

1998 California Almond Forecast



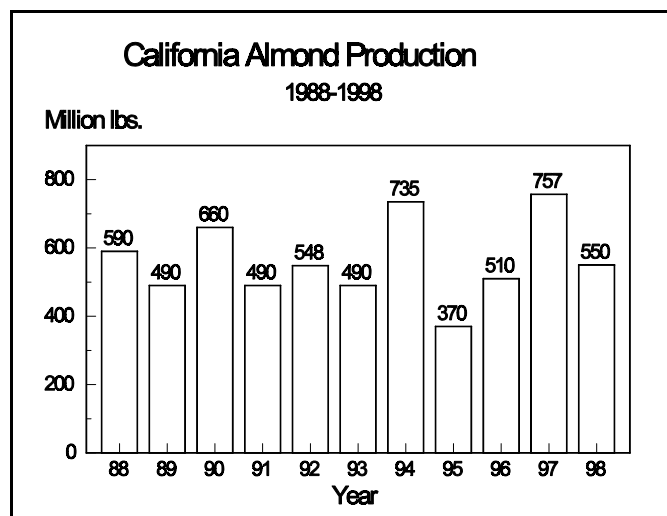
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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

RESULTS

The initial forecast for 1998 California almond production is **550 million pounds**. This is down 27 percent from last year's crop of 757 million pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 1998 is 425,000. The forecast is based on calls made to a sample of almond growers from April 21-27. Responses were received from 334 growers of which 250 reports were usable. The acreage from the usable reports accounted for 19 percent of the total bearing acreage. A relatively cool, wet, and unseasonable spring hampered pollination for many producers. Growers report a large variation in set with virtually no nuts on some trees and heavy crops on others. Yields are expected to be substantially lower than last year's record crop with large variations from region to region. Because of the cool, wet weather, the crop is currently one to two weeks behind normal.



PROCEDURES

Results of the subjective survey are based on opinions obtained from growers. The sample of growers changes from year to year and is grouped by size so all growers will be represented. Each selected grower is asked to indicate their almond yield from last year and expected yield for the current year.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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