

2002 California Almond Forecast



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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

RESULTS

The initial forecast for the 2002 California almond production is a record 940 million pounds. This is up 13 percent from last year's revised production of 830 million pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2002 is 530 thousand. This forecast is based on calls made April 23-May 3 to a sample of almond growers. Of the 411 growers sampled, 214 reports were usable. Acreage from the usable reports accounted for 18 percent of the total bearing acreage.

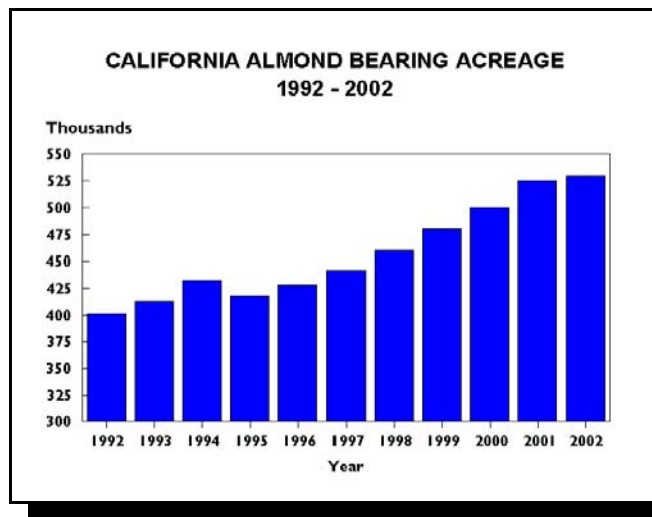
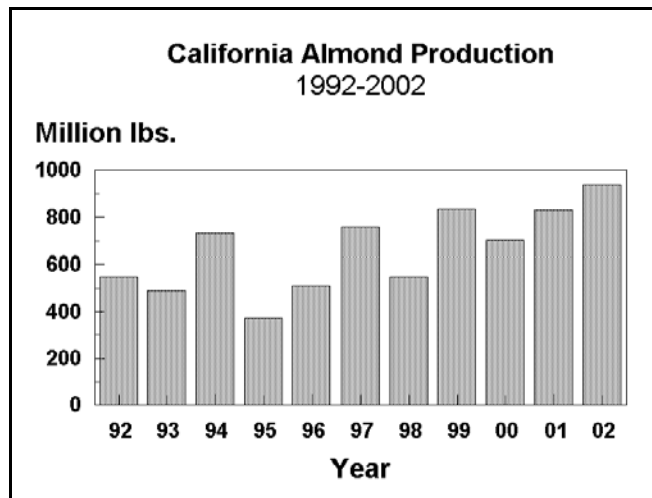
The almond crop got off to a great start this year. Weather conditions were nearly ideal during the critical bloom and pollination period. However, an early March freeze in the Sacramento Valley caused major damage to trees in Colusa, Glenn, and Yolo counties. Crop damage estimates varied significantly with a few growers reporting total losses. The largest loss was in Colusa County, where an estimated 90 percent of the trees were effected. Despite the freeze, yields are expected to be up 12 percent from last year. Crop progress appears to be slightly behind normal due to the recent cool weather.

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

A special thanks goes to the many almond farm operators and owners who provided information on their operations. The support was outstanding and we appreciate the time they spent completing questionnaires.



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