estimated grape acreage and the detailed data would be the same. However, this will never be the case for the following reasons:

- A voluntary survey of approximately 8,100 grape growers is unlikely to ever attain 100 percent completeness.
- It is difficult for USDA, NASS to detect growers who are planting grapes for the first time.
- The detailed data reflects vine removals from about 25,000 acres during the past twelve months. Of this number, significant acreage was harvested in 2008 prior to being pulled out. As a result, harvested acreage removed in 2008 is included in the estimated acreage, but excluded from the detailed data.

## PROCEDURES

The major source of the grape detailed data was a questionnaire mailed to all grape growers included on NASS' data base. The mailing was made in late September 2008 to approximately 8,100 grape growers. The questionnaire contained previously reported crop, variety, and acreage information preprinted. Producers were asked to update the information with new plantings, removals, and any other corrections; new growers were mailed a blank questionnaire. Growers were given six weeks to respond by mail. A telephone follow-up was then undertaken. Field personnel personally visited large growers who did not respond by mail.

To arrive at the estimated grape acreage, the NASS grape acreage data base was compared with data provided from the pesticide application data maintained by County Agricultural Commissioners and the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

## DATA CLARIFICATIONS

Bearing and Non-bearing Acreage: For purposes of this publication, all varieties are considered non-bearing for three years ( i.e., acres planted in 2005 would not be bearing until 2008). The only exceptions are the Thompson Seedless variety and all table type grapes in Imperial and Riverside counties, which are of bearing age after one year.

Grafting: Graftings on bearing acres are recorded as planted in the previous year ( i.e., Chardonnay grafted in 2006 onto a 1982 variety is recorded as planted in 2005). This assumes that grafted vines will actually bear a full crop in two years as opposed to three years for a newly planted vine.

Varieties: Data are provided for each variety with 50 or more total acres standing in 2008. Acreage for all other varieties are combined in "Other" categories. Care was taken to properly identify each block reported with a recognized varietal name.

Rootstock: Most of the rootstock shown was planted in the past three years. However, some earlier plantings are included. When rootstock was budded over, the year of planting assigned to that block of grapes was the year preceding the budding. For instance, if a 2004 rootstock planting was budded over in 2006, the year of planting assigned to the selected variety was 2005. (See Grafting.) Nursery rootstock is not included.

Period Covered: The primary intent of the 2008 survey was to record removals of grapes since the 2007 harvest and new planting of grapes during 2008. Acreage abandoned in 2008 was excluded from bearing acreage. Planting activity is accounted for on a calendar-year basis.

Grape Crush Districts: Grape acreage data is also being published by grape crush districts (Table 12). A map with descriptions of those districts is located on the inside front cover.

## RESULTS

California's 2008 wine-type grape acreage is estimated at 526,000 acres. Of the total acres, 482,000 were bearing and 44,000 were non-bearing. Table-type grape acreage totaled 93,000 acres with 83,000 bearing and 10,000 non-bearing. Acreage of raisin-type grapes totaled 225,000 acres, of which 221,000 were bearing and 4,000 were non-bearing.

The leading wine-type varieties continued to be Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. Flame Seedless was the leading table-type grape variety. Thompson Seedless continued to be the leading raisin-type variety and was utilized for raisins, fresh market, concentrate, and wine.

### ESTIMATED GRAPE ACREAGE 1/

Type	2006	2007	2008	Percent Change
Raisin	240,000	233,000	225,000	-3.4
Bearing	234,000	227,000	221,000	-2.6
Non-Bearing	6,000	6,000	4,000	-33.3
Table	93,000	92,000	93,000	+1.1
Bearing	83,000	82,000	83,000	+1.2
Non-Bearing	10,000	10,000	10,000	NC
Wine	527,000	523,000	526,000	2/
Bearing	480,000	480,000	482,000	2/
Non-Bearing	47,000	43,000	44,000	+2.3
All Grapes	860,000	848,000	844,000	2/
Bearing	797,000	789,000	786,000	2/
Non-Bearing	63,000	59,000	58,000	-1.7

1/ Reported data with an allowance for incompleteness.

2/ The percent change was less than 1 percent.

### GRAPE BEARING ACREAGE STANDING BY MAJOR VARIETY AND TYPE 1/

Variety and Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Acres									
Fiesta	4,196	5,241	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,781	9,323	10,697	10,805	12,200
Thompson Seedless	266,231	264,874	N/A	N/A	N/A	227,463	220,823	212,723	204,380	196,906
Other Raisin	2,620	2,544	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,741	3,121	3,244	4,147	4,679
<b>TOTAL RAISIN</b>	<b>273,047</b>	<b>272,659</b>	<b>269,064</b>	<b>261,170</b>	<b>250,368</b>	<b>238,985</b>	<b>233,267</b>	<b>226,664</b>	<b>219,332</b>	<b>213,785</b>
Autumn Royal	94	150	404	835	1,296	2,225	3,178	3,729	3,942	3,912
Crimson Seedless *	6,183	7,629	9,835	10,849	12,351	13,162	14,286	14,776	15,191	15,247
Flame Seedless *	28,373	27,120	26,140	25,492	24,020	22,478	22,083	20,573	20,001	19,943
Perlette	5,089	4,594	4,327	4,191	3,497	3,025	2,774	2,548	2,466	2,213
Princess *	N/A	15	72	302	1,005	1,542	1,686	1,778	2,080	2,319
Red Globe *	14,436	15,605	15,347	15,430	14,159	13,064	12,749	12,905	12,195	11,331
Ruby Seedless *	7,789	7,165	6,262	6,011	5,323	4,794	4,312	4,104	4,026	3,826
Sugraone	3,367	3,305	3,103	3,089	3,075	3,075	3,012	3,017	3,001	4,135
Other Table	19,127	18,195	12,931	16,171	14,588	14,212	13,353	13,549	13,423	14,087
<b>TOTAL TABLE</b>	<b>84,458</b>	<b>83,778</b>	<b>82,232</b>	<b>82,370</b>	<b>79,314</b>	<b>77,577</b>	<b>77,433</b>	<b>76,979</b>	<b>76,325</b>	<b>77,013</b>
Chardonnay *	80,998	89,272	93,316	92,193	94,164	93,431	92,089	92,091	91,348	91,522
Chenin Blanc	20,437	19,127	17,968	15,731	13,369	11,242	10,618	10,297	9,489	8,173
French Colombard	44,504	42,058	39,474	35,003	31,819	28,654	27,202	25,770	26,592	25,965
Pinot Gris *	636	939	1,241	1,782	2,596	4,076	5,094	6,719	7,365	8,003
Sauvignon Blanc	9,608	10,808	12,257	12,345	12,489	13,030	14,082	14,416	14,378	14,372
Other White Wine	19,102	20,019	20,988	20,767	19,607	19,465	20,036	20,258	21,217	21,732
<b>TOTAL WHITE WINE</b>	<b>175,285</b>	<b>182,223</b>	<b>185,244</b>	<b>177,821</b>	<b>174,044</b>	<b>169,898</b>	<b>169,121</b>	<b>169,551</b>	<b>170,389</b>	<b>169,767</b>
Barbera	11,595	10,566	10,259	9,816	8,771	8,470	7,953	7,581	7,441	7,101
Cabernet Sauvignon	39,988	48,285	55,901	62,451	68,306	71,536	74,970	75,909	74,643	73,470
Carignane	7,629	7,145	6,642	6,028	5,129	4,502	3,982	4,157	4,098	3,672
Grenache *	11,167	10,841	10,576	9,460	8,489	7,576	6,801	6,598	6,431	6,761
Merlot	36,506	42,070	45,202	47,464	48,721	51,075	52,185	51,570	48,648	46,693
Petite Sirah	2,282	2,495	2,765	3,260	3,916	4,137	4,594	5,402	5,923	6,584
Pinot Noir	9,183	11,769	14,651	16,815	20,093	22,645	23,323	24,188	24,427	25,737
Rubired *	10,263	10,841	10,898	12,391	12,242	11,092	10,801	10,434	10,387	10,882
Ruby Cabernet	7,152	7,383	7,742	7,924	7,408	6,679	6,527	6,593	6,027	6,033
Syrah *	3,369	6,553	9,573	11,909	14,680	16,335	17,481	17,918	18,085	18,318
Zinfandel	46,000	47,152	47,312	47,542	47,655	48,743	48,969	49,697	49,061	48,787
Other Red Wine	14,333	15,964	17,930	18,297	18,078	17,608	18,434	18,405	19,912	19,886
<b>TOTAL RED WINE</b>	<b>199,467</b>	<b>221,064</b>	<b>239,451</b>	<b>253,357</b>	<b>263,488</b>	<b>270,398</b>	<b>276,020</b>	<b>278,452</b>	<b>275,083</b>	<b>273,924</b>
<b>TOTAL WINE</b>	<b>374,752</b>	<b>403,287</b>	<b>424,695</b>	<b>431,177</b>	<b>437,532</b>	<b>440,296</b>	<b>445,141</b>	<b>448,003</b>	<b>445,472</b>	<b>443,690</b>
<b>ALL GRAPES</b>	<b>732,257</b>	<b>759,724</b>	<b>775,991</b>	<b>774,717</b>	<b>767,214</b>	<b>756,858</b>	<b>755,841</b>	<b>751,646</b>	<b>741,128</b>	<b>734,489</b>

\* Synonyms for variety names are shown on Page 3.

1/ Detailed data as voluntarily reported by grape growers and maintained in the NASS database. Totals may not add due to rounding.

**ESTIMATED WINE-TYPE GRAPE BEARING ACREAGE BY VARIETY 1/**

Variety and Type	2006	2007	2008	Percent Change
Cabernet Sauvignon	81,300	80,000	79,800	-.3
Chardonnay *	98,700	97,900	99,400	+1.5
Chenin Blanc	11,000	10,200	8,900	-12.7
French Colombard	27,600	28,500	28,200	-1.1
Merlot	55,300	52,100	50,700	-2.7
Pinot Noir	26,000	26,100	28,000	+7.3
Rubired *	11,200	11,100	11,800	+6.3
Sauvignon Blanc	15,400	15,400	15,600	+1.3
Syrah *	19,200	19,400	19,900	+2.6
Zinfandel	53,200	52,600	53,000	+.8
Other Wine	81,100	86,700	86,700	NC
<b>TOTAL WINE</b>	<b>480,000</b>	<b>480,000</b>	<b>482,000</b>	<b>+.4</b>

\* Synonyms for variety names are shown below.

1/ Reported data with an estimated allowance for incompleteness.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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**Grape Variety Synonyms**

Alicante Bouschet – Alicante	Italia – Muscat Italia	Malaga – White Malaga	Refosco – Mondeuse
Beauty Seedless – Black Beauty	Malvasia Bianca – Vennentino, Vermintino	Marechal Foch – Foch	Ribolla Gialla – Rebolla
Black Corinth – Zante Current	Mataro – Mourvedre	Meunier – Pinot Meunier	Rubired – Tintoria
Black Prince – Rose of Peru	Moscato Gaillo – Muscat Yellow	Muscato Blanc – Muscat Canelli,	Ruby Seedless – King Ruby
Blaufraenkisch – Lemberger	Muscato Blanc A Petits Grains	Muscato Hamburg – Black Muscat	Sangiovese – Sangiovese, Brunello
Burger – Monbadon	Negrette – Pinot St. George	Nero D'Avola – Calabrese	Sauvignon Vert – Muscadelle
Chardonnay – Pinot Chardonnay,	Palomino – Golden Chasselas	Pinot Gris – Pinot Grigio	St. Emilion – Ugni Blanc, Trebbiano
Chardonnay Musque	Princess – Melissa	Red Globe – Rose Ito	Syrah – French Syrah, Shiraz, Syrah Noir
Cinsaut – Black Malvoisie, Black Malvasia			Tempranillo – Tinta Roriz, Valdepenas
Crimson Seedless – Red Crimson			Touriga Nacional – Touriga
Emerald Seedless – Black Seedless			Trousseau – Bastardo
Flame Seedless – Red Flame			White Riesling – Johannisberg Riesling,
Gamay (Napa) – Gamay, Valdiguie			Riesling
Gray Riesling – Trousseau Gris			
Grenache – Grenache Noir			