



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture
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CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

SACRAMENTO -- The USDA-NASS, California Field Office today released the crop production forecast for October. The latest survey, which was conducted during the last week of September and the first week of October, included the following commodities:

Cotton - Upland cotton is forecast at 560 thousand bales, unchanged from last month's forecast, and up 47 percent from last year. With harvested acreage of 181 thousand acres, the resulting yield is 1,485 pounds per acre. As of the beginning of October, cotton fields were in the final stages of harvest preparation.

Grapes - Production of all grape varieties for the 2011 season is forecast at 6.35 million tons, down 2 percent from the August forecast, and down 5 percent from last season. Wine-type variety grape production for California is forecast at 3.30 million tons, down 3 percent from the August forecast, and down 9 percent from last year's production. The table-type grape production is expected to total 1.00 million tons, unchanged from the August forecast, and down less than 1 percent from last year. The California raisin-type variety grape forecast is 2.05 million tons, unchanged from the August forecast, and down 1 percent from 2010. The 2011 California grape crop is one to two weeks behind normal, due to the cool and wet spring. Frost damage in the spring hit central coast wine grapes hard. Powdery mildew has been a problem for many growers, due to the wetter than normal spring and mild summer temperatures. The moderate early summer temperatures were good for berry development, though, and late summer heat helped grape development finish. Insect pressure has been low.

Oranges - The 2011-12 California orange crop is forecast at 115 million cartons. California's Navel orange forecast is 88.0 million cartons. The 2011-12 navel crop continued to develop slightly behind schedule as harvest is expected to be late this year. California's Valencia orange forecast is 27.0 million cartons.

Others – The grapefruit forecast is 6.80 million cartons; lemon forecast is 40.0 million cartons; tangerine and mandarin forecast is 20.6 million cartons; pecan production forecast is 4.40 million pounds. The corn for grain production forecast is 777 thousand tons, down 21 percent from 2010; alfalfa hay is forecast at 6.49 million tons, up 4 percent; other hay production is projected at 1.93 million tons, down 3 percent; dry edible bean production is expected to be 990 thousand cwt., down 32 percent; the rice crop forecast is 48.8 million cwt., up 10 percent and the sunflower forecast is 44.9 million pounds, up 11 percent from last year.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late summer and fall harvests may change these estimates considerably. The next production forecast will be issued November 9, 2011.

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