

SURVEY METHODS

The California Department of Food and Agriculture partners with the Pacific Regional Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to conduct 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.

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 our database.

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 8,800 grape growers is unlikely to ever attain 100 percent completeness.
- It is difficult to detect growers who are planting grapes for the first time.
- The detailed data reflects vine removals from about 38,000 acres during the past twelve months. Of this number, significant acreage was harvested in 2015 prior to being pulled out. As a result, harvested acreage removed in 2015 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 from our database. The mailing was made in late November 2015 to approximately 8,800 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 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 2012 would not be bearing until 2015). 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 2009 onto a 1982 variety is recorded as planted in 2008). 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 2015. 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 2008 rootstock planting was budded over in 2010, the year of planting assigned to the selected variety was 2009. (See Grafting.) Nursery rootstock is not included.

Period Covered: The primary intent of the 2015 survey was to record removals of grapes since the 2014 harvest and new planting of grapes during 2015. Acreage abandoned in 2015 was excluded from bearing acreage. Planting activity is accounted for on a calendar-year basis.

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

RESULTS

California's 2015 grape acreage totaled 918,000 acres. Of the total grape acreage, 856,000 were bearing while 62,000 were non-bearing. The wine-type grape acreage is estimated at 608,000 acres. Of the total acres, 560,000 were bearing and 48,000 were non-bearing. Table-type grape acreage totaled 124,000 acres with 112,000 bearing and 12,000 non-bearing. Acreage of raisin-type grapes totaled 186,000 acres, of which 184,000 were bearing and 2,000 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	2013	2014	2015	Percent Change
Raisin	203,000	192,000	186,000	-3.1
Bearing	200,000	190,000	184,000	-3.2
Non-Bearing	3,000	2,000	2,000	(NC)
Table	120,000	121,000	124,000	2.5
Bearing	110,000	110,000	112,000	1.8
Non-Bearing	10,000	11,000	12,000	9.1
Wine	610,000	615,000	608,000	-1.1
Bearing	565,000	565,000	560,000	-0.9
Non-Bearing	45,000	50,000	48,000	-4.0
All Grapes	933,000	928,000	918,000	-1.1
Bearing	875,000	865,000	856,000	-1.0
Non-Bearing	58,000	63,000	62,000	-1.6

1/ Reported data with an allowance for incompleteness.

(NC) No Change

GRAPE BEARING ACREAGE STANDING BY MAJOR VARIETY AND TYPE 1/

Variety and Type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Fiesta	10,697	10,805	12,200	12,261	12,374	12,555	12,554	12,461	12,034	12,276
Selma Pete	273	569	1,341	1,988	2,461	2,757	3,219	3,622	3,994	4,352
Thompson Seedless	212,723	204,380	196,906	189,789	184,372	178,673	174,558	173,017	164,957	149,055
Other Raisin	2,971	3,578	3,338	3,150	3,266	3,206	3,454	3,254	3,171	3,034
TOTAL RAISIN	226,664	219,332	213,785	207,188	202,473	197,191	193,785	192,354	184,156	168,717
Autumn King	--	--	247	151	432	1,032	1,617	2,846	3,450	4,678
Autumn Royal	3,729	3,942	3,912	4,227	4,257	4,342	4,275	4,312	4,179	4,087
Crimson Seedless *	14,776	15,191	15,247	14,828	14,623	12,954	13,080	12,367	10,927	10,240
Flame Seedless *	20,573	20,001	19,943	19,488	18,616	18,200	18,449	17,969	16,760	15,984
Princess *	1,778	2,080	2,319	3,183	3,206	3,250	3,307	3,355	3,283	2,824
Red Globe *	12,905	12,195	11,331	11,386	11,430	10,959	10,775	10,692	10,328	9,119
Scarlet Royal	--	--	--	--	977	1,942	2,543	3,767	4,300	5,379
Sugraone	3,017	3,001	4,135	4,847	4,622	4,748	4,866	5,686	4,588	4,786
Other Table	20,201	19,915	19,879	20,467	20,904	20,496	21,010	23,139	24,027	25,834
TOTAL TABLE	76,979	76,325	77,013	78,577	79,067	77,923	79,922	84,133	81,842	82,928
Chardonnay *	92,091	91,348	91,522	90,434	91,625	92,791	93,153	94,854	94,279	92,634
Chenin Blanc	10,297	9,489	8,173	7,628	7,213	6,771	5,936	5,820	5,050	4,793
French Colombard	25,770	26,592	25,965	24,772	24,618	23,689	21,020	20,666	19,787	19,746
Muscat of Alexandria	3,084	3,025	3,143	3,173	3,173	3,119	3,298	3,659	4,403	4,911
Pinot Gris *	6,719	7,365	8,003	8,676	10,671	12,529	12,473	13,196	13,080	13,043
Sauvignon Blanc	14,416	14,378	14,372	14,670	15,008	15,248	14,911	15,103	14,781	14,824
White Riesling	1,935	2,160	2,322	3,093	3,536	3,835	4,038	4,100	4,021	4,158
Other White Wine	15,239	16,032	16,267	17,127	17,782	17,833	17,876	18,901	19,653	19,986
TOTAL WHITE WINE	169,551	170,389	169,767	169,573	173,626	175,815	172,705	176,299	175,054	174,095
Barbera	7,581	7,441	7,101	6,872	6,812	6,621	6,286	6,000	5,800	5,240
Cabernet Franc	3,434	3,422	3,325	3,361	3,375	3,320	3,331	3,587	3,429	3,323
Cabernet Sauvignon	75,909	74,643	73,470	73,797	74,899	75,804	76,691	79,805	79,864	82,243
Grenache *	6,598	6,431	6,761	6,332	6,011	6,213	5,846	5,936	5,722	5,294
Merlot	51,570	48,648	46,693	45,871	46,305	44,849	45,260	44,535	43,622	42,373
Petite Sirah	5,402	5,923	6,584	7,073	7,545	7,756	7,957	8,438	8,825	9,059
Pinot Noir	24,188	24,427	25,737	30,339	33,343	36,988	38,049	38,999	39,340	39,831
Rubired *	10,434	10,387	10,882	11,257	11,051	10,604	10,903	11,923	12,146	11,924
Ruby Cabernet	6,593	6,027	6,033	5,965	5,720	5,861	5,801	5,764	5,528	5,177
Syrah *	17,918	18,085	18,318	18,890	19,085	18,825	18,620	18,791	18,137	17,658
Zinfandel	49,697	49,061	48,787	48,807	48,435	47,869	46,857	47,624	46,435	45,087
Other Red Wine	19,128	20,588	20,233	20,821	20,709	21,498	20,881	21,361	22,066	22,727
TOTAL RED WINE	278,452	275,083	273,924	279,385	283,290	286,208	286,482	292,763	290,914	289,935
TOTAL WINE	448,003	445,472	443,690	448,958	456,916	462,023	459,187	469,062	465,968	464,029
ALL GRAPES	751,646	741,128	734,489	734,723	738,456	737,137	732,894	745,549	731,966	715,674

* Synonyms for variety names are shown on Page 3. (NA) Not Available.

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

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USDA NASS, Pacific Regional Field Office publications are available free-of-charge on the Internet at
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca>.

Grape Variety Synonyms

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

* indicates the published name includes more than one variety name