

1996 California Prune Acreage Survey

Released: May 9, 1997
12:00 P.M. PDT



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

RESULTS

The 1996 California acreage survey results indicate **102,725 total acres of prunes**. Of this total, **80,221 were bearing** and **22,504 were non-bearing**. The **French varieties accounted for 98 percent** of the total acreage. **Sutter County** shows the largest acreage planted to prunes with **24 percent of the total acreage**, followed by **Butte County** with **14 percent** and **Yuba County** with **13 percent**.

The Prune Acreage Survey is part of a larger combined fruit acreage survey. In previous years, all growers with almond, walnut or prune acreage were surveyed on a biannual basis with half the counties in the State surveyed each year. For this year's survey, grape growers in all counties were included in this combined survey. More than 26,000 parcel records were mailed to over 12,000 growers. This is the first year grapes were included in the survey, and it resulted in the addition of nearly 15,000 parcels and 5,000 growers. Overall, the response was excellent with 90 percent of the parcels completed. This completion rate is below last year's 99 percent rate, as follow-up enumeration of unreturned parcels was concentrated to larger acreage. Though this resulted in a lower overall completion rate, nearly all targeted acreage was accounted for. Of those completed, 55 percent were returned by mail, 43 percent by telephone and 2 percent by personal interview. In addition, about 840 new parcels were obtained. These parcels are the result of list building efforts using County Agricultural Commissioners' acreage updates, and acreage reported through the California Department of Pesticide Regulations. Efforts to obtain information from other lists and from non-respondents of this survey continue.

When interpreting data, please keep in mind that the Prune Acreage Survey is designed to function on a two-year cycle. Because only half the counties are surveyed each year and the time lag in receiving information on new plantings and new growers, we expect the actual plantings, particularly for the non-bearing years, to be higher than what this report shows. These will be reflected in future acreage surveys.

The attached summary tables show results of the acreage survey. These data are for dissemination to the prune industry and other interested parties. Only State and county totals have been published; individual reports remain confidential.

OBJECTIVES

The California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS) conducted an acreage survey to provide the current acreage, variety, and year of plant data.

PROCEDURES

Acreage survey preparation was a cooperative effort between the grape, almond, walnut, and prune industries. The Prune Acreage Survey is designed to operate on a two-year rotational basis with approximately half the prune growers contacted each year. This year twenty-one counties were surveyed (see table back page).

CASS maintains a fruit data base, which serves as the main source for questionnaire mailing. Growers on this data base were sent a questionnaire with previously reported crop, variety, trees, acreage, and planting information preprinted. Recipients were asked to update the information. The CASS' data base also was compared to the California Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) pesticide use permit list and some industry lists. Growers not included in CASS's data base were sent a blank questionnaire and asked to provide specific information on their respective almond, walnut, and/or prune acreage.

Acreage questionnaires were mailed on January 2, 1997. Respondents were given about six weeks to return a response via mail. CASS personnel then conducted telephone follow-ups on non-respondents. Field personnel made personal visits to large growers and those CASS could not contact by mail or telephone. Survey data received on or before April 29, 1997 was edited and included in the final summary. Final analysis and summary work was completed on May 2, 1997.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thanks goes to the many prune farm operators and owners who provided information on their operations. The support was outstanding, and we appreciate the time spent completing questionnaires. Likewise, thanks to the Prune Marketing Committee for providing funding and support of this special acreage update survey.

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1996 PRUNE ACREAGE BY COUNTY, BY YEAR PLANTED

County	1984 & Earlier	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Acres Standing in 1996 a/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
AMADOR	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	22	8	30
BUTTE	9,454	151	65	130	113	292	444	532	475	888	1,123	388	161	10,649	3,567	14,216
COLUSA	3,166	20	40	30	96	113	93	27	31	86	12	121	5	3,558	282	3,840
FRESNO	1,502	0	0	148	100	207	262	271	292	842	399	358	131	2,219	2,293	4,512
GLENN	7,339	123	36	41	128	52	72	445	80	678	642	565	78	7,791	2,488	10,279
KERN	102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	62	80	102	217	319
KINGS	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
LAKE	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	17
LOS ANGELES	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	14
MADERA	664	0	0	0	0	45	149	19	42	0	462	340	12	858	875	1,733
MERCED	1,558	98	175	46	93	84	17	68	21	39	344	99	147	2,071	718	2,789
NAPA	17	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	32
NEVADA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
PLACER	392	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	392	0	392
SACRAMENTO	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	14
SAN BENITO	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	60
SAN JOAQUIN	181	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	181	0	181
SANTA CLARA	423	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	427	0	427
SANTA CRUZ	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15
SHASTA	218	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166	218	166	384
SOLANO	1,521	29	15	8	26	18	17	18	126	35	184	169	42	1,634	574	2,208
SONOMA	447	2	10	2	1	0	4	7	1	5	1	20	0	466	34	500
STANISLAUS	71	9	0	0	0	6	0	8	0	0	0	8	0	86	16	102
SUTTER	17,236	522	290	525	412	362	537	590	864	803	1,888	702	274	19,884	5,121	25,005
TEHAMA	8,187	303	152	68	130	179	173	264	238	215	492	502	268	9,192	1,979	11,171
TULARE	5,439	181	102	80	142	197	59	84	140	410	810	477	92	6,200	2,013	8,213
YOLO	1,993	57	51	25	48	6	77	130	74	30	154	36	27	2,257	451	2,708
YUBA	10,035	877	220	194	130	199	184	361	331	317	323	338	32	11,839	1,702	13,541
STATE	70,110	2,372	1,171	1,297	1,423	1,760	2,088	2,826	2,715	4,348	6,915	4,185	1,515	80,221	22,504	102,725

a/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1991-96.

PRUNE ACREAGE AS OF 1996 -- VARIETIES AND AGE GROUPS -- STATE SUMMARY ACREAGE PLANTED DURING YEARS SHOWN AND STANDING IN 1996

Variety	1984 & Earlier	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Acres Standing in 1996 a/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
BURTON	61	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	0	68
FRENCH	67,635	2,285	1,102	1,261	1,413	1,578	2,059	2,799	2,659	4,249	6,718	4,134	1,388	77,333	21,947	99,280
FRENCH																
EARLY GRANS	308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	308	79	387
FRENCH IMPROVED	928	15	47	0	10	54	0	10	20	65	97	23	12	1,054	227	1,281
FRIEDMAN	244	64	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	308	5	313
IMPERIAL	210	0	0	0	0	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	224	0	224
MOYER	133	0	22	21	0	93	18	11	36	34	65	24	33	287	203	490
VICTOR LG	384	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	384	0	384
707	23	0	0	6	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	51
OTHER	184	8	0	2	0	5	5	1	0	0	35	4	3	204	43	247
CROP TOTAL	70,110	2,372	1,171	1,297	1,423	1,760	2,088	2,826	2,715	4,348	6,915	4,185	1,515	80,221	22,504	102,725

a/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1991-96.

1996 FRENCH PRUNE ACREAGE BY COUNTY

County	1984 & Earlier	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Acres Standing in 1996 a/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
AMADOR	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	22	8	30
BUTTE	9,194	151	65	128	113	237	444	532	446	880	1,088	388	157	10,332	3,491	13,823
COLUSA	3,164	20	40	30	96	113	89	27	31	86	12	121	5	3,552	282	3,834
FRESNO	1,344	0	0	135	100	207	262	271	292	842	399	358	131	2,048	2,293	4,341
GLENN	7,289	123	36	41	128	52	72	445	80	678	607	565	78	7,741	2,453	10,194
KERN	102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	62	80	102	217	319
KINGS	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
LAKE	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	17
LOS ANGELES	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	14
MADERA	664	0	0	0	0	45	149	19	42	0	462	340	12	858	875	1,733
MERCED	1,494	98	175	46	93	84	17	68	21	39	344	99	147	2,007	718	2,725
NAPA	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	30
PLACER	392	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	392	0	392
SACRAMENTO	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	14
SAN BENITO	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	47
SAN JOAQUIN	181	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	181	0	181
SANTA CLARA	406	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	410	0	410
SANTA CRUZ	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15
SHASTA	218	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166	218	166	384
SOLANO	1,517	29	15	8	26	18	17	17	126	35	184	169	42	1,630	573	2,203
SONOMA	447	2	10	2	1	0	4	7	1	5	1	20	0	466	34	500
STANISLAUS	71	9	0	0	0	6	0	8	0	0	0	8	0	86	16	102
SUTTER	17,075	522	290	525	412	354	531	579	864	803	1,888	702	254	19,709	5,090	24,799
TEHAMA	8,129	303	152	68	130	179	173	264	238	215	492	502	268	9,134	1,979	11,113
TULARE	5,349	181	102	59	142	137	41	84	133	409	791	449	80	6,011	1,946	7,957
YOLO	1,982	49	29	25	48	6	77	130	74	19	143	36	27	2,216	429	2,645
YUBA	9,931	877	220	194	130	199	183	361	331	303	323	338	32	11,734	1,688	13,422
STATE TOTAL	69,115	2,364	1,149	1,261	1,423	1,637	2,059	2,814	2,679	4,314	6,815	4,157	1,479	79,008	22,258	101,266

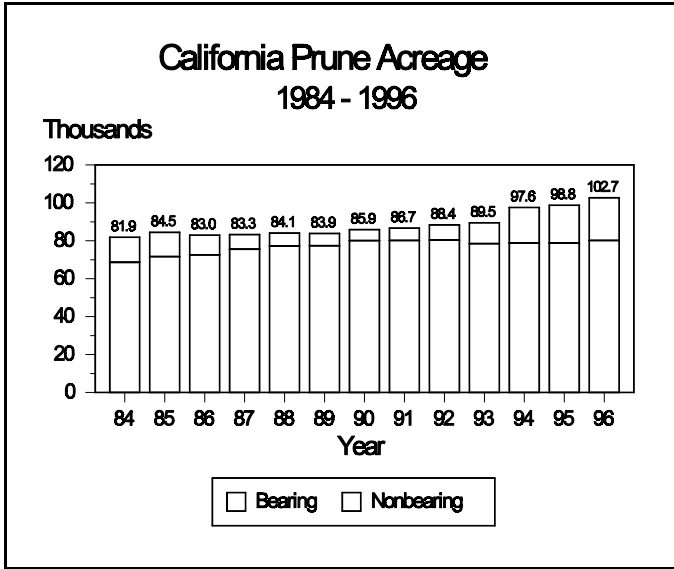
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a/ Includes acreage for French, French Early Grans, French Improved, and Friedman varieties.

1996 OTHER PRUNE ACREAGE BY COUNTY

County	1984 & Earlier	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Acres Standing in 1996 a/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
BUTTE	260	0	0	2	0	55	0	0	29	8	35	0	4	317	76	393
COLUSA	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
FRESNO	158	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	171	0	171
GLENN	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	0	50	35	85
MERCED	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	64
NAPA	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
NEVADA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SAN BENITO	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
SANTA CLARA	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	17
SOLANO	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
SUTTER	161	0	0	0	0	8	6	11	0	0	0	0	20	175	31	206
TEHAMA	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	58
TULARE	90	0	0	21	0	60	18	0	7	1	19	28	12	189	67	256
YOLO	11	8	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	41	22	63
YUBA	104	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	14	0	0	0	105	14	119
STATE TOTAL	995	8	22	36	0	123	29	12	36	34	100	28	36	1,213	246	1,459

a/ Includes acreage of Burton, Imperial, Italian/Fellenberg, Miro, Moyer, Sergeant/Robe De Sgt., Sugar, Victor LG, 29-C, and 707 varieties.



COUNTIES SURVEYED IN 1997	
Alameda	Monterey
Amador	Napa
Calaveras	Riverside
Colusa	San Benito
El Dorado	San Diego
Fresno	San Mateo
Kern	Santa Cruz
Kings	Sutter
Lake	Tulare
Madera	Ventura
Merced	