

2004 California Almond Forecast



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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

RESULTS

The initial forecast for the 2004 California almond production is 1,100 million pounds. This is up 6 percent from last year's revised production of 1,040 million pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2004 is 550 thousand. This forecast is based on calls made April 22 - May 3 to a sample of almond growers. Of the 420 growers sampled, 281 reports were usable. Acreage from the usable reports accounted for 18 percent of the total bearing acreage.

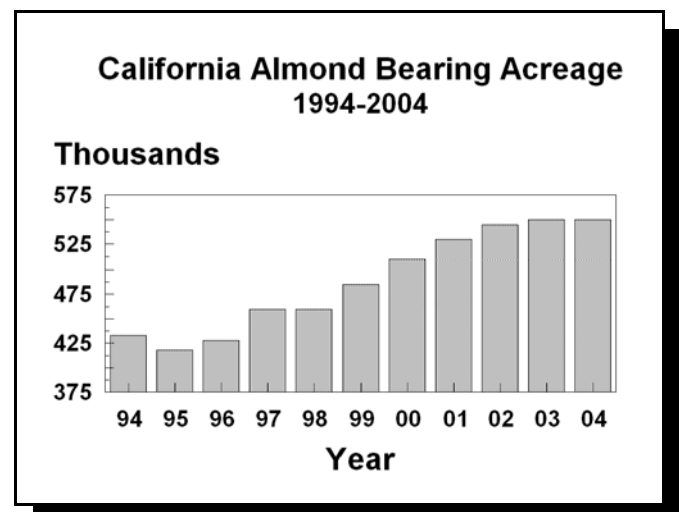
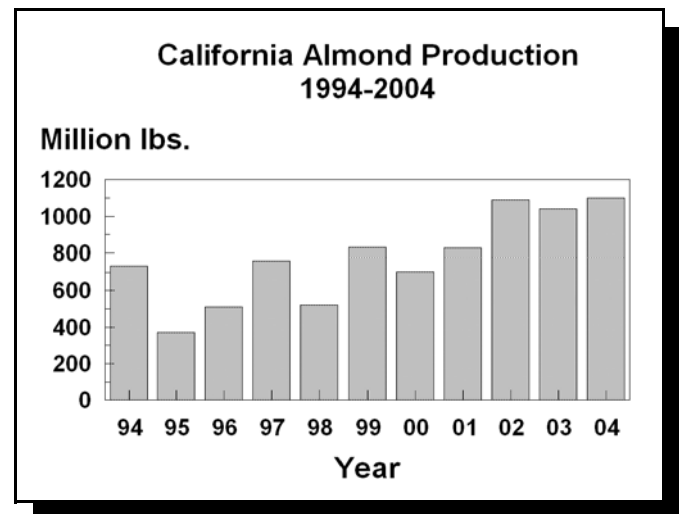
The almond bloom started in mid-February. Growers thought heavy rains and wind during the bloom may have affected bee activity and pollination. However, the bloom was very intense with an excellent overlap of blooming varieties. Bloom was strong and stayed on the trees for much longer than normal, which may have been due to the cool, damp weather. Even the strong winds and heavy rain in late February did not appear to affect the set. Some trees were reported blown over by high winds, but total damage was minimal. Very warm weather in early March advanced crop development, which is currently at least two weeks ahead of normal. By early May, the kernels had already hardened in some varieties, which is much earlier than normal. The kernel size appears to be about normal. The younger trees seem to have a very good set. Growers indicated that the Nonpareil crop may be a little below last year, but the other varieties have a very heavy set. Overall, the crop appears to be fairly uniform throughout the State and the growers expect to have a good crop.

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.



California Almond Acreage, Production and Value, 1994-2004

Year	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Production	Yield Per Acre	Price Per Pound	Value of Production
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
1994	433,000	46,500	735	1,700	1.34	965,202
1995	418,000	65,700	370	890	2.48	880,896
1996	428,000	72,400	510	1,190	2.08	1,018,368
1997	442,000	63,000	759	1,720	1.56	1,160,640
1998	460,000	120,000	520	1,130	1.41	703,590
1999	485,000	115,000	833	1,720	0.86	687,742
2000	510,000	100,000	703	1,380	0.97	666,487
2001	530,000	75,000	830	1,570	0.91	740,012
2002	545,000	60,000	1,090	2,000	1.11	1,200,687
2003	550,000	60,000	1,040	1,890	1.42	1,447,264
2004 <u>a/</u>	550,000	N/A	1,100	2,000	N/A	N/A

a/ Preliminary

Source: California Agricultural Statistics Service

California fruit and nut bearing acreage statistics have recently been reviewed for the period 1998-2002. Revisions were made for some crops, including almonds, after a thorough review of all available data, including the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Final estimates for 1998-2002 will be published for all fruit and nut crops on May 21, 2004.

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