

2003 California Almond Forecast



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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

RESULTS

The initial forecast for the 2003 California almond production is 920 million pounds. This is down 15 percent from last year's revised record production of 1,085 million pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2003 is 530 thousand. This forecast is based on calls made April 23 - May 2 to a sample of almond growers. Of the 415 growers sampled, 249 reports were usable. Acreage from the usable reports accounted for 15 percent of the total bearing acreage.

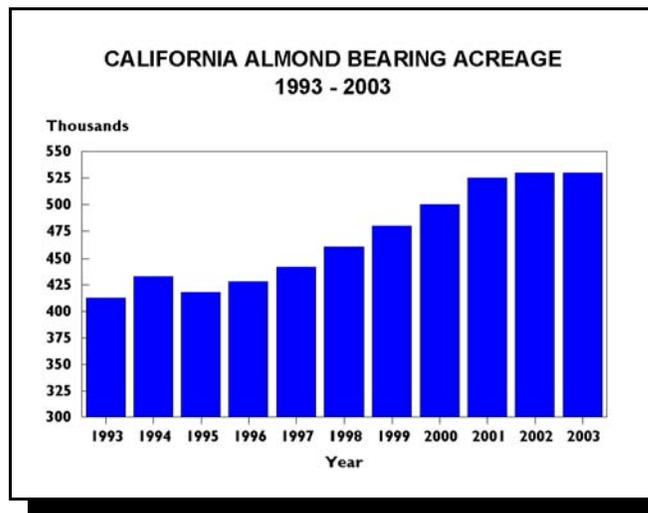
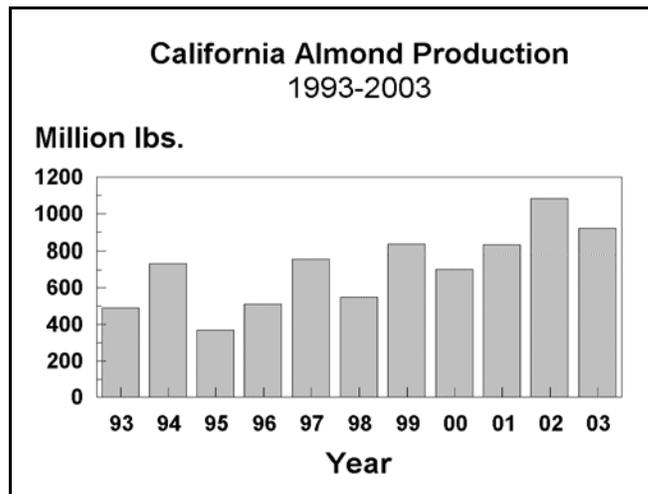
The almond crop got off to an uneven start this year. Weather conditions during the bloom were less than ideal due to continued instances of rain and cool temperatures. Despite the weather-related problems, the sets for most almond varieties are generally reported to be in good condition. However, the Nonpareil variety has displayed one of the weakest blooms in years, with spotty and uneven sets throughout the State. In addition, numerous orchards displayed early petal fall, which normally signals a weaker bloom. Crop progress appears to be near normal despite the cool, wet weather this spring.

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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